

# Puget Sound Recreational Fisheries Enhancement – Oversight Committee

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February 10, 2014

The Honorable Kirk Pearson  
Chair - Senate Natural Resources and Parks Committee  
PO Box 40439  
Olympia, WA 98504-0439

Dear Senator Pearson,

The Puget Sound Recreational Fisheries Enhancement Oversight Committee (PSRFE-OC), as established in RCW 77.105.160, are in full support of the proposed funding of the study on Lake Washington sockeye salmon to be conducted by the University of Washington and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. A study to determine survival bottlenecks and solutions in Cedar River juvenile sockeye is necessary if we are to reestablish this very important fishery.

The sockeye fishery in Lake Washington is unique. Not only is it special to our state but it is very unique to our nation. Having a fishery where over 100,000 anglers have traditionally participated within the heart of a major metropolitan city is rarely seen. This sockeye fishery dating back to the 1970s attracts all aspects of the outdoor community and brings out the best of our heritage of salmon angling.

The PSRFE-OC has recently adopted goals for the PSRFE program of which one is to increase angler days of participation in Puget Sound and Lake Washington fisheries. As you are well aware these recreational fisheries are a vital component of our heritage and provide a substantial boost to the local economy. A Lake Washington sockeye fishery would be a substantial boost to our recreational angling opportunity.

The PSRFE-OC has seen Lake Washington sockeye as a component to our success for restored fisheries. It is for this reason that the Oversight Committee has funded the necessary adult sockeye counting entering Lake Washington at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks. These adult counts are necessary to assess if there are enough sockeye to justify a fishery. Last time we had a fishery was in 2006. Without an increase in overall juvenile fish survival we might never have a fishery again.

Thank you for your consideration in funding the proposed two year study with \$150,000 provided in the general fund state appropriation for fiscal year 2015.

Respectively,



David Knutzen  
Chair, PSRFE-OC

PSRFE-OC Members –

Erik Anderson(Seattle), Dave Croonquist(Sequim), Rich Eltrich(Gig Harbor), Don Freeman(Tumwater), Mike Gilcrest(Federal Way), Dave Knutzen(Olympia), Clint Muns(Shelton), Matt Parnel(Olympia), David Puki(Seattle), Norm Reinhardt(Port Orchard), Mike Rian(North Bend)