

**PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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**FILE**

ENV. COL.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lawrence D. Six

CHAIRMAN  
Robert C. Fletcher

September 30, 1997

The Honorable Patty Murray  
United States Senate  
SR-111 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-4704

Dear Senator Murray:

We appreciate you contacting us and asking for our input and opinion regarding Senate Bill 200, legislation which would amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Hanford Reach section of the Columbia River as a "Recreational River."

In response to your request, at its September meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council passed a resolution endorsing Senate Bill 200. You will find a copy of that resolution enclosed. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Fletcher  
Chair

SHP:klr

Enclosure

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF  
THE HANFORD REACH, COLUMBIA RIVER, AS A "RECREATIONAL RIVER"  
UNDER THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT**

**WHEREAS**, production and landings of Columbia River Basin chinook have decreased dramatically over historical levels;

**WHEREAS**, the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River, located in Washington state, is the last free-flowing section of the Columbia River that contains healthy populations of wild fall chinook salmon runs;

**WHEREAS**, the importance of the Hanford Reach to the Columbia Basin's chinook production has become especially evident over the last ten plus years, as indicated by higher percentages of Hanford Reach production contributing to the total of Columbia River Basin Chinook runs;

**WHEREAS**, the protection of the Hanford Reach for purposes of its unique spawning and rearing habitat and as a migration corridor are critical to the recovery of anadromous salmonids;

**WHEREAS**, the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Program would protect the natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources of the Hanford Reach;

**WHEREAS**, in 1988, Congress, called for an analysis of protection alternatives for the Hanford Reach and a report to Congress by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior;

**WHEREAS**, the 1994 Hanford Reach Final Environmental Impact Statement concluded that the Hanford Reach should be designated as a "Recreational River" under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act;

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT***

The Pacific Fishery Management Council supports Federal legislation, S.200 which would amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 to designate the Hanford Reach section of the Columbia River as a "Recreational River".

***FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT***

Hanford Reach area including the Wahluke Slope remain under federal ownership and management.

PFMC  
09/19/97