

For years we've argued that if we want healthy salmon runs for our children and grandchildren, at a minimum we must act quickly to safeguard our remaining wild salmon strongholds while we still have the chance.



This approach, while still a new concept, is gaining support along both sides of the Pacific Rim. The "stronghold strategy" – which emphasizes proactive, place-based

conservation of globally important salmon rivers – has been adopted by our Russian partners in Kamchatka and Sakhalin Island, and in the fall of 2006 the Wild Salmon Center brought key United States federal and state agencies and non-governmental groups together to launch an initiative to support the conservation of stronghold rivers in the Pacific Northwest.

I'm pleased to present our Biennial Report for 2005-2006. We have a lot to report – the last two years have been the most successful since the founding of the Wild Salmon Center in 1992.

After years of work, some of our most ambitious conservation programs have borne fruit. The most dramatic gains were in the Russian Far East, a remote and pristine region that generates a third of all wild Pacific salmon and is being rapidly developed for oil, gas, minerals and timber.

On Sakhalin Island, the Wild Salmon Center succeeded in bringing environmental groups, Russian government, scientists, indigenous groups and international energy companies together to launch a far-reaching salmon conservation plan called the Sakhalin Salmon Initiative.

The most extraordinary developments were in Kamchatka, where years of work and generous support from The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation culminated in an agreement with the Kamchatka Administration to designate 10 river systems as refuges for native salmon.

I also am proud to report that in the fall of 2006 the Wild Salmon Center Board approved a 10-year strategic plan. The plan describes three goals: (1) winning the adoption of a series of key principles and standards for wild salmon management across the Pacific Rim, (2) winning the long-term conservation of 20 of the most species rich and productive strongholds for Pacific salmon, and (3) creating a broader network of 96 stronghold rivers where we can facilitate the exchange of new models of salmon conservation and management. Altogether, this network of salmon strongholds supports over half of the world's remaining wild Pacific salmon abundance and diversity.

When we succeed, we will have made a historic – and unprecedented – contribution to the long-term health of native salmon and the thousands of species and human communities they support.

We are proud of how far we've come in the last 15 years, and we are looking forward to great success in the years ahead. We couldn't do it without help and support from our partners: the organizations and individuals across the North Pacific who care about wild salmon, trout, char and steelhead and the rivers where they swim.

On behalf of the board and staff of the Wild Salmon Center, we send our tremendous gratitude for your commitment to the wild salmon of the North Pacific.

Sincerely,

Grah

Guido Rahr President & CEO

рното (LEFT): Scientists tour a volcanic crater lake in Kamchatka. (Photo by Guido Rahr)

PHOTO:
Guido Rahr and his boys at the family cabin on Oregon's Deschutes River.
(Photo by Lee Rahr)

Kamchatka Salmon Biodiversity Program

ussia's Kamchatka Peninsula – a largely undeveloped region about the size of California – produces up to one-quarter of all wild Pacific salmon. Its river systems host all six Pacific salmon species, as well as steelhead, rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, Arctic and whitespotted char.

Kamchatka's rivers, long protected from development because of their isolation, are now facing serious threats that range from the widespread poaching of salmon caviar to road building and the development of natural gas and mineral deposits. Recent surveys have indicated that large oil fields may lie off Kamchatka's west coast – underneath some of Russia's most productive marine fishing grounds.



рното (авоvе): Scientists collecting juvenile salmon and char on Kamchatka's Utkholok River, near the site of the WSC biostation.

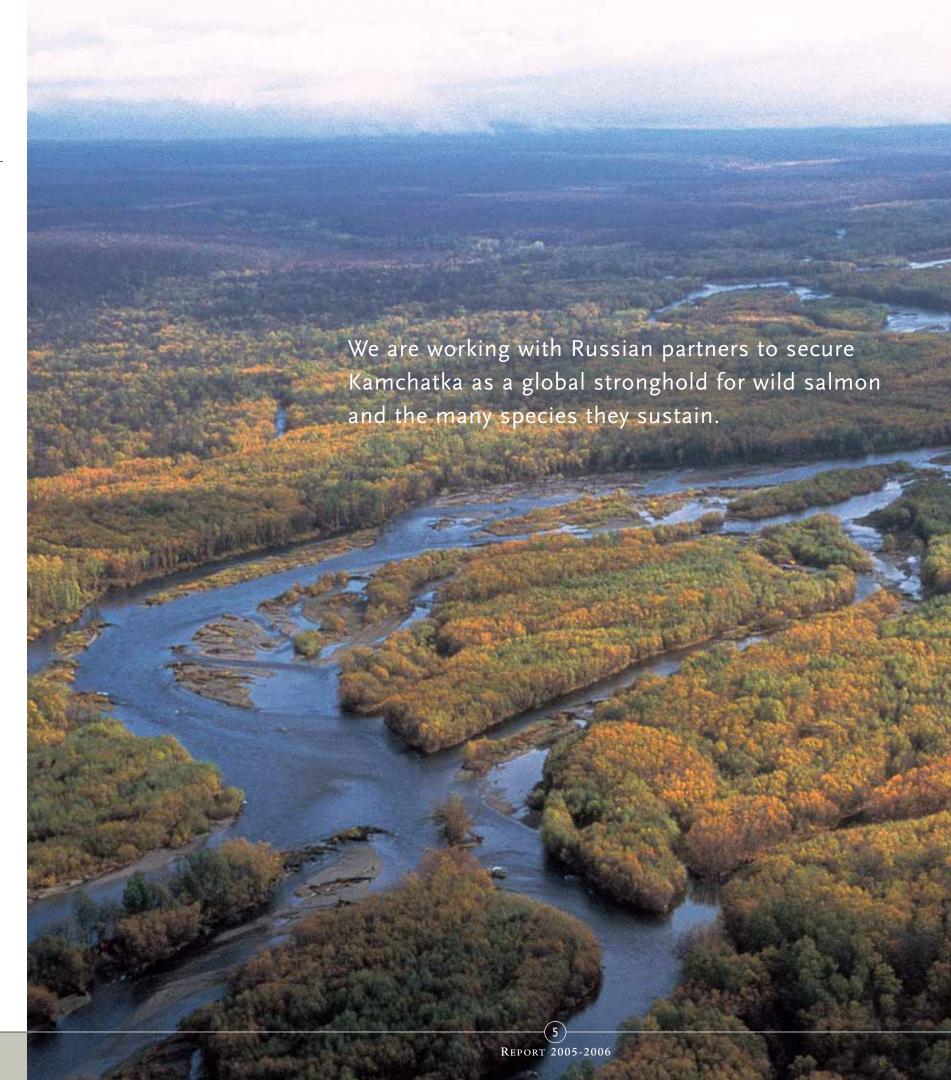
рното (віснт): The Krutogorova River in Kamchatka. (Photo by Guido Rahr) The Wild Salmon Center is playing an extremely important role in Kamchatka. In many ways, the peninsula is at the same crossroads faced in the United States Pacific Northwest 50 years ago. Fortunately, experts at the Wild Salmon Center can help our Russian partners learn from the mistakes and successes of other nations. If our colleagues in Kamchatka can bring their wild salmon through this dangerous period of development, it will be a gift not just to Russia, but to the world.

The goal of our work is to support local efforts to secure the peninsula as a global stronghold for wild salmon and the many species they sustain. To accomplish this goal, the Wild Salmon Center is working in partnership with local and regional government agencies, Russian and international non-governmental organizations, scientific institutions and other stakeholders to support protection of Kamchatka's highly productive salmon ecosystems.

The foundation of this effort is the creation of a network of whole-basin protected areas to safeguard Kamchatka's most extraordinary salmon rivers. These rivers also will be centers for the research and monitoring of salmon and their river ecosystems.

The Wild Salmon Center and partners have built and operate two biological stations: the Utkholok River Biostation in northwest Kamchatka, and the Kol River Biostation on Kamchatka's central coast. The biostations have become international hubs where multi-disciplinary teams of Russian and American researchers work together to explore the interrelationships of salmon abundance, diversity and ecosystem health.

These biostations have formed the nucleus of the Salmon Rivers Observatory Network, a cooperative research effort directed by the University of Montana's Flathead Lake Biological Station and Moscow State University's Department of Ichthyology. The long-term goal of SaRON is to use a series of pristine salmon rivers along both sides of the Pacific Rim to study the impacts of human activity and natural processes on salmon biodiversity and bioproductivity. SaRON provides the scientific foundations for the Wild Salmon Center's conservation strategies.





Kamchatka Salmon Biodiversity Program

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Helped establish the Kol River Salmon Protected Area, a headwaters-to-ocean preserve that restricts development on 544,000 acres of the Kol and Kekhta watersheds. The Wild Salmon Center and partners also initiated an effort to create an additional 330,000-acre protected area that will encompass the Utkholok and Kvachina river basins to safeguard rare populations of steelhead.
- Launched an ambitious effort to create an additional five whole-basin salmon protected areas.
 This initiative will create a salmon protected area network that encompasses 10 entire river systems, protecting up to 6 million acres of habitat for salmon, bears, eagles, seals, and hundreds of other species. Safeguarding these rivers is crucial for the region's commercial and sport fisheries.
- Completed construction of biological stations on the Kol River and Utkholok River and created the WSC-SaRON research program on salmon ecosystems. Biostation salmon scientists participated in many international conservation science meetings and produced 15 scientific articles for publication. Researchers collected three years of baseline data for long-term salmon trend monitoring, and examined the roles of river complexity and marine-derived nutrients from carcasses on salmon productivity and diversity. Students have completed six graduate projects through the biostations.

- Supported the launch of "Kamchatka Salmon," an education program now taught in Kamchatka's middle and high schools. The program encourages young people to understand and appreciate their natural resources.
- Initiated a training program for Russian protected area managers in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme.
- Gained international attention for Kamchatka's salmon conservation initiatives, and, in October 2006, were featured in a front-page article in the Sunday New York Times. (New York Times, Oct. 15, 2006)

PHOTO (LEFT):
David Moskowitz
with a September
steelhead from
Kamchatka's
Utkholok River.
(Photo by Guido Rahr)

The Russian Far East Salmon Biodiversity Program



РНОТО (ABOVE):
Wild Salmon Center
partners Sergei
Zolotukhin and Anatoly
Semenchenko count
juvenile salmon as
part of basin-wide
research to identify key
salmonid habitat in the
Koppi River basin.
(Photo by Brian Caouette)

РНОТО (RIGHT): Campfire smoke drifts over the Koppi River (Photo by Guido Rahr) the vast and rugged coastline of mainland Russia Far East runs from the Sea of Okhotsk south to Sakhalin Island, the Sea of Japan and down to the Korean Peninsula. The salmon rivers that flow from this remote and beautiful region feed rich food webs that include Steller's Sea-eagles, rare Blakiston's fish owls, brown bears, and Amur tigers.

This region faces critical questions about how to develop its ample natural resources – oil and gas, forests, fish and minerals – over the next 20 years.

The Sea of Okhotsk and the rivers that flow into it support some of the world's most productive fisheries, which are key sources of protein and a central economic driver for the people of Russia, Japan, Korea and China. Underneath the marine and river habitats that support these fisheries are oil and gas fields thought to be worth tens of billions of dollars. Right now, a consortium of energy companies is completing the world's largest integrated oil and gas project, with a pipeline that

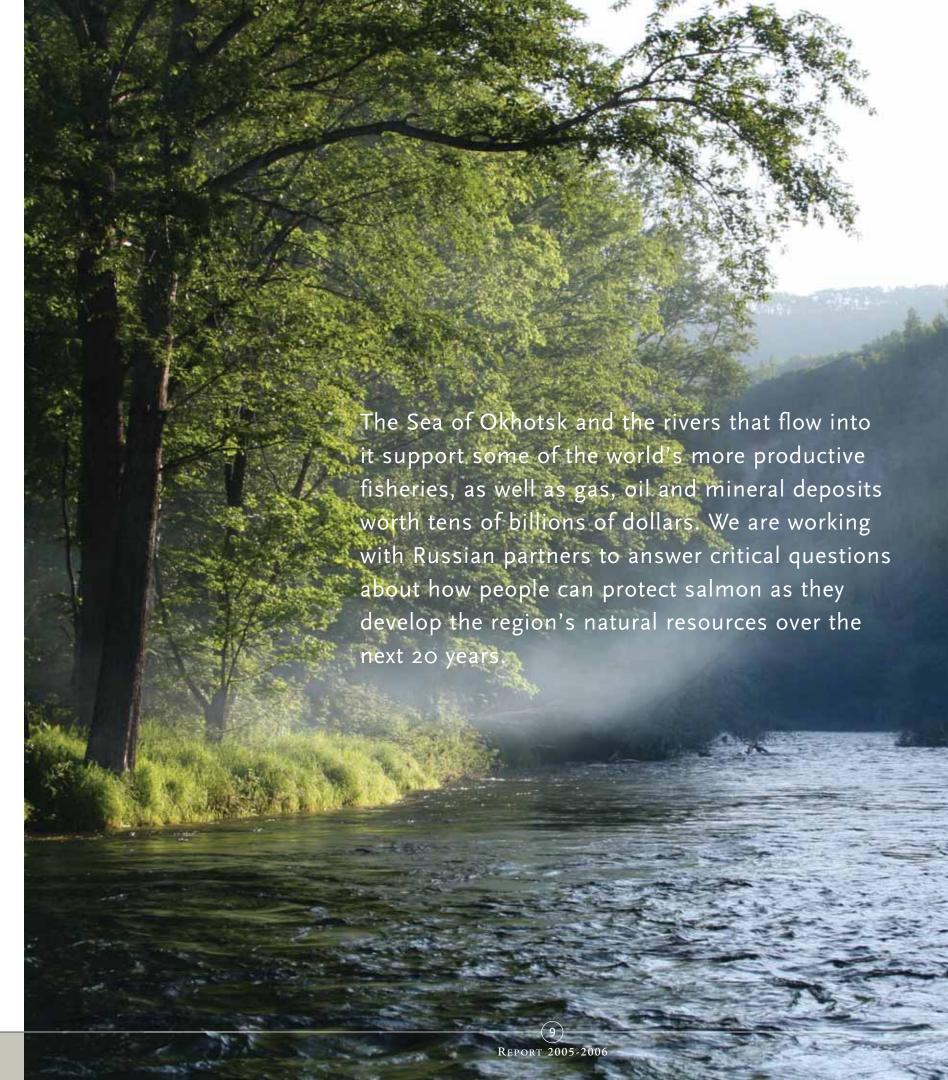
extends the full length of Sakhalin Island crossing over 1,000 rivers and streams.

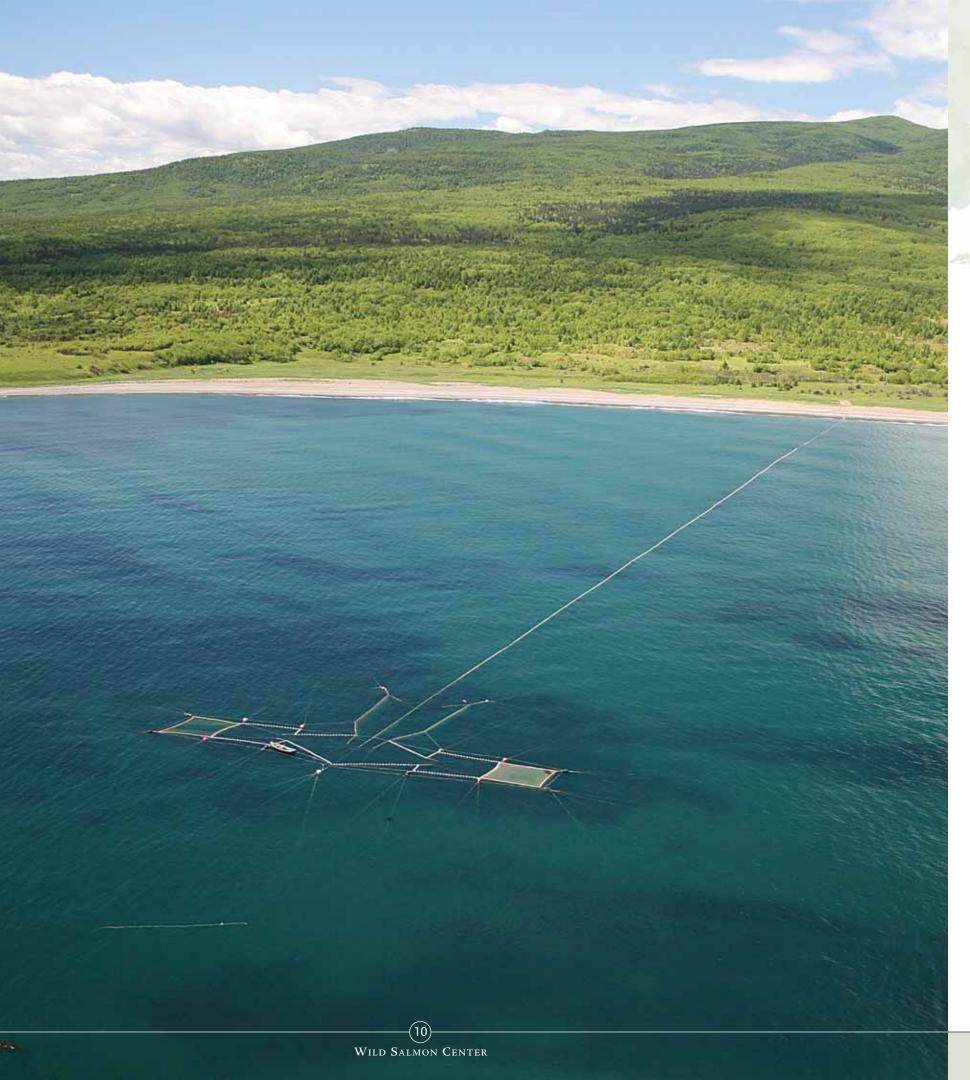
The Wild Salmon Center has worked in the Russian Far East since the late 1990s. With our Russian partners we have conducted assessments of the biological diversity, habitat quality, and conservation potential of 28 river basins. This work has contributed to a list of the region's highest salmon river conservation priorities. We have joined with partners to protect these strongholds.

Our success in the Russian Far East has depended on establishing conservation goals that support local communities and accommodate a broad range of human activities – from hunting and commercial fishing to extractive industries like oil and gas development and commercial forestry. We have worked with a diverse range of stakeholders to achieve a shared goal of ensuring the long-term health of the region's wild salmon rivers.

For example, over the last two years we collaborated with the USDA Forest Service to share land management experiences with Russian partners, and we are working with international oil and gas companies to promote best practices and support salmon conservation. We also hosted conferences and professional exchanges, and we have provided much needed funding for scientific research and conservation projects.

By working with all of the region's stakeholders, The Wild Salmon Center has succeeded in raising salmon conservation as an economic, social and environmental priority. Our Russian partners increasingly recognize the global significance of their salmon fisheries. Our goal is to ensure that all of our colleagues in the Russian Far East have the tools and support they need to preserve their native runs of salmon, taimen and char and all the species they support.





Russian Far East Salmon Biodiversity Program

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Launched the Sakhalin Salmon Initiative, a public-private partnership which brought together businesses, local communities, and nongovernmental organizations to develop a long-term strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of wild salmon and their ecosystems on Sakhalin Island. The Sakhalin Salmon Initiative was launched at an international conference hosted by the Wild Salmon Center, Sakhalin Energy Investment Company and the Sakhalin Regional Administration in October, 2006. The event was a huge success, drawing more than 200 people from Sakhalin, Russia, Canada, Japan and the United States. The Wild Salmon Center joined with the Sakhalin Oblast Administration and Sakhalin Energy Investment Company to sign a declaration supporting international cooperation on salmon conservation and sustainable development.
- Completed two full expeditions down the Samarga River, one of the last unfragmented watersheds that flow into the Sea of Japan. Although the 2 million-acre Samarga basin is slated for logging, the Wild Salmon Center won an agreement to identify and map the most important habitat areas for wild salmon and aquatic biodiversity. Together with our conservation partners, we presented a joint recommendation to the regional logging company, Terneyles. This work will also help Terneyles win Forest Stewardship Council certification of its logging practices in the Samarga.
- Formalized a partnership with the USDA Forest Service to collaborate on international projects in the Russian Far East. These projects include restoration of Sakhalin Island rivers, conservation planning for the Samarga River, and protected area management training for conservation officials in Kamchatka.

- Launched the Siuslaw Sakhalin Restoration
 Partnership, an effort to develop a pilot river
 restoration project on Sakhalin. The partnership
 has facilitated exchanges between Sakhalin
 and Oregon community leaders and specialists
 to conduct watershed assessments and learn
 about restoration approaches.
- Provided key support to create a national park on the Shantar Islands, in the western Sea of Okhotsk. The Shantars are home to the only population of rainbow trout in Asia west of the Kamchatka Peninsula.
- Helped partners on Sakhalin Island in their efforts to re-establish the 166,000 acre Vostochnii Refuge, which will protect two entire ocean-draining river basins – the Vengeri and Pursh-Pursh rivers – and some of the last intact forest ecosystems on Sakhalin Island. The refuge is expected to be designated in 2007.

PHOTO (LEFT):

A large set-net catches salmon in the ocean waters south of the mouth of the Koppi River. Non-lethal fishing practices can help ensure sustainable fisheries.

(Photo by Guido Rahr)

State of the Salmon Consortium



рното (авоvе): State of the Salmon specialists review fisheries data. (Photo by Guido Rahr)

рното (RIGHT): Coho salmon moving upstream to spawn. (Photo by Barrie Kovish) State of the Salmon is a joint program of the Wild Salmon Center and Ecotrust, a Portland, Oregon-based organization dedicated to conservation and sustainable development in western North America. State of the Salmon is building awareness of salmon status and trends across the North Pacific and providing the scientific and technical support for developing new salmon conservation policies and management practices.

Salmon managers throughout the North Pacific often use different approaches to salmon monitoring and conservation. This can lead to a patchwork of information and misguided management decisions that hamper wild salmon conservation efforts. State of the Salmon works to create a seamless portrait of salmon status and trends, from headwaters to the high seas throughout the North Pacific and in close partnership with local researchers and conservationists.

The comprehensive knowledge baseline State of the Salmon is building will help us measure our progress toward saving salmon. The scientific foundation the program provides is helping to build the next generation of salmon management policies and tools.

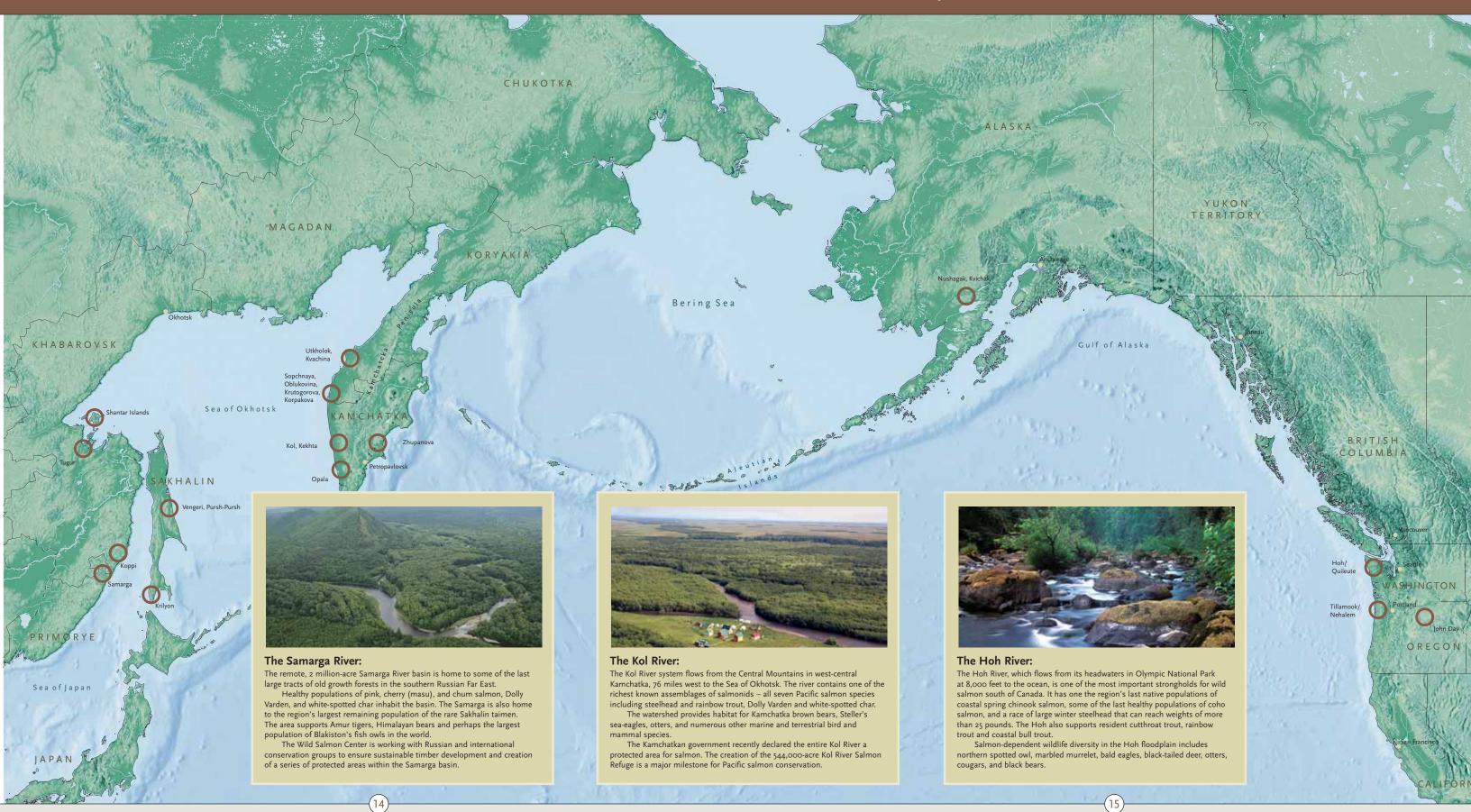
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Led the effort to add Sakhalin taimen to the IUCN World Conservation Union Red List of Threatened Species. Sakhalin taimen are the one of the largest and oldest salmonids in the world, capable of living up to 40 years and reaching over 100 pounds. Their presence reflects the health of the rivers in which they live, and Sakhalin taimen are critically endangered throughout their native range in Japan and Russia. The Redlist designation elevates the level of urgency for taking action to prevent further declines and sets a course for conservation.
- Completed a data inventory for all salmon river basins in North America. The inventory offers historic perspectives of management and conservation issues, which will be used to develop stockstatus assessments for individual species in 2007.
- Hosted a conference, Building the new agenda for North Pacific salmon conservation, in April, 2005. The three-day conference drew nearly 200 international salmon specialists to Anchorage, Alaska. Participants focused on salmon biology, habitat, management, policy and communication issues. The event helped salmon experts throughout the Pacific Rim share best management practices for salmon, and provided a forum for professionals to exchange information and lessons learned.
- Published the Atlas of Pacific Salmon, the first map-based status assessment of salmon in the North Pacific. The Atlas addresses the biological, cultural and economic importance of salmon, as well as the risk of extinction faced by salmon populations along both sides of the Pacific.
- Completed the Salmonid Field Protocols handbook, a reference manual that provides a guide to salmon research and monitoring standards for salmon researchers in any ecosystem.
- Hosted the North Pacific Rim Salmon
 Monitoring Inventory workshop for fishery
 managers across the Pacific Northwest.
 Attendees from state fishery management
 agencies in Washington, Oregon, California
 and Idaho gathered to review, share and validate
 field data that ultimately will provide a clearer
 picture of salmon health throughout the region.



The North Pacific Ecosystem Science and conservation in priority water basins

Where salmon were once bountiful, from mountains to estuaries and into the waters of the North Pacific, today healthy populations are diminishing in number and in diversity. These remaining salmon populations face serious threats. The Wild Salmon Center identifies the most important places — the key river basins where salmon runs are robust, where biological diversity remains high, and where our scientific efforts and partnerships will have the greatest conservation impact.



WILD SALMON CENTER REPORT 2005-2006

North America Salmon Biodiversity Program



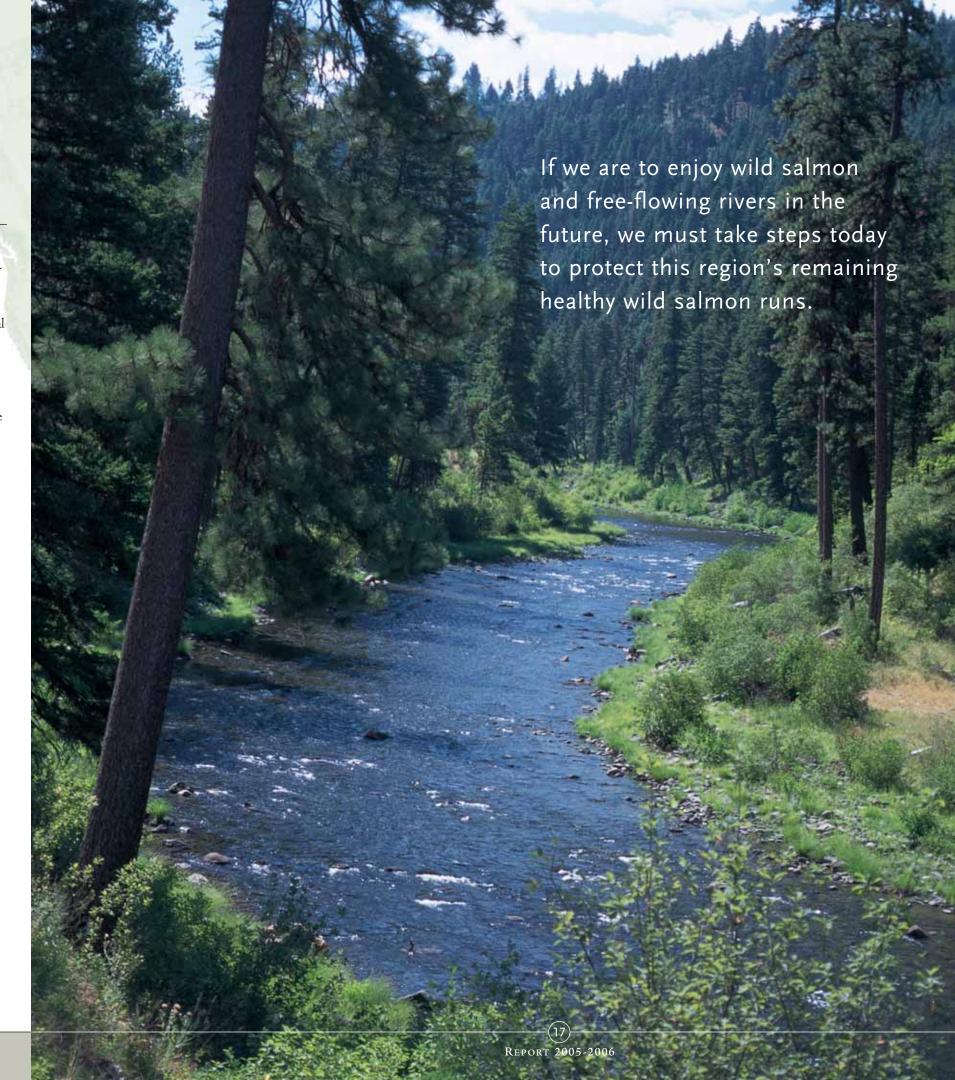
PHOTO (ABOVE):
Wild Salmon Center
biologists gather
scientific data
in Washington's
Hoh River.
(Photo by John McMillan)

РНОТО (RIGHT): Oregon's John Day River is the longest un-dammed tributary of the Columbia River. (Photo by Guido Rahr) North American Pacific
Northwest. This region once was
among the greatest salmon producing areas on
earth. But after 250 years of human impacts on
the region's rivers and streams, salmon have been
reduced to just five percent of their historic
abundance. As the region continues developing
rapidly, competition for resources, particularly
water, will continue to be intense.

If we are to enjoy the beauty of wild salmon and free-flowing rivers in the future, we must make a concerted effort to protect this region's last healthy salmon runs. This means applying the first principle of conservation: protect the

The Wild Salmon Center is working to identify and defend the most important remaining salmon strongholds in the United States Pacific Coast region. Our North American Program activities include working with regional scientists to identify river basins which offer salmon the best chance of surviving the long-term impacts of natural resource development and global warming.

In these areas, we are building public-private partnerships to support local efforts to protect and restore key salmon populations and their habitat. These collaborative efforts involve federal, state and tribal governments as well as non-governmental organizations, scientists, funders and private sector partners. We believe that, most importantly, local landowners are critical to the success of this non-regulatory, incentive-driven effort.





North America Salmon Biodiversity Program

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided key support for the acquisition of 4,700
 acres by Western Rivers Conservancy along the
 Hoh River, on Washington's Olympic Peninsula.
 Today, most of the private land along the Hoh
 River is protected, creating a conservation
 corridor between the Olympic National Park and
 the Pacific Ocean.
- Worked in partnership with Western Rivers
 Conservancy to establish the Hoh River Trust to
 manage lands and support the long-term conservation of the Hoh River ecosystem. The Trust
 now has a strong executive director and board
 of directors, is financially self-sustaining, and is
 leading the protection and restoration of habitats
 in the Hoh River watershed.
- Created the Elk Creek Salmon Refuge on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. With support from public and private partners, we completed purchase of critical habitat along Elk Creek, a vital spawning and rearing tributary for wild salmon and steelhead in the Calawah River
- Worked with a coalition of conservation groups to prevent the logging of key salmon "anchor" habitats along five rivers in the 500,000-acre Tillamook and Clatsop State Forest in northwest
- Produced a regional salmon conservation strategy, titled "A Proactive Strategy to Anchor and Restore High-Priority Wild Salmon Ecosystems." The strategy was presented at several conferences and published in a book, titled "Salmon 2100: The Future of Wild Pacific Salmon."

- Supported the establishment of the John Day Basin Trust. Now completely independent of the Wild Salmon Center, the Trust will provide important resources and support of local conservation efforts in the John Day, the longest un-dammed river in the Columbia River basin and a key stronghold for wild spring chinook salmon, summer steelhead, bull trout, rainbow trout and westslope cutthroat trout.
- Developed a river ecosystem conservation plan for the John Day Basin and continued work with a wide range of partners to identify funding to implement restoration and protection actions.
- Authored technical reports and scientific papers to describe and share the groundbreaking results of six years of salmonid research and monitoring on the Olympic Peninsula. One report identifies tributaries critical to salmon conservation in the Hoh River Basin. The other offers a detailed fish monitoring plan for the region, which is transferable to many other watersheds. Three scientific papers are underway, co-authored by the scientists from the Wild Salmon Center and NOAA Fisheries. One, which has been accepted for publication in the Transaction of American Fisheries Society Journal, is the first published manuscript to provide detailed observations of the mating habits between steelhead and rainbow trout.
- Launched the North American Stronghold
 Partnership, a public-private initiative to demonstrate that human communities, economies
 and healthy salmon populations can coexist.

рното (LEFT):
The Hoh River valley
in Washington.
(Photo by Guido Rahr)

Statements of Activities

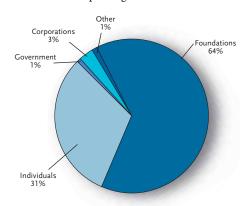
For the fiscal years ending Dec. 31, 2006 and Dec. 31, 2005

in thousands

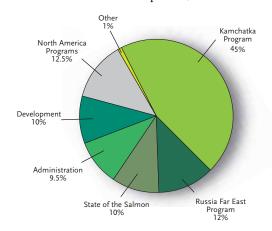
	2006*	2005
Revenue:		
Foundations	\$5,084	\$3,773
Individuals	2,458	2,005
Governments	119	104
Corporations	148	15
Investments and other income	78	53
Total revenue	7,887	5,950
Expenses:		
Program services:		
North America Salmon Biodiversity Program	638	1,072
Kamchatka Salmon Biodiversity Program	2,315	1,962
Russian Far East Salmon Biodiversity Program	637	402
State of the Salmon	516	755
Other	23	-
Support services:		
Management and General	496	432
Development and Communications	501	366
Total expenses	5,126	4,989
Change in net assets	2,761	961
Net assets at the beginning of the year	3,708	2,747
Net assets at the end of the year	\$6,469	\$3,708

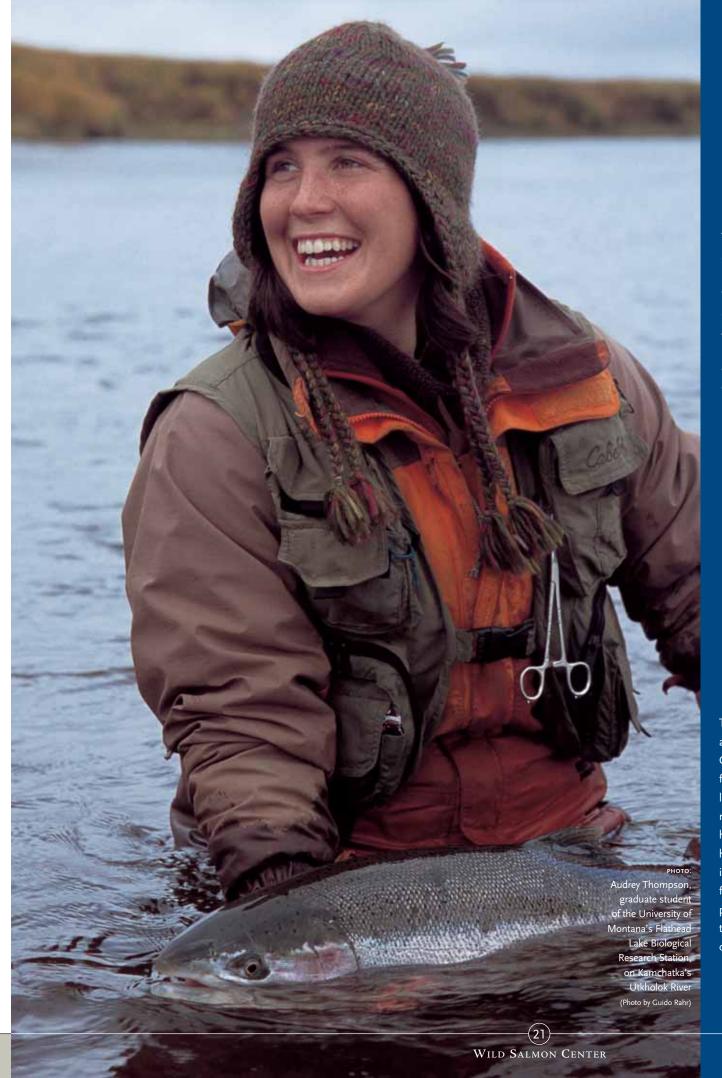
^{*} These are unaudited figures. Final 2006 financials are available on the WSC Web site in March 2007.





FY 2006 Total Expenses: \$5.1 Million







The Wild Salmon Center has been awarded The Independent Charities "Best in America" Seal of Excellence by the Independent Charities of America and Local Independent Charities of America. This signifies that, upon rigorous independent review, the organization met the highest standards of public accountability, as well as program and cost effectiveness.



The Wild Salmon Center has received a four—star rating of excellence from Charity Navigator, which evaluates the financial health of 4,000 of America's largest charities. Charity Navigator noted that, "The Wild Salmon Center has demonstrated exceptional financial health, outperforming most of its peers in its efforts to manage and grow its finances in the most responsible way possible ... supporters can be assured that the Wild Salmon Center is worthy of their trust and commitment."

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United States

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Flathead Lake Biological Station, University of Montana Foundation for Russian-American Economic Cooperation Hoh River Trust Hoh Tribe

Native Fish Society The Nature Conservancy

The North Umpqua Foundation Olympic National Park Olympic Park Institute Oregon Department of Fish and

Oregon State University Oregon Trout

Pacific Environment Quileute Tribe

The Sonoran Institute

Tillamook Bay National Estuary Project

Trout Unlimited University of Washington

US Fish and Wildlife Service USDA Forest Service US Geological Survey, Biological Resource Division US NOAA Fisheries Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Washington Trout Western Rivers Conservancy Wild Salmon Rivers Wild Steelhead Coalition

Russia

Agzu Indigenous Co-op (Obshchina) Biodiversity Conservation Center Bureau for Regional Outreach Campaigns

DVS-Tours (Magadan) Ecodal (Khabarovsk) Far Eastern State University Greenpeace Russia International Socio-Ecological Union

Interregional Association of Independent Tour Operators ISAR-Far East (Vladivostok) Kamchatka Ecotourism Society Kamchatka Environmental

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Administration Kamchatka State University Kamchatka Technical University KamchatNIRO Khabarovsk Division TINRO Khabarovsk Wildlife Foundation Korvak Autonomous Okrug Administration Krechet Hunting & Fishing Society

Sakhalin Environment Watch

Sakhalin Fishing and Hunting

Center for Coastal Fisheries and

Stock Assessment, Sakhalin

Sakhalin Oblast Administration

Sobolevo District Administration

Terneyles Joint Stock Company

Wild Fishes and Biodiversity

Wildlife Conservation Society

Far Eastern Branch

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Zov Taigi (Vladivostok)

British Columbia Ministry of

Environment, Biodiversity

Department of Fisheries &

Hokkaido Fish Hatchery

Environmental Studies Japan

National Salmon Resources

River Policy Network Japan

International Bering Sea Forum

International Ecotourism Society

IUCN The World Conservation

Union, Species Survival

United Nations Development

Programme/Global

Environment Facility

WWF International

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International

Commission

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Sakhalin Wild Nature Fund

Sakhalin State University

Society

SakhNIRO

Sakhrybvod

Sevvostrybvod

Foundation

WWF Russia

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Oceans

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Center

Living Seas Coalition Pacific Research Fisheries Centre (TINRO) Russian Federal Ministry of Protection of the Environment

and Natural Resources Rosprirodnadzor Moscow State University, Biological Faculty, Ichthyology

Department Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Biological Problems of the North Institute of Biology and Soil Sciences, Vladivostok Institute of Ecology and Evolution Institute of Water and

Ecological Problems Kamchatka Branch of the Pacific Institute of Geography Russian Forest Service, Sakhalin Regional Branch

Sakhalin Energy Investment Company

L to R: Sakhalin Energy Investment Company CEO Ian Craig, Sakhalin Oblast Vice Governor Sergei Sheredekin, and Wild Salmon Center President Guido

Donors

The Wild Salmon Center would like to acknowledge the following groups and individuals for their contributions and their in-kind gifts. Without the generosity of our supporters, our work would not be possible.

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WSC Board Chairman Werner Paulus (L) and Vice Chairman David Wimberly (R) take a break from fishing the Koppi River in the Russian Far East.

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WILD SALMON CENTER

REPORT 2005-2006



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> FRONT COVER: The Trask River on Oregon's North Coast. (Photo by Guido Rahr)

BACK COVER: Anglers enjoy the sunset on the Samarga River. (Photo by Dr. Samantha Chilcote)

Design by Bryan Potter Design.

