

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE  
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 753-6780 • [www.governor.wa.gov](http://www.governor.wa.gov)

January 19, 2010

Miranda Wecker, Chairperson  
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission  
600 Capitol Way N  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Chairperson Wecker:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I received from Jon Kaino, Chairman of the Pacific County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Kaino raises a concern about the role of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) in the allocation process for spring Chinook.

With this letter, I am requesting that the Commission meet with Chairman Kaino to discuss the issues he highlighted in his letter. I also ask that Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Phil Anderson be included in the meeting.

As I have indicated in the past, I strongly support a fishery in the lower Columbia River that promotes both fish conservation and fosters the long-term economic sustainability of our fishing-dependent communities, including commercial fishing.

Thanks for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,

Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor

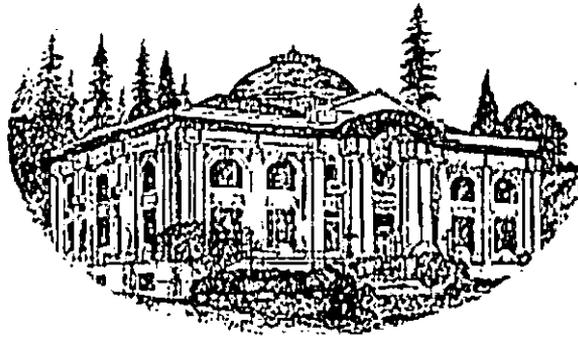
Enclosure

cc: Chairman Jon Kaino, Pacific County Board of Commissioners  
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Members  
Director Phillip Anderson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



# COUNTY OF PACIFIC

Jon C. Kaino  
Dist. #1 Commissioner  
P.O. Box 187  
South Bend WA 98586



PACIFIC COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
National Historic Site

Willapa Harbor Area – (360) 875-9300\*  
Peninsula Area – (360) 642-9300\*  
Naselle – (360) 484-9300\*  
North Cove Area – (360) 267-9300\*  
\*TDD – (360) 875-3400

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Office of the Governor

January 5, 2010

Governor Christine Gregoire  
P O Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire:

We are writing to express our concerns with the current makeup and direction of Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission. As a rural county located at the mouth of the Columbia River, Pacific County is deeply impacted by the decisions and recommendations made by the Commission, but is especially impacted by regulatory and resource allocation decisions on the Columbia River. The current Commission members have made it clear that “lower river” communities and balancing the economic benefits of the sport and commercial fisheries are no longer their priority.

Specifically, we would like to address the recent allocation process for “spring Chinook” and what we perceive to be a clear bias against lower river communities and the commercial fishing industry that supports our economies and has defined our heritage over the last century.

While we know the issues are complex, the Commission’s decisions on this fishery appear to be based on faulty logic and a predisposition to favor “upriver” sport anglers. As you probably know, the Commission allocated 65% of the non-tribal 2009 run to the sport fishery, with only a 35% allocation to the commercial. According to a recent presentation by the Chair of the Commission, the approved allocation, which historically has been much more balanced, was based largely on the fact that the sport fishery makes approximately 180,000 “trips” per season while the commercial fishery is comprised of only about 50 active licenses.

Even if these figures were accurate, this reasoning is analogous to restricting water to the state’s major apple orchards and diverting it so we can each grow an apple tree in our yard. The fact is, these commercial fishermen, like our apple growers and other farmers, provide the general public, who can’t or don’t fish, the ability to access the resource. The aforementioned 180,000 trips generated by the sport fishery represents less than 3% of the state’s population assuming one trip per person. A more reasonable assumption of two trips per person means barely 1% of Washingtonians actually participate in this sport fishery. The remaining 98-99% of us rely on the commercial fishery to provide us this resource.

November 24, 2009

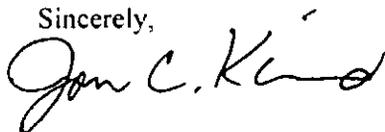
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In addition, the commercial fishery has always been a strong supporter of fish and habitat enhancement. Everyone agrees that enhancement of the resource is the most important aspect of a successful fishery, regardless of allocation. If the commercial fishery allocation is reduced below the point of economic viability, we will lose a major supporter for enhancement of all of our fish runs.

We would like to clarify that our communities also rely on and strongly support the benefits provided by a healthy and robust sport fishery. We simply feel this can best be achieved with the active participation and support of the commercial fishery, not at their expense. This position is also clearly supported by the Commission's mandate as stated in RCW 77.04.012 to "maintain the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry in the state" and to "enhance and improve recreational and commercial fishing in the state." Unfortunately, it appears that there is not a single member on the current Commission that supports that mandate with respect to commercial fishing.

In closing, we request you appoint members on the Commission who support the statutory mandate and will provide the needed balance and equity between the sport and commercial fisheries.

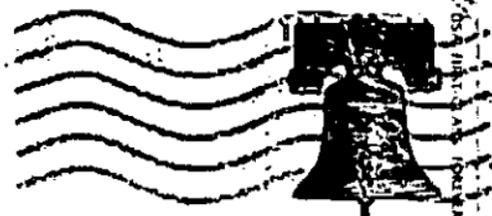
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon C. Kaino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jon C. Kaino, Chairman  
PACIFIC COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

PACIFIC COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
P.O. BOX 187  
SOUTH BEND, WASHINGTON 98586

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PACIFIC COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
National Historic Site  
South Bend, Washington

Governor Christine Gregoire  
P O Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

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