



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

February 10, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

Under the provisions of Section 312 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, I respectfully request that you declare a commercial fishery failure in Washington State. This request is based upon several failures in salmon runs in 2019 including Willapa Bay, Columbia River, and Puget Sound.

Salmon returns were well below the already low expected returns for many Washington watersheds in 2019. Various issues contributed to these low returns, including escapement in parent years, poor rearing and spawning conditions in freshwater systems, and unfavorable ocean conditions. These poor salmon returns resulted in ex-vessel values for Washington's statewide salmon fisheries of 37 percent compared to the recent five-year average.

In certain areas, the impacts were especially harsh; the Columbia River, Willapa Bay, and the Puget Sound all seeing reductions of over 65 percent of the five-year average.

- The commercial catch of salmon in the Columbia River saw significant reductions compared to the five-year average; with 45,000 less fish caught and ex-vessel values down 80 percent.
- The commercial catch of salmon in Willapa Bay saw significant reductions compared to the five-year average; with 20,000 less fish caught and ex-vessel values down 67 percent.
- The commercial catch of salmon in Puget Sound also saw significant reductions compared to the five-year average; with 4,444,000 less fish caught and ex-vessel values down 74 percent.

Based on the catch and economic value data listed above, I am requesting that a commercial fishery failure declaration for the 2019 Willapa Bay, Columbia River, and Puget Sound salmon non-treaty salmon fisheries be declared.

The Honorable Gina Raimando

February 10, 2021

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For more information or questions on Washington's 2019 fisheries, please contact Ron Warren with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at (360) 902-2799 or JT Austin with the Governor's Office at (360) 628-7440.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "I".

Jay Inslee  
Governor

**From:** [Grey, Ivy \(Federal\)](#)  
**To:** [DOCExecSec](#)  
**Cc:** [Sykes, Stephanie \(Federal\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: WA Commercial Fishery Relief - Letter to Sec. of Commerce  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:16:29 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[2019 Gov Letter to Secretary of Commerce.pdf](#)  
[2020 Disaster Relief Gov Letter to Secretary of Commerce.pdf](#)

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Please see the attached letter from the Governor of Washington. Please log and route and keep Stephanie Sykes from IGA in the loop as this moves through the process.

Thanks!

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**Ivy B. Grey** (she/her)  
Director, Executive Secretariat  
U.S. Department of Commerce

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**From:** Sykes, Stephanie (Federal)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:37 PM  
**To:** Grey, Ivy (Federal) <IGrey@doc.gov>; Belton, Linda (Federal) <Linda.Belton@noaa.gov>  
**Cc:** Day, Christopher (Federal) <CDay@doc.gov>; Oppenheimer, Lauren (Federal) <LOppenheimer@doc.gov>; Haller, Camilo (Federal) <CHaller@doc.gov>; Choksi, Rachit (Federal) <RChoksi@doc.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: WA Commercial Fishery Relief - Letter to Sec. of Commerce

Good Evening,

Copying the relevant teams regarding the attached letter.

Linda - I will also follow up with you to discuss.

Many thanks,  
Stephanie

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**From:** Amo, Gabriel F. EOP/WHO <[Gabriel.F.Amo@who.eop.gov](mailto:Gabriel.F.Amo@who.eop.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5:09 PM  
**To:** Wilson, Morgan (GOV)  
**Cc:** 'ssykes@doc.gov'  
**Subject:** RE: WA Commercial Fishery Relief - Letter to Sec. of Commerce

Morgan,

Looping in Stephanie Sykes, the new IGA Director at Commerce.

Thanks,

Gabe

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Gabe Amo

Deputy Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

The White House

[202-881-9554](tel:202-881-9554) (c)

[Gabriel.F.Amo@who.eop.gov](mailto:Gabriel.F.Amo@who.eop.gov)

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**From:** Wilson, Morgan (GOV) <[Morgan.Wilson@gov.wa.gov](mailto:Morgan.Wilson@gov.wa.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:42 AM

**To:** Amo, Gabriel F. EOP/WHO <[Gabriel.F.Amo@who.eop.gov](mailto:Gabriel.F.Amo@who.eop.gov)>

**Subject:** WA Commercial Fishery Relief - Letter to Sec. of Commerce

Hello Gabe,

I have attached two letters requesting disaster relief for commercial fishery failures in Washington state. They are addressed to the Department of Commerce, but I don't know of an IGA contact there yet. Could you please help me get these to the right person over there?

Thank you,

Morgan

**MORGAN WILSON**

Director, DC Office

Office of Governor Jay Inslee

360.968.9255 | [morgan.wilson@gov.wa.gov](mailto:morgan.wilson@gov.wa.gov)

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

[www.governor.wa.gov](http://www.governor.wa.gov)

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