



**Annual Report of the
Southern Boundary Restoration and Enhancement Fund and the
Northern Boundary and Transboundary Rivers Restoration and Enhancement Fund
for the year 2020.**

Introduction

In June of 1999, the United States and Canada reached a comprehensive new agreement (the “1999 Agreement”) under the 1985 Pacific Salmon Treaty. Among other provisions, the 1999 Agreement established two bilateral funds: the Northern Boundary and Transboundary Rivers Restoration and Enhancement Fund (Northern Fund); and the Southern Boundary Restoration and Enhancement Fund (Southern Fund). The purpose of the two funds is to support activities in both countries that develop improved information for fishery resource management, rehabilitate and restore marine and freshwater habitat, and enhance wild stock production through low technology techniques. The United States agreed to capitalize the Northern and Southern Funds in the amounts of \$75 million U.S. and U.S. \$65 million respectively. Canada also contributed CAD \$500,000. The 1999 Agreement also established a Northern Fund Committee and a Southern Fund Committee, each comprised of three nationals from each country, to oversee investment of the Funds’ assets and make decisions about expenditures on projects. Only the earnings from investments can be spent on projects.

Committee Members

Northern Fund Committee

Canada:

Mr. Steve Gotch
Dr. Carmel Lowe
Mr. John McCulloch

United States:

Mr. Doug Mecum
Mr. Bill Auger
Mr. Doug Vincent-Lang

Southern Fund Committee

Canada:

Dr. Laura Brown
Dr. Don Hall
Mr. Mike Griswold

United States:

Mr. Larry Peck
Dr. Peter Dygert
Mr. Joe Oatman

Executive Summary

- Total contributed capital (nominal) was U.S. \$140,065,000 (the equivalent of CAD \$209,796,000 using the exchange rate at the time the last installment was made). Actual fund market value at December 31st, 2020 was U.S. \$249,480,000 or CAD \$317,837,000.
- Several strong forces impacted investment markets in 2020. COVID-19 and its sudden halt to global economic activity, dispute over the world's oil market, and political uncertainty were common themes that caused significant market volatility at times, especially during the first quarter. However, 2020 ended with positive returns across most asset classes over the full year. Equity markets were particularly strong as the sharp downturn that occurred in the first quarter of 2020 was reversed throughout the remaining three quarters in most regions, helped by extensive fiscal stimulus, ultra-low interest rates and optimism towards economic recovery.
- In 2020 the Southern Fund Committee approved grants for 37 projects worth U.S. \$2.68 million. The Northern Fund Committee approved grants for 59 projects worth U.S. \$4.87 million. On account of COVID-19 restrictions and impacts, two of the projects that the Southern Fund Committee selected were deferred to 2021, four were cancelled and the proponents advised to re-apply for funding in 2021, two were reduced in scope and one was significantly delayed. 11 of the projects that the Northern Fund Committee selected were also significantly affected by COVID-19: eight were deferred to 2021, one was cancelled and will be re-considered for funding in 2021, one was reduced in scope and one was granted an extension to allow some components to be deferred if necessary.
- Since 2004, the Northern and Southern Fund Committees have approved grants of U.S. \$100.98 million to a total of 1,387 projects. In addition to the U.S. \$100.98 million, the Funds contributed U.S. \$10 million to the *Sentinel Stocks Program*.
- In 2020 the Northern and Southern Fund Committee members met together jointly on five occasions: in February, twice in May, once in September and once in November. In addition, the Northern and Southern Fund Committees each met separately on four occasions. Meetings held between April and December 2020 occurred virtually due to COVID-19 public health and travel restrictions.
- An asset mix review was completed to determine whether the Funds' risk-return profile could be improved. The Funds' new asset mix and investment policies were approved in November 2020, resulting in decisions to (i) terminate LSV's non-North American equity mandate and assign a new global equity mandate in its place; and (ii) increase allocations to mortgages and infrastructure while decreasing public market equity and bond exposure moving forward. Following the asset mix study, PH&N Institutional was selected for the new global equity mandate, Axium Infrastructure was selected for the new infrastructure mandate and the current mortgage manager, ACM, was retained with a larger allocation. Implementation of the changes began in November. All mandates have been transitioned, other than the new infrastructure mandate, which is expected to happen within the next 12-24 months as Axium makes investments.
- Mr. Tom Alpe was appointed to the position of Endowment Fund Manager at the Pacific Salmon Commission and started on March 23, 2020.

Investment Review

Over the course of 2020 capital markets performed well overall. The Canadian dollar strengthened versus the U.S. dollar with an increase of approximately 2% over the year. Positive performance in the Endowment Funds' portfolio was primarily due to public equity and fixed income investments where returns from most of the fund managers ranged between 10-20%. Smaller positive results were seen within the portfolio's mortgage and infrastructure investments, while real estate investments struggled. Overall, the total portfolio had positive performance over the year in both CAD and USD.

With respect to equity investments, the portfolio's passive U.S. equity manager, BlackRock, achieved its objective of replicating the performance of its benchmark in the strongest performing market for the second year in a row. Morgan Stanley's global equity mandate also came in with double-digit positive returns for the year, despite missing its benchmark. LSV's Non-North American equity mandate was terminated in November, with most of the assets being transferred to a new PH&N global equity mandate. While LSV's performance was positive in the last three quarters of the year, it was insufficient to erase the negative performance during the first quarter.

With respect to fixed income investments, it is notable that the Bank of Canada decreased interest rates significantly in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 economic problems, with lower rates all across the yield curve. The PH&N Core Plus Bond Fund delivered a strong positive absolute return over the year, well above its benchmark, while ACM's mortgage mandate had a modest positive return over the year and fell slightly behind its benchmark.

Lastly, the portfolio's alternative investments provided mixed results. The U.S. Real Estate manager, Invesco, had negative returns for the year as write downs mid-year followed revaluations that were mostly COVID-related. IFM's infrastructure mandate brought positive returns, representing a rebound from its negative performance in the first quarter; however, it underperformed its benchmark. Infrastructure investments tend to provide more stable returns than public market equities and this was evident during 2020.

Total contributed capital (nominal) was U.S. \$140,065,000 (the equivalent of CAD \$209,796,000 using the exchange rate at the time the last installment was made). Actual fund market value at December 31st, 2020 was U.S. \$249,480,000 or CAD \$317,837,000.

Contributed capital and asset value of the individual funds as of December 31st, 2020 stood as follows:

	Contributed Capital	Asset Value
Northern:	U.S. \$75,000,000 CAD \$112,388,000	U.S. \$134,288,000 CAD \$171,083,000
Southern:	U.S. \$65,000,000 CAD \$97,408,000	U.S. \$115,192,000 CAD \$146,754,000

2020 Project Funding

In 2020 the Southern Fund Committee supported a total of 37 projects for U.S. \$2.68 million. The list included projects addressing specific priorities identified by the Pacific Salmon Commission's Fraser River and Southern Panels for U.S. \$2.23 million or 83% of their overall spending.

In 2020 the Northern Fund Committee supported a total of 59 projects for U.S. \$4.87 million. Of these, four projects with a total value of U.S. \$410,869 were in the Enhancement envelope (8%); U.S. \$213,585 (4%) was invested in four Habitat access improvement projects; and U.S. \$4.24 million (87%) was directed to 51 Improved Information-type projects.

Between 2004 and 2020 the Northern Fund has awarded grants worth U.S. \$56.6 million to 782 projects. Over this same period the Southern Fund has granted U.S. \$44.4 million to 605 projects. Total Fund project expenditures to date are U.S. \$100.98 million in support of 1,387 projects. Included in this total is a sum of U.S. \$5 million from the Southern Fund to the Salish Sea Marine Survival Program. In addition to these amounts, the Chinook Sentinel Stocks Program was funded jointly by the Northern and Southern Funds between 2009 and 2014 for U.S. \$10 million.

Asset Mix Review and Investment Manager Search

Asset mix review and development of a long list of managers to interview.

At the November 2019 Joint Fund Committee meeting a decision was made to proceed with an asset mix review to determine whether the Endowment Funds' ('the Funds') risk-return profile could be improved. The Fund Committee's Investment Advisor (George & Bell Consulting – led by Mr. Brendan George and supporting staff) were tasked with conducting this review. An Investment Subcommittee was struck to provide direction to the review and to present recommendations about the asset mix to the full Northern and Southern Fund Committees. Mr. Steve Gotch, Mr. Doug Mecum, Mr. Larry Peck and Mr. Don Hall volunteered for the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee held its first meeting with George & Bell Consulting on January 24, 2020 to develop the scope and terms of the review. It was agreed that the objective should be to determine if the expected return could be increased and volatility and market downside risk decreased, and that a current priority is to maintain a stable cash flow from the portfolio to support projects rather than to seek a high level of portfolio growth, which had been an initial priority of the Funds. The Subcommittee approved the scope and terms of the review and requested that George & Bell Consulting proceed to complete it.

The Subcommittee met to receive the results of the review on February 14. The Subcommittee were initially supportive of two alternate portfolios, both of which were projected to reduce variation and improve downside protection whilst maintaining or improving the current level of expected returns. To implement either portfolio, Mr. Brendan George recommended an additional diversification strategy of seeking two new managers to complement existing managers in the same asset class:

- Hire a new global equities manager to complement Morgan Stanley,
- Hire a new direct infrastructure manager to complement IFM.

Based on the information presented by George & Bell Consulting, the Subcommittee requested the initiation of manager searches, with the goal of having a shortlist to present at the annual spring Joint Fund Committee meeting in May 2020.

The Subcommittee met on March 6 to review the proposed list of managers identified by George & Bell Consulting. Ten global equity and four infrastructure managers to whom a Request for Proposals for fund management services should be distributed were identified. Mr. Brendan George proposed the criteria which would be used to evaluate responses. The Subcommittee identified that it would be important to identify managers who complement the Funds' existing managers and who could accommodate the Funds' beneficial tax status in the US and Canada efficiently. On May 13 the Subcommittee reconvened to review the long list of potential managers. George & Bell Consulting recommended interviewing two infrastructure and three global equity managers, which the Subcommittee endorsed for presentation to the Joint Fund Committee and decision. The Subcommittee also requested George & Bell to conduct an analysis of the performance and risk profile of two of the Fund's existing equity managers, LSV and Blackrock to better inform a decision about where to withdraw assets to capitalize the new global equity mandate under consideration.

Joint Fund Committee meeting, May 26, 2020 (virtual meeting).

On May 26, the Joint Fund Committee received, reviewed and endorsed the Subcommittee's recommendations to move towards a new long-term asset mix and to select a new infrastructure and a new global equity mandate manager as part of the transition. George & Bell Consulting (represented by Ms. Richardson) presented an analysis of the combined performance of LSV and Blackrock relative to the performance of the new managers under consideration and confirmed that the current combination of managers had performed more poorly, with most of the poor performance attributable to LSV. The Joint Fund Committee agreed to make a final decision about the exact long-term asset mix at the same time as making decisions about hiring new fund managers and agreed that an additional meeting should be scheduled for late summer 2020 to accommodate this. The Joint Fund Committee also asked the Investment Subcommittee to interview the shortlisted fund managers on their behalf and to present their recommendations to them at this time.

Investment Manager interviews

Interviews for the new global equity mandate took place on July 27 and were conducted virtually. The Investment Subcommittee was provided with a preliminary analysis of the three firms under consideration prior to interviews, which assigned relatively similar scores to the firms indicating generally equivalent past performance and firm characteristics. During interview all three firms provided effective presentations and demonstrated strong competencies. Although each demonstrated some differences in investment strategies and firm characteristics, the three firms confirmed a strong performance track record and forward-looking investment philosophies which generally aligned with the Funds' interests.

The Subcommittee chose to recommend PH&N Institutional as their preferred candidate, identifying that their relative advantages included lower fixed service fees; a proven track record of excellent returns; relatively low historical return correlation with the Funds' existing global equity manager; and their clear explanation of their investment approach and philosophy.

Interviews for the new infrastructure mandate took place on July 29 and were conducted virtually. The Subcommittee was again provided with an analysis of the two firms under consideration in advance, which revealed some similarities and some distinctions between the firms whilst confirming that both had strong historical performance track records and forward-looking investment philosophies that generally aligned with the Funds' interests.

The Subcommittee chose to recommend Axium Infrastructure as their preferred candidate, identifying a number of relative advantages including that: they are a more established and larger firm than the other candidate, with a stable ownership structure and an experienced team that incorporates strong technical expertise in the assets which the firm owns and operates; their investment strategy was more clearly articulated with a low overall exposure to GDP sensitive assets; they have a clear focus on Environmental Social and Governance attributes in their portfolio; and they have consistently met their performance targets with low correlation with wider market trends. The other candidate firm also had relative advantages, specifically lower fixed fees particularly during the first five years of the investment period and a shorter investment queue of 6-9, as opposed to 12-24 months. The Subcommittee considered that on balance the long-term advantages of Axium's offer outweighed these considerations and that Axium was a better fit considering the overall objectives of improving diversification and reducing the risk profile of the Funds.

Joint Fund Committee meetings, September 25 and November 23-24, 2020. (virtual meetings)

The Joint Fund Committee met on September 25 to consider and make final decisions about the asset mix composition and selection of new managers. They agreed with the Subcommittee's recommendations to select Axium Infrastructure and PH&N Institutional as the managers of their new infrastructure and global equity mandates respectively and passed motions confirming these decisions. Further decisions were made about how to structure the investment with PH&N. The Committee also passed motions to:

1. Terminate LSV as a manager as a necessary part of this transition to new managers, noting that their performance has been consistently poorer than expected.
2. Select a new long-term asset mix for the funds, confirming the precise asset allocations for existing and new managers. The Committee selected the Asset Mix which was recommended by George & Bell Consulting (*figure 1*).
3. Accept George & Bell Consulting's recommended approach for implementing a transition from the current to the new asset mix, the most important step to note being the placement of assets liquidated from LSV into the commercial mortgages mandate managed by ACM until they are called by Axium (*figure 1*).

A final decision regarding how to structure the infrastructure investment with Axium was made on November 23, 2020 at the Joint Fund Committee fall meeting, following the successful completion of due diligence on Axium's proposed Limited Partnership Agreements. Trades to implement the transitional asset mix were executed on November 30.

	Pre-Review	Transition	Long-Term
Fixed Income			
PH&N Core Plus Bonds	20%	20%	10%
ACM Mortgages	10%	20%	20%
Total Fixed Income	30%	40%	30%
Equities			
Blackrock U.S. Equities	15%	10%	10%
LSV International Equities	20%	0%	0%
Morgan Stanley Global Equities	15%	15%	15%
PH&N Institutional	0%	15%	15%
Total Equities	50%	40%	40%
Alternatives			
Invesco U.S. Real Estate	10%	10%	10%
IFM Infrastructure	10%	10%	10%
Axium Infrastructure	0%	0%	10%
Total Alternatives	20%	20%	30%

Figure 1: The Funds' pre-review, transitional and new ('Long-Term') allocations to different asset classes.

Joint Fund Committee Meetings

The following information provides a summary of remaining Joint Fund Committee activities undertaken in 2020.

May 5, 2020 (virtual meeting).

The Joint Fund Committee (in this section, 'the Committee') met for one hour to discuss the potential recovery of US withholding tax associated with the Funds' return on investments generated through the Morgan Stanley portfolio between 2016 and 2019. George & Bell Consulting had identified an opportunity to utilize the Funds' exemption from direct taxation in the US and Canada to attempt to recover up to US \$355,476 paid by Morgan Stanley over this period. The Committee discussed whether to engage Polaris Tax Counsel to attempt to recover taxes on a contingency or flat fee for services basis. Contingency fees were quoted at a higher rate than a flat fee, however the ability of Polaris to recover this tax was uncertain and a contingency agreement would ensure that if Polaris are unsuccessful, there would be no cost. The Committee requested that Ms. Manisali (Pacific Salmon Commission Secretariat – Director of Finance) gather further information to inform the Committee's further consideration and decision. Following subsequent correspondence, the Committee agreed to engage Polaris Tax Counsel to attempt to recover tax paid between 2016 and 2018 on a 20% contingency basis and to defer a decision about the recovery of tax paid in 2019 until the outcome of the initial attempt is known. The amount of tax paid in 2019 was greater than in previous years as investment performance had been stronger, so this approach was selected to minimize the fees associated with recovery.

May 26, 2020 (virtual meeting).

The Committee received the Q1 Investment Performance Report from George & Bell Consulting (Mr. Brendan George and Ms. Michelle Richardson). On account of the COVID-19 pandemic 2020 Q1 performance had been below expectations at the portfolio level, however, was only slightly below the 4-year performance target. The US dollar had strengthened in comparison to the Canadian dollar, and since a high proportion of the Funds' assets are invested outside the US the market value of the fund was down 6% in Canadian dollars and 14% in US dollars. Preliminary information identified that Q2 performance had been positive and had offset poor Q1 performance by approximately 5%. The performance of the LSV investment portfolio continued to be poor (near the bottom of their comparative investment peer group) whereas Morgan Stanley's performance had been particularly strong.

The Committee received an update from George & Bell Consulting and the Pacific Salmon Commission Secretariat's Director of Finance, Ms. Ilinca Manisali, on considerations pertaining to attempted recovery of U.S. withholding tax associated with the Funds' investment earnings generated through the Morgan Stanley portfolio and potential engagement of Polaris Tax Counsel. The Committee was informed by Ms. Manisali that the amount of tax paid on the Morgan Stanley returns on investments were lower than previously reported and amounted to US \$109,338. In light of this new information, the Committee identified that the difference between a flat-fee and contingency fee structure for the 2019 tax year was significantly reduced and decided to amend their previous decision to treat 2016-18 and 2019 separately. The Committee instructed Ms. Manisali to engage Polaris Tax Counsel to attempt to recover all U.S. withholding tax paid to date. The Committee also received an update on the status of U.S. withholding taxes associated with their other investments and received confirmation that, due to the nature of the investment holdings, the Morgan Stanley portfolio was the only one of the Committee's investments where taxes of this type were paid and where the potential for recovery exists.

The Committee reviewed FY 19/20 fund administration expenses and approved the administration budget for FY 20/21. In addition, the PSC Executive Secretary, Mr. John Field, advised the Committee that it was necessary to formally document their procedures for proposal submission, review and approval (individually for each of the Southern and Northern Funds). Mr. Alpe presented an initial outline for the procedures document and the Committee directed Mr. Alpe to develop a full draft for review and discussion at the Committee's annual fall meeting in November.

The Committee discussed the likely impact of COVID-19 on projects selected by the Southern and Northern Funds for 2020. There was agreement that project proponents should be advised to proceed with projects only if they are able to comply with all relevant public health requirements. The Committee tasked the Fund Manager to develop correspondence to be issued to project proponents advising them of this requirement. This was sent in June.

November 23 and 24, 2020 (virtual meeting)

At the fall meeting of the Joint Fund Committee, the Committee received an update on investment portfolio performance and received presentations from two of the Funds' existing investment managers as well as an introductory presentation from Axium Infrastructure.

On November 23 the Committee received the Q3 Investment Performance Report from George and Bell Consulting (Mr. George and Ms. Richardson). The Funds' investments did not achieve the primary objective of earning a return (net of fees) that exceeds the rate of return of the benchmark by 0.6%, however the long-term objective of exceeding the Canadian and US Consumer Price Indexes +3.5% net of fees was met. Mr. George explained that continued underperformance by LSV was the principle contributing factor leading to underperformance. The Committee also noted underperformance by the Funds' real estate manager, Invesco, which was directly influenced by a number of property assessments that identified reduced valuations for specific assets within the portfolio.

The Committee received presentations from Invesco (Ms. Cinnamon Russell and Mr. Michael Peck), IFM (Mr. Dan Kim and Ms. Campbell Holman) and Axium (Mr. Pierre Anctil, Ms. Gabrielle Dutil and Ms. Anne-Sophie Roy). The Committee did not identify any concerns with manager performance and were satisfied with the presentations provided.

Ms. Richardson presented a list of recommended updates to the Committee's Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures. The recommended updates focused on accounting for the Funds' new asset mix; increasing the evaluation timeline from a rolling four-year to five-year period; the removal of value-added targets and the addition of a requirement for contracts with new investment managers to be legally reviewed prior to execution. On consideration the Committee agreed to adopt the amendments for incorporation in the Committee's Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures.

Mr. Alpe (Pacific Salmon Commission Secretariat, Fund Manager) provided a presentation on the tax benefits that the Funds receive in the US and Canada and updated the Committee on efforts to ensure that current investments are structured in a way that is tax efficient. This included the engagement of a firm (WTax) to identify and pursue opportunities to recover non-US withholding taxes within the LSV portfolio; due diligence to ensure that the Committee's new investments with Axium Infrastructure and PH&N are structured in a way that accounts for the Funds' beneficial tax status, and recommendations about how to ensure all future investments are also structured efficiently. The Committee agreed to adopt the recommendations, recognizing that tax considerations should be identified up-front through legal review of investment management agreements prior to execution, as reflected in the revised Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures.

On November 24, the Committee discussed their procedures for considering third party requests to attend Committee meetings and provide presentations / information. Members noted the need to treat all such requests consistently and that a distinction can be made between requests to speak about projects seeking financial support from the Endowment Funds and other types of discussions. The Committee agreed that it would generally not be appropriate to permit proponents to address them about their proposed projects at Committee meetings in situations where the proponents have approached the Committee to request to do so and while the proponents project funding submission is actively being considered by the Committee. It will not be practical as it would be necessary to grant everyone this opportunity if one proponent were allowed to present their case. Generally, the Northern and Southern Fund Committees can obtain the information which they require to make funding decisions through their established processes.

The Committee discussed other possible types of presentations and conversations with external parties such as those designed to inform them about emerging trends / scientific developments and ‘big picture’ issues. It was noted that the Committee may choose to actively solicit such presentations and that in addition to each Committee’s usual channels the PSC’s Standing Committee on Scientific Cooperation may be a useful group to draw upon. It was agreed that requests of this type to each Committee should be considered by the relevant Co-Chairs on a case by case basis.

On review of the draft document, the Committee asked Mr. Alpe to update their draft formal Procedures for Proposal Submission, Review, Evaluation and Approval to reflect considerations pertaining to project proponent presentations. It was noted that the Northern and Southern Fund Committees may develop separate procedures for considering such requests should they consider it appropriate to do so.

Mr. Alpe reviewed the policy for honorarium payments to eligible Fund Committee members. The Committee requested that Mr. Alpe and Mr. Field prepare a draft guidance document regarding honorarium payments for review at the Committee’s spring 2021 meeting.

The Committee also received an update on fund administration expenses to-date from Ms. Manisali and reviewed a draft of a new Committee onboarding pack prepared by Mr. Alpe, providing guidance on specific areas and requesting that this also be brought back at their spring 2021 meeting.

Northern Fund Committee Meetings

The Northern Fund Committee met in separate session on four occasions during 2020.

1. February 24-25 (in-person): The Committee met to make final decisions about the projects to select for funding in 2020.
2. May 27 (virtual): The Committee met to receive an update on the financial status of the Northern Fund and to agree the scope, priorities and timetable for the next Call for Proposals. The Committee also discussed the implications of COVID-19 for 2020 projects; their procedures for administering requests to adjust projects post-Committee approval of the detailed proposal; and their procedures for monitoring the compliance of projects seeking multi-year funding with their contractual reporting requirements.
3. September 30-October 1 (virtual): The Committee met to make decisions about the project concepts to advance to the detailed proposal stage. The Committee also agreed to formalize their procedures for adopting meeting minutes; reviewed a draft of their formal procedures for project review and selection; received an update on the financial status of the Northern Fund; reviewed and approved the Audited Financial Statements for the 2019-20 financial year; and discussed their approach for communicating the achievements of the Northern Fund.
4. November 24 (virtual): The Committee met briefly following conclusion of the Joint Fund Committee meeting held that day in order to discuss their protocols for communications between the Committee and project proponents.

Southern Fund Committee Meetings

The Southern Fund Committee met in separate session four times during 2020. All meetings were held by videoconference:

1. February 25: The Committee met to make final decisions about the projects to select for funding in 2020.
2. April 20: The Committee met to receive an update on the financial status of the Southern Fund and to agree the scope, priorities and timetable for the next Call for Proposals. The Committee also discussed the status of their Strategic Plan.
3. September 28-29: The Committee met to make decisions about the project concepts to advance to the detailed proposal stage. The Committee also reviewed and approved the Audited Financial Statements for the year 2019-20 financial year; reviewed a draft of their formal procedures for project review and selection; reviewed draft guidance regarding the handling of project change requests; received an update on the financial status of the Southern Fund; and agreed to formalize their procedure for reviewing and adopting minutes of their meetings.
4. November 23: The Committee met briefly following conclusion of the Joint Fund Committee meeting in order to discuss the status of outcome reporting from the Salish Sea Marine Survival Program and to discuss their procedures for reviewing and selecting habitat-focused project proposals, which they agreed to revisit at their spring 2021 meeting.

Committee Appointments

There were no changes to the membership of the Northern or Southern Fund Committees in 2020.

2020 Call for Proposals for projects in 2021/22

Both Fund Committees issued a Call for Proposals in mid-2020 for projects starting in 2021.

The Southern Fund Committee focused its 2021 Call for Proposals on habitat restoration projects and specific priorities identified by the Pacific Salmon Commission's Fraser River and Southern Panels. The Fund Committee received 49 proposals requesting U.S. \$3.81 million. During the first-round review meeting the Southern Fund Committee approved 47 proposals in total requesting U.S. \$3.47 million to move to the second stage. The final decisions on 2021 funding will be made at a meeting of the Southern Fund Committee in February 2021.

The Northern Fund Committee focused its 2021 Call for Proposals on projects seeking to develop improved information for resource management; the rehabilitation and restoration of marine and freshwater fish habitat; the enhancement of wild-stock production through low technology techniques and proposals responsive to the recommendations and objectives set out within the PSC's Transboundary Panel Strategic Salmon Plan. The Committee received a total of 81 proposals requesting U.S. \$8.68 million. At the first-round review meeting 59 of the proposals were selected to move to the second-round detailed proposal stage, having a total value of U.S. \$6.1 million. Bilateral technical reviews of the detailed proposals took place in January 2021 and a final decision on 2020 funding will be made at a meeting of the Northern Fund Committee in February 2021.

Staffing Changes

- Mr. Tom Alpe was appointed to the position of Endowment Fund Manager at the Pacific Salmon Commission and started on March 23, 2020.