Since the construction of the four lower Snake River dams, Snake and Columbia River Chinook salmon have continued to slide toward extinction. In addition to being a keystone species that delivers marine nutrients to interior ecosystems, Chinook represent an incredible transfer of wealth from urban to rural communities up and down the Columbia River and across the coast.

Fishermen pursue spring Chinook like no other species because of their quality and worth to our families. Fresh caught spring Chinook fetch as much as $48.00/lb. in the grocery store and anglers often expend over 100 hours of effort before ever catching one of these prized fish. Sportfishing is a significant rural economic driver!

Opportunity for anglers has declined drastically in recent years, keeping families from recreating outside together...

And the sportfishing community from importing critical revenue to rural communities during shoulder tourist seasons.
By launching Washington state's 'Lower Snake River Stakeholder Process,' Governor Inslee is testing the waters to see if its citizens can come to a solution to save declining runs of salmon and steelhead back to the Snake River Basin. These Snake River salmon drive our lower Columbia River sportfisheries and given the pristine habitat remaining in the Snake River Basin, likely offer up the best opportunity for sustained returns of wild fish to the region if we can remove the largest barrier to recovery; the four lower Snake River Dams.

It’s our goal to continue to support the hundreds of scientists that state dam breaching is the only way to ensure recovery happens for the listed Snake River salmon. In order to move this issue forward however, we, as a community must support win-win strategies that keep farming families whole, while employing effective strategies for recovery.

Fishermen know what it’s like to sit on the sidelines and fishing guides know what it’s like to be under-employed with abbreviated fishing seasons. In 2019, anglers realized only about 7 days of meaningful opportunity for salmon in the first 7 months on the Columbia River. It was a record low of economic benefit to Columbia River communities over the last 16 years and 2020 will produce equally poor opportunities.

**Here’s what you can do:**

⇒ Be a part of the conversation by attending the stakeholder meeting in Vancouver on January 9th.

⇒ Take the online survey, telling Governor Inslee how important Columbia River salmon is to you and your family, and your business if you operate in the region. Go here: [http://lsrdstakeholderprocess.org](http://lsrdstakeholderprocess.org).

⇒ Allow us to add your name to our list of supporters (it’s FREE) so that we can show our policymakers that the majority of our region’s citizens want our wild salmon recovered!

Visit [https://www.wildsalmon.org/](https://www.wildsalmon.org/) for more information and contact Bob Rees at (503) 812-9036 for questions or concerns.

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**Important contacts:**

**Governor Jay Inslee**
[https://www.governor.wa.gov/contact/contact/send-gov-inslee-e-message](https://www.governor.wa.gov/contact/contact/send-gov-inslee-e-message)

**Find your Washington member of Congress**
[https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/WA#representatives](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/WA#representatives)

**Governor Kate Brown**
[https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/contact.aspx](https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/contact.aspx)

**Find your Oregon member of Congress**
[https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/OR](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/OR)

We’ll help you:

- Submit comments on the stakeholder report,
- Write a letter to the local newspaper,
- Set up a meeting with your member of Congress.