



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

April 27, 2012

Governor Christine Gregoire
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002
USA

Dear Governor Gregoire:

Thank you for taking the time to discuss with me the renewal of the Canada-United States Albacore Tuna Treaty, and its importance to Washington and British Columbia tuna fishers, fish processors and service suppliers, including the jobs and families these industries support in both our jurisdictions.

As discussed, from our perspective, failing to permit a tuna fishing regime in 2012 under the Treaty to continue to allow United States and Canadian based vessels to enter each other's waters and ports, would be counter-productive for all concerned on both sides of the border. A lot of progress has been made on the West Coast to realize the mutual benefits of successful fisheries cooperation in this and many fisheries over the past ten years. Three other international fisheries agreements for halibut, salmon, and hake/whiting are in place. The trans-boundary nature of many fish stocks, and the complexity of fisheries conservation and management, means that positive working relationships and collaborative approaches are crucial here as elsewhere. It would be unfortunate to go backwards – something that would be in no one's interest.

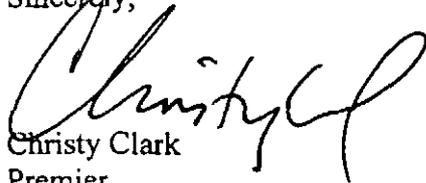
My understanding is that shared access under the Treaty has been of broad mutual benefit to Washington, Oregon and British Columbia:

- Immediately, it provides US vessels access to Canadian ports for crew changes, supplies and exports, and BC vessels access to Washington and Oregon ports. These arrangements are valuable and will be lost without a new regime in place for 2012.
- Ongoing, it provides stable, long-term access to the resource for each of our jurisdiction's fleets. Albacore tuna is highly migratory. This year tuna might be concentrated in US waters, and next year in Canadian waters. The stock is also expected to continue moving north with climate change. In the 1950s, I am told, the Pacific tuna fishery was conducted off Mexico.
- Broadly, the Treaty is key to fisheries and marine conservation given the trans-boundary nature of the stock. It also provides the basis for joint market development, including the joint Marine Stewardship Council certification of the Canadian and US tuna fisheries. Canadian vessels have supported jobs in processing and services in Washington and Oregon ports, and vice versa.

I also understand, as you conveyed, that there are serious concerns relating crowding and the conduct of British Columbia fishers in US waters that need to be listened to and resolved. I intend to consult with BC tuna fishers to see if they are prepared to immediately address these issues. I understand that a proposal has been brought forward to deal with these matters (see attachment) and I will emphasize the need to reach an understanding and protocol as a necessary condition for proceeding with any negotiation.

I appreciate greatly your willingness to work together, and with our respective federal governments, over the next few weeks to see if we can get this fishery back on track on at least an interim basis for 2012, in the mutual interest of all our affected coastal communities in Washington, Oregon and British Columbia. Our jurisdictions on the West Coast have pioneered collaborative approaches in so many areas to realize shared and mutual benefits for our citizens. I am hopeful we can encourage the same approach here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christy Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C".

Christy Clark
Premier

enclosure

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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April 30, 2012

Dr. Kerri-Ann Jones
Assistant Secretary for Oceans and
International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Dr. Jones:

Last week, I spoke with British Columbia Premier Christy Clark regarding the Canada-U.S. Albacore Tuna Treaty and I wanted to share my perspective on this issue with you.

Premier Clark and I had a very candid conversation regarding the concerns of our fishers and those from Oregon and California regarding the Canadian fleet's fishing behavior and crowding issues in U.S. waters. In response, Premier Clark informed me she intended to consult with her fishing industry to see if they are willing to immediately address these two areas of concern. I told Premier Clark that I would request the scheduling of a bi-lateral meeting as quickly as could be arranged. I also indicated that if these two issues can be addressed immediately and sufficiently at a bi-lateral meeting, I would support continuation of the Fishing Regime as a one-year interim step while the broader matters relating to the Treaty are being negotiated.

As you know, Washington and British Columbia have had a long, extensive and cooperative relationship on many different issues. I hope we can find a way to successfully resolve these issues regarding the Albacore Tuna Treaty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine O. Gregoire".

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor

cc: The Honorable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia
The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor of California
The Honorable John Kitzhaber, Governor of Oregon
Phil Anderson, Director, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

