



Vancouver Wildlife

P.O. Box 1662

Vancouver, Washington 98668

www.vancouverwildlife.org

September 29, 2020

Gov. Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Gov. Inslee,

The Vancouver Wildlife League is the oldest continually operating sportsmen's group in Southwest Washington, active in fish, wildlife and conservation issues since 1929.

We are writing to express our profound disappointment in the recent 5-4 decision by the state Fish and Wildlife Commission to roll back partially the 2013 Columbia River salmon-management reforms. The reforms were well-researched and well-deliberated.

The logic of shifting commercial fisheries into the off-channel areas of the lower Columbia and prioritizing selective sport fishing in the main stem of the river makes total sense.

A review of the reforms by WDFW staff concluded the changes failed. But implementation efforts by both Washington and Oregon were inconsistent, and half-hearted. With the departures of Miranda Wecker of Naselle and Conrad Mahnken of Kitsap County from the Washington commission, the emphasis on the reforms by Washington leadership wavered.

Given a good-faith effort by the two state agencies, the reforms likely would have succeeded.

We are particularly distressed that the leading advocate for revamping Columbia River salmon management was commissioner Don McIssac of Hockinson. While McIssac's professional resume in fisheries is superb, his position on the reforms is a far cry from our wishes.

We do not think McIssac represents the general populace of Southwest Washington and hope you will remember our disappointment when his term ends in 2022.

We hope that the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission shows better judgement regarding Columbia River salmon management than Washington's

Sincerely,

Charles Cheshire, president