

Enclosures
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December 1, 2005

Ms. Melinda Eden, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW 6th Ave, Suite 1020
Portland, OR 97204

2005:2016

Dear Ms. Eden,

I live in Upstate New York and I'm deeply concerned for the future of northwest salmon recovery. I grew up in Kirkland, WA and at one time was the youngest licensed salmon and steelhead guide in Washington State at the age of 17. I attended the University of Washington due largely to the money I was able to make guiding. Today, I am the V.P. of Sales & Marketing for Mustad, the world's largest manufacturer of fish hooks. The Pacific Northwest is a vital region for our company and our business is dependent on healthy runs of salmon and steelhead.

For the past 20 years the Fish Passage Center has provide sound science along with outstanding technical assistance to tribal and state fishery managers in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana, a function critical to maintaining viable fish stocks in the region.

As you move forward with transferring the functions of the FPC to a new entity as directed by the recently passed Energy and Water appropriations bill for 2006, I cannot stress strongly enough the importance of ensuring that the new entity continues to meet the scientific needs of the regions fishery managers. For this to happen, the new entity must be developed in close consultation with and overseen by those you will depend on its services, state and tribal fishery managers. It's imperative that these services are not divided up among several existing entities but rather housed as a single entity. Finally, the data collected must be provided to the public at no cost.

By incorporating these factors into your implementation of the Energy and Water bill's report language you will be placing the region in a much better position to meet its salmon recovery responsibilities. Good science is always important in salmon recovery, but in the coming months, while the Columbia River biological opinion is being rewritten, it will be more crucial than ever. I trust that you will do everything in you power to ensure the regions state and tribal fishery managers have the tools they need to fully participate in Columbia Basin Salmon recovery.

They say you can take the boy out of the Northwest but you cannot take the Northwest out of the boy, I am living proof of this. I may live in upstate New York but my home will always be Washington State. One day I will return to the Pacific Northwest and I

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look forward to angling for the fish that literally launched me into a career that has enabled my to do what I love so much.

Sincerely,
Robert J. Funk
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