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Governor

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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September 4, 2008

Bob Lohn
Northwest Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Organization
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

Dear Mr. Lohn:

I respectfully urge your approval of a continuing disaster declaration for this year's Fraser River, Canada sockeye run. By international treaty, U.S. tribal and non-tribal fishers are entitled to catch significant numbers of the total allowable catch of sockeye. The U.S. Department of Commerce issued an Economic Fisheries Disaster Declaration in 2002 under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act that allowed access to federal fisheries disaster funding for those dependent on this fishery.

Weak sockeye populations from prior years are affecting this year's harvest and adversely impacting fishermen, small businesses, families, and communities through loss of income and jobs. While economic assistance is essential to address immediate impacts resulting from conservation-based restrictions to the Fraser River sockeye harvest, the state of Washington and its treaty tribes continue to work with Canada through the international Pacific Salmon Commission on management strategies to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of this fishery.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor

cc: Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Congressman Rick Larsen
Chairman Henry Cagey, Lummi Nation
Chairman Brian Cladoosby, Swinomish Tribal Community
Dr. Jeffrey Koenings, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

