

DRAFT

**Recommendations for Coordinating State, Federal,
and Tribal Watershed and Salmon Monitoring
Programs in the Pacific Northwest**

**Prepared by the
Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership**

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Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership

Coordinating State, Federal, and Tribal

Watershed and Salmon Monitoring Programs in the Pacific Northwest

Executive Summary

The purpose of the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP or Partnership) is to coordinate important scientific information at the appropriate scales needed to inform public policy and resource management decisions.

Members of the Partnership have to date included state, federal, and tribal personnel with a common interest in coordinating various aspects of watershed condition monitoring, fish population monitoring, effectiveness monitoring, and management of resulting data.

Improved communication, shared resources and data, and compatible monitoring efforts provide increased scientific credibility and greater accountability to stakeholders.

Guiding principles of the Partnership relate to:

- Resource policy and management
- Efficiency and effectiveness
- Scientific basis
- Shared information

Much work has been accomplished over the last two years. This document describes those accomplishments and recommends the highest priority next steps to develop a regional plan to coordinate monitoring.

To succeed, the Partnership will require policy support and direction by member organizations, commitments of technical resources and staff time and ultimately, funding for the coordination itself.

In addition to a monitoring coordination structure, the Partnership has identified four key elements of monitoring, and within each has identified the highest priorities and related costs to improve coordination.

Recommendations and costs associated with a monitoring coordination structure, watershed condition monitoring, effectiveness monitoring, fish population monitoring, and data management are summarized in the following table.

Proposed Action Plan

	Key Element/Recommendation	Timeline	Cost *
Coordination Structure			
1.	Implement proposed PNAMP coordination structure to include: an Executive Network, a Steering Committee, Technical Groups, and a Coordinator jointly funded by PNAMP participants.	March 2004	\$155K
2.	Agencies contribute in kind participation.	Continuous	(\$246K)
Watershed Condition – HABITAT			
\$15K/yr			
1.	Develop a spatially balanced survey design and integrated sampling strategy that allows the aggregation of data at multiple landscape levels over the PNAMP area to which participants will tier their watershed condition surveys.	2004-06	
2.	Identify a core set of attributes and protocols that state, federal, and tribal monitoring programs will use for assessing status and trends in watershed condition.	2004-06	
3.	Identify and implement a process for developing/refining common GIS layers.	2004-06	
Effectiveness Monitoring – HABITAT & FISH			
\$15K/yr			
1.	Develop a short list of high level indicators of salmon recovery and watershed health at a 3 rd field level that can be aggregated to state and regional levels.	June 2004	
2.	Develop a regionally acceptable standard for obtaining statistically valid samples of habitat restoration projects to say with certainty that the projects sampled represent the effectiveness of the project category as a whole.	2005	
3.	Develop a list of habitat restoration project categories that if designed and constructed using documented BMP criteria are considered effective.		
4.	Identify attributes and protocols that state, federal, and tribal monitoring programs will use for assessing project effectiveness.	September 2004	
5.	Strategically place intensively monitored watersheds throughout the Pacific Northwest to monitor and evaluate cause and effect relationships between habitat changes and fish abundance.	2005	
Fish Population Monitoring – ABUNDANCE & HARVEST			
\$15K/yr			
1.	Identify field sampling attributes and protocols that state, federal, and tribal monitoring programs will use for assessing status and trends in fish abundance, other biological indicators, and harvest.	August 2004	
Data Coordination			
\$15K/yr			
1.	Complete detailed assessment of the data management coordination needs of PNAMP work groups and the PNAMP group as a whole	Begin February 2004	\$30-55K
2.	Complete the PNAMP needs assessment including a gap analysis to determine what data management needs can be met by existing programs and what needs can be met with PNAMP coordination	Begin May 2004	Same as above
3.	Develop a PNAMP Data Management Coordination Plan including deliverables, timetable and budget.	Begin June 2004	tbd

* Initial estimates.

