

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



Agenda Item H.5.c
Supplemental WDFW Report 2
November 2010

STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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

October 27, 2010

The Honorable Gary Locke, Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke:

On behalf of Washington State, I am writing to express my strong support for the Pacific groundfish trawl rationalization plan recently approved by the Department of Commerce and awaiting implementation funding under the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Catch Shares Initiative.

This catch share program is an effective way to sustain our fisheries and is supported by West Coast communities and the Pacific Fishery Management Council. However, as you know, the program needs to be fully funded to be successful, including support for on-board observers.

While there is uncertainty in the funding that the NOAA Catch Share Initiative will receive from Congress for FY 2011, there is clear Congressional support for this program. Working within the funding level provided by Congress, I also understand that the Department of Commerce has discretion about how much funding can be directed to this program. I urge you to provide full funding to the Pacific groundfish rationalization plan with FY 2011 appropriations and full support for this program as you develop your budget for the coming fiscal year.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine".

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor

cc: Phil Anderson, Director, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

