



Protecting and Reforming Washington's Fisheries

Governor Chris Gregoire understands the importance of fisheries to Washington's economy and cultural heritage. Recreational fishing, hunting and wildlife-viewing contribute approximately \$2.7 billion to our economy each year – revenue that's vital in coastal and rural communities. She understands that we must keep our fisheries open, accessible and strong, both now and for generations to come.

Governor Gregoire understands the importance of basing our harvest and hatchery management strategies and practices on scientifically credible conservation principles. Conservation first must be the foundation of future harvest and hatchery management practices.

Governor Gregoire has put into place numerous initiatives, including:

- Supporting hatchery reforms.
- Protecting and restoring fish habitat.
- Converting state-managed fisheries to selective fisheries to increase the utilization of hatchery fish and promote conservation of wild fish.
- Supporting harvest allocations for recreational and commercial fisheries that promote conservation and recognize the economic importance of fishing to rural communities and small businesses.

Governor Gregoire takes the concerns of the fishing and conservation communities very seriously. During her second term, she will continue to work with their leadership, members, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Commission, agency personnel, and state legislature to develop strategies and address issues related to:

- Accomplishing the goals laid out in the Governor's July 11, 2008 letter to the Fish and Wildlife Department and Commission.
- Developing clear policies on selective fisheries.
- Incorporating costs and benefits analysis into harvest management decisions.
- Developing adequate resource strategies to deal with implementation of selective fisheries and hatchery reform.
- Addressing the significant impacts to fish, wildlife, and the marine ecosystem caused by derelict fishing gear.

Contrasts

Governor Gregoire's strong record presents a sharp contrast to the record of her Republican opponent, Dino Rossi. Republican Dino Rossi claims to be a supporter of fisheries. Yet, his record only shows him to be a proven *opponent* of fish protection efforts. As a state senator, he showed no leadership in natural resource issues. After the Department of Ecology found high levels of mercury in fish, Republican Dino Rossi opposed a law that would outlaw mercury dumping in our state's waters.

The anti-environmental lobbyists of the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW) are Republican Dino Rossi's largest backers. The BIAW opposes cleaning up Puget Sound, safeguarding shorelines and wetlands, and protecting pristine salmon habitat from development.

Rossi's relationship with the BIAW stretches back for more than a decade. As a state senator, Rossi voted to support the BIAW's anti-environmental efforts 99 percent of the time. In exchange, the BIAW has spent millions to support his campaigns, including more than \$3 million (and counting) in this election. If elected, no group or individual would be closer to Rossi than the lobbyists of the BIAW.

Governor Gregoire is the only candidate with a proven record of leadership to promote aggressive conservation efforts, expand fisheries on hatchery stocks, and support the role of fisheries in our state's economy.

Hatchery Reform

Governor Gregoire is moving forward with hatchery reforms. With good reason, the independent Hatchery Scientific Review Group, along with citizens' groups like Coastal Conservation Association and Puget Sound Anglers, have all noted the need for hatchery reforms. Supporting hatcheries and hatchery reforms are vital to conserving wild stocks, promoting tourism, strengthening economic development, and creating jobs in our state.

Since 2005, hundreds of hatchery reform projects have been implemented, including:

- Modifying broodstock at 28 hatcheries associated with Coho, Chinook and steelhead programs in Puget Sound and on the coast.
- Incorporating natural-origin salmon into 42 genetically-integrated hatchery programs as part of a larger effort to reduce the differences between hatchery and wild salmon.
- Keeping overall fish production at more than 92 percent of past levels on the lower Columbia River despite closing one hatchery, building new weirs, and changing levels of fish production.

Expansion of Selective Fisheries

Governor Gregoire has asked the Commission to develop a schedule to convert state-managed fisheries to selective fisheries. The expansion of selective fisheries will protect wild fish and allow the harvest of healthy hatchery runs. The governor will receive a report on the Commission's progress in January.

In addition, under the Gregoire Administration, the state has:

- Provided funding to expand selective sport fisheries in Puget Sound.
- Mass-marked nearly all of the 30 million Coho and 100 million Chinook salmon raised in state and tribal hatcheries for selective harvests.
- Established new marine selective fisheries for Chinook and freshwater selective fisheries for Chinook and Coho salmon, which spurred \$63 million of economic activity in the state.

Initiatives to Protect Washington's Fisheries

Governor Gregoire has demonstrated her strong support for a long-term, comprehensive approach to protect and restore Washington's fisheries. She understands that our environment is our state's greatest asset and a legacy for our children and grandchildren. Since 2005, the Gregoire Administration:

- Promoted locally developed fish recovery plans across the state and supported agreements to protect fish habitat on state and private forest lands. Washington has been and continues to be a national leader in promoting watershed-based solutions to benefit fish habitat and the health of our watersheds.
- Worked with businesses, hunting and fishing organizations, conservation groups and communities to clean up our environment. She started the Puget Sound Partnership to clean up the Puget Sound by 2020 and has allocated millions to remove toxins, derelict fishing gear and creosote pilings from waterways.
- Led the U.S. team in the recent agreement between the U.S. and Canada that will result in an estimated one million more fish returning to Washington waters over the next ten years.
- Gov. Gregoire supported and passed \$100 million to support habitat protection through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.
- Supported the Fish and Wildlife Commission and the WDFW 21st Century Salmon and Steelhead Initiative. This plots the course for sustainable fisheries and the recovery of salmon and steelhead fisheries over the next 50 years.
- Governor Gregoire, working with Congressman Dicks and Senator Murray, fought for and obtained millions of dollars in Federal disaster relief funds to support rural communities and fishing-related businesses in response to the 2008 coastal fishery restrictions.

Maximizing Tourism and Economic Impact

Governor Gregoire has asked the WDFW to report on the economic benefits of fisheries by January 2009. Once Governor Gregoire receives this report, she will work with the WDFW promote fishing and wildlife tourism opportunities to benefit Washington's rural communities and fishing-related businesses.