



PACIFIC SALMON FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES **PARTNER IN SALMON RECOVERY**

Vancouver – May 22, 2003

Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) and Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund Society (PSEFS) are pleased to announce a contribution from Kingfishers Rod and Gun Club (KRGC) based in Langley, BC of \$12,000 over three (3) years to make Kingfishers a contributing partner to the Coldwater River Recovery Plan.

The Kingfishers Rod and Gun Club is one of the oldest functional fish and game clubs in BC (established 1959). The Club is well known for its fisheries resource and habitat conservation contributions over the past five decades. More recently, the Kingfishers Rod and Gun Club has focused its attention on the chronically depressed Thompson River Steelhead returns and potential causes including freshwater habitats and water quality concerns in that watershed. To that end, the Club researched various programs but eventually reached consensus to support Pacific Salmon Foundation in partnership with Nicola Watershed Stewardship Fisheries Authority (NWSFA) and the Coldwater River Recovery Plan.

Pacific Salmon Foundation is the Program Manager of the Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund – a \$30 million endowment fund established by an initial contribution from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and championed by Rick Hansen. As Program Manager, PSF directs the income to rebuilding key salmon watersheds in British Columbia. Three priority regions are: Georgia Basin, Thompson Basin and Rivers and Smiths Inlets.

The Coldwater River was selected by the Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund Technical Committee as the first watershed to receive attention in the Thompson Basin salmon recovery planning process for coho, chinook and steelhead. The Kingfishers Rod and Gun Club has committed financially to a multi-year "hands-on" project to assess juvenile steelhead (as well as chinook, coho and bull trout) out-migrant populations from the Coldwater main stem. The project is titled 'Smolt Emigration Assessment Project' and has been selected as the project to which KRGC is prepared to contribute \$4,000 per year for three years. The project will be conducted by existing partners the Nicola Watershed Stewardship and Fisheries Authority (NWSFA) under the Nicola Tribal Association. "The Kingfishers Rod and Gun Club looks forward to a long and productive relationship with the Pacific Salmon Foundation/Nicola Watershed Stewardship Fisheries Association and ultimately to the recovery of Thompson Watershed steelhead, salmon and char populations" says Mike Whelan of Kingfishers.

Barney Stirling from NWSFA expresses his appreciation, "In times of funding cutbacks from all levels of government it's great news that the Kingfishers Rod and Gun Club has come forward to commit funding for the Coldwater River Recovery Plan for the next three years. It is partnerships such as these that can only create a better future, not only for us but also for all species of fish and the animals that depend on them now and in the future. We thank the Kingfisher club for their support."

For more information on the Foundation, please visit www.pacificsalmon.ca or contact: Rich Chapple, Director Salmon Programs, rchapple@psf.ca or Leigh Martin-Boyd, Salmon Program Officer lmartinboyd@psf.ca. Telephone 604-664-7664.