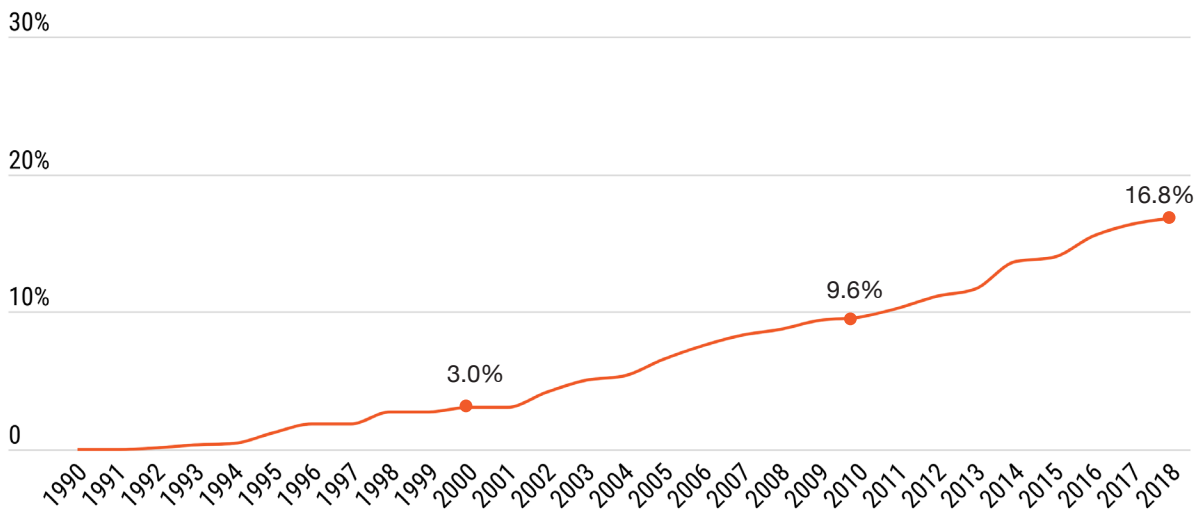


STATE-OWNED FISH PASSAGE BARRIER CORRECTIONS ARE INCREASING

The Washington State Department of Transportation is working to correct barriers to fish passage along state facilities. Fish passage barriers occur when culverts or other drainage structures underneath roadways cross fish-bearing rivers or streams and keep fish from being able to pass through. For decades, WSDOT has worked to correct these barriers. WSDOT’s 2017-2019 biennial budget included \$97.5 million for the correction of fish-passage barriers statewide.

Since 1990¹, 124 out of 737 state-owned fish passage barriers in the central Puget Sound region have been corrected². The percentage of fish passage barriers that have been corrected has grown from 3% in 2000 to nearly 17% in 2018.

Percent of State-Owned Fish Passage Barriers Corrected in the Central Puget Sound Region by Year

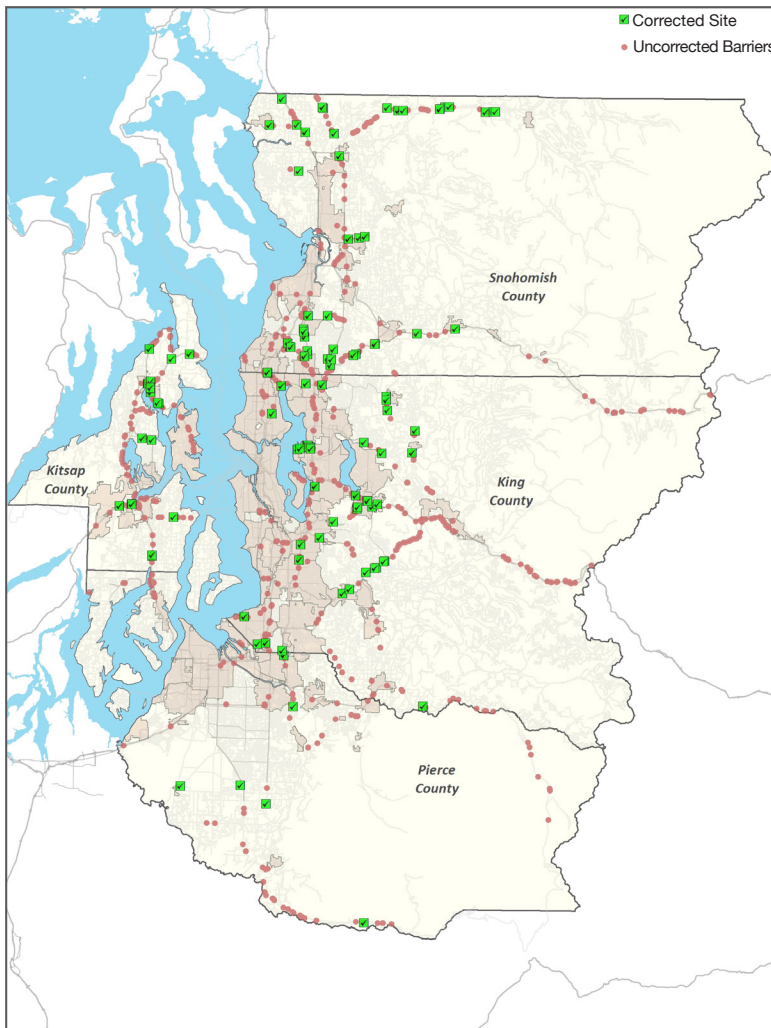
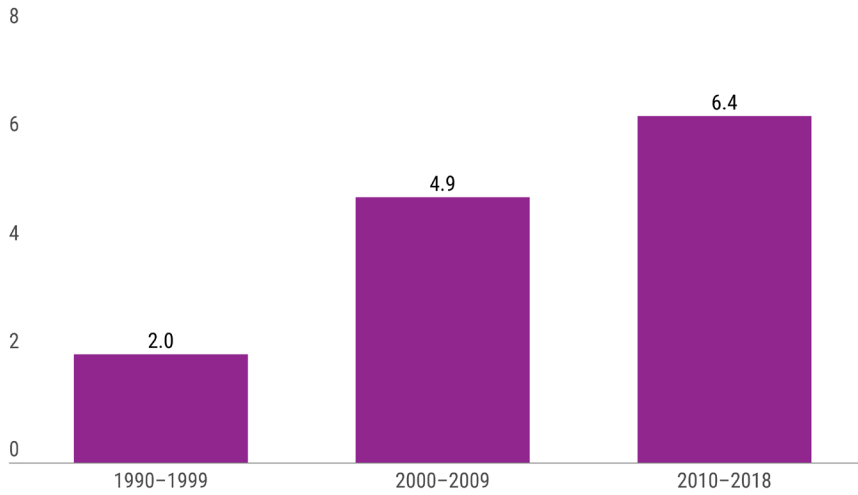


WSDOT has been increasing its rate of fish passage barrier corrections in the central Puget Sound region over the last three decades. Between 1990 and 1999, an annual average of 2 fish passage barriers were corrected. This number increased to 4.9 between 2000 and 2009 and to 6.4 between 2010 and 2018.

¹ WSDOT began its Fish Passage Barrier Correction Program in 1991. Prior to that there had only been one state-owned fish passage barrier correction in the central Puget Sound region.

² For a barrier to be considered “corrected,” it must allow for 100% passability.

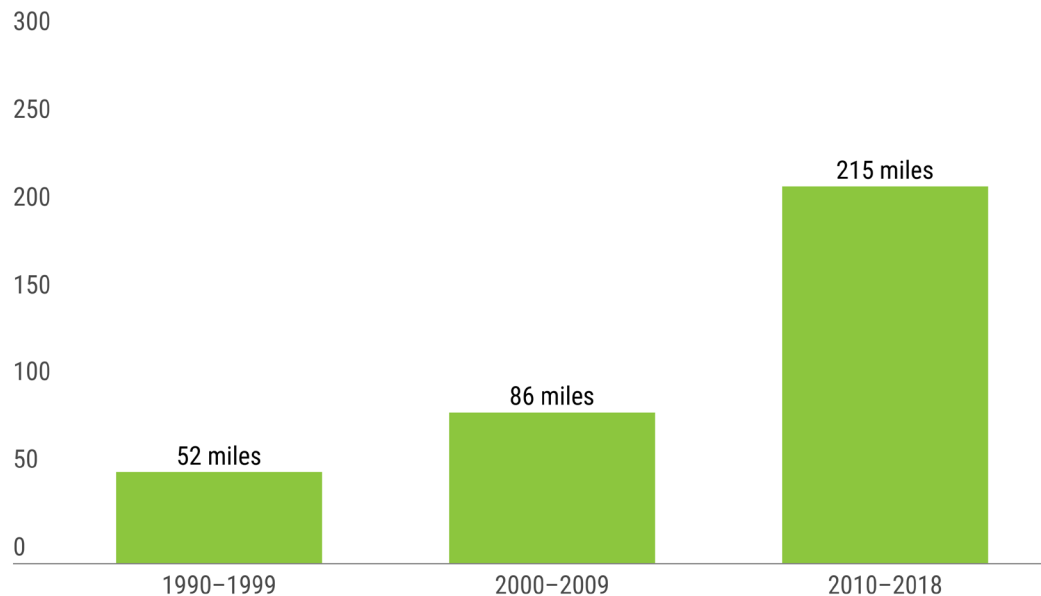
Average Annual State-Owned Fish Passage Barrier Corrections in the Central Puget Sound Region



The map shows the distribution of state-owned corrected sites and uncorrected barriers across the region.

For each fish passage barrier that is corrected, a certain amount of upstream fish habitat is restored. The amount of habitat restored varies significantly depending on the location of the barrier and various other factors. WSDOT has aimed to strategically prioritize the correction of barriers that restore the most habitat access. Since 1990, state-owned fish passage barrier corrections in the central Puget Sound region have resulted in a total of roughly 354 miles of fish habitat gain.

Miles of Habitat Gain from State-Owned Barrier Corrections in the Central Puget Sound Region by Decade



What's Next?

WSDOT will continue its work to correct barriers to fish passage across the state. WSDOT recently released its 2019 Fish Passage Performance Report, an annual report that highlights the latest fish passage barrier correction work completed statewide. WSDOT is also currently in the process of developing a long-term statewide project delivery plan that will further prioritize barrier correction investments over a multi-year period.

Data Source for all figures: Washington State Department of Transportation Environmental Services Office, 2019