

Skagit Project FERC Relicensing Settlement

COMPREHENSIVE FISH PASSAGE AND HABITAT PROGRAMS

Advancing Salmon Recovery and Tribal Harvest

Salmon are a vital resource for Tribes, for the health of the Skagit River ecosystems, and for communities across the region. Seattle City Light is committed to contributing to the recovery of threatened and endangered fish species and increasing harvest opportunities to support Tribal treaty rights.

City Light has reached a landmark Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Relicensing Settlement with Tribes, federal and state agencies, local governments, and community partners. This agreement will guide the future operations of the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project. To increase salmon harvest and to support salmon recovery at the Skagit Project, City Light is committed to comprehensive fish passage and habitat programs.

The programs will be implemented carefully to protect fish populations and the larger, fragile river ecosystem. A continuous cycle of research will guide decisions and ensure the programs remain responsive and effective over time, and partners will be consulted at every decision-making stage.



Key Program Features

Fish Passage Implemented Through Partnerships

Developed in partnership with Tribes, federal and state agencies, and other stakeholders, these programs reflect years of joint planning and negotiation and will continue to engage diverse parties through the course of the new license to ensure shared oversight and long-term success.

Clear Habitat and Recovery Goals

Will include clear goals designed to contribute to salmon recovery and improve Tribal harvest.

Ecosystem Approach

Takes an ecosystem approach that encompasses the entire Skagit Watershed—from mainstem to tributaries to the estuary. Restoration will address the habitat conditions salmon need at every life stage.

Science-Based and Adaptive

Informed by science, including species-specific research and ongoing monitoring. An adaptive management framework allows for course correction based on new data.

Enhanced Flow Management

Includes flow management measures to minimize adverse effects on and provide ecological benefits to salmon, bull trout, and other fish species.

Addresses Implementation Complexities

Accounts for the practical challenges of program implementation in remote and complex areas, including accessing remote areas on Ross Lake, ensuring the program can be sustained over decades.

Financial Accountability

Seattle City Light's contribution to the fish passage program is capped at \$979 million over the 50-year license term. This includes design, planning, and construction. The utility and its partners will pursue additional funding to help offset costs.

Protecting the Skagit

Through collaboration with Tribes and partners, City Light is committed to protecting and restoring the Skagit River, so future generations can benefit from the vibrant, resilient ecosystem while supporting the region's renewable energy needs.