



American Fisheries Society
Oregon Chapter
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Gentlemen:

The 2005 Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium that was held September 29 through October 1 at Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend, Washington, was an exceptional success. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) played a leading and critical role in planning, coordinating, and implementing this highly successful symposium. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office contributed \$5,000 towards supporting early organization and planning for the symposium. With USFWS's seed money, the Symposium Steering Committee was able to leverage more than \$20,000 in monetary donations and additional in-kind services. The two USFWS employees most active in this successful event were Doug Young, Arrangements Coordinator, and Tim Cummings, Program Coordinator.

Among the many symposium highlights were several research papers from USFWS and State-USFWS cooperators, a Conservation Planning session, and updates from each State and British Columbia on coastal cutthroat trout status, trends, and current management priorities. As an outcome of the symposium, the USFWS has received commitments from the states of Oregon, Washington, and Alaska, as well as British Columbia, to work collaboratively in the future towards coordinated research, monitoring, and conservation efforts. As an initial step towards range-wide collaboration, the States, British Columbia, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and USFWS will hold a Research, Monitoring, and Conservation Workshop in spring, 2006. Given the USFWS's active role in the Symposium, your agency is now regarded as having the leadership role in encouraging broad-scale conservation efforts for coastal cutthroat trout.

The Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (ORAFS) sincerely hopes the USFWS will maintain its leadership efforts, and assist the States and British Columbia in developing range-wide coastal cutthroat trout research, monitoring, and conservation plans. Thank you again for your support of the 2005 Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium. ORAFS was pleased to have helped sponsor, promote, and facilitate this productive symposium and to have similarly helped with the first one held in 1995 at Reedsport, Oregon (Sea-Run Cutthroat Trout Symposium). We look forward to helping in similar ways with future symposiums of this type. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments, or to discuss how ORAFS can continue to facilitate fish conservation efforts at the Oregon Chapter, Western Division, or national level.

Sincerely,

Barry McPherson
President, Oregon Chapter
American Fisheries Society

cc:

David Allen, Regional Director
David Wesley, Deputy Regional Director
Teresa Rabot, Assistant Regional Director - Ecological Services
Dan Diggs, Assistant Regional Director – Fisheries