



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

January 7, 2022

Mr. Jason Schratwieser
President
International Game Fish Association
300 Gulf Stream Way
Dania Beach, FL 33004

Dear Mr. Schratwieser:

Thank you for your letter regarding salmon and steelhead recovery in the Pacific Northwest. I share your commitment to the conservation and recovery of Endangered Species Act-listed species, including salmon and steelhead in the Columbia and Snake River Basins.

The Department of Commerce is deeply committed to working collaboratively in that regard, and we have long engaged with state and tribal partners, other Federal agencies, and a broad range of stakeholders in conservation and recovery efforts. In 2017, for instance, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) convened the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force, whose members represented the four Northwest states, several Columbia and Snake River Basin tribes, and stakeholders from commercial and recreational fishing interests, non-government organizations, river users, and the agricultural community. The Task Force worked together to reach agreement on a long-term vision for the Columbia and Snake River Basins and related qualitative and quantitative goals for all Columbia and Snake River Basin salmon and steelhead. In October 2020, NMFS adopted the vision, goals, and recommendations reflected in the Partnership's final report.

That same month, the Governors of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana signed an agreement to work together to establish a collaborative framework for advancing the Task Force's goals. Since then, the four states have been working to establish the Columbia Basin Collaborative to continue broad-based regional collaboration, work toward consensus on actions to increase salmon and steelhead abundance, and promote those actions to appropriate Federal, state, tribal, and other decision-makers for authorization, funding, and implementation. NMFS will continue to collaborate with the four states as they work with regional parties to establish a representative and balanced process.

Furthermore, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which the President signed into law on November 15, 2021, includes significant new investments in Pacific salmon habitat restoration and recovery. The funding is evidence of how important this undertaking is, and we look forward to fulfilling our work as outlined in the legislation.

Mr. Jason Schratwieser
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I appreciate you sharing your organization's concerns. Recovery of Columbia and Snake River salmon and steelhead will require continued collaboration and effort from all stakeholders, and I encourage you to remain engaged.

Should you have any questions, please contact J.D. Grom, Senior Advisor for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 322-7494 or jdgrom@doc.gov.

Sincerely,



Gina M. Raimondo