

## SAVE THE KENSINGTON HATCHERY

Dear Appropriations Committee,

Please restore the \$195,000 per year in funding for the Kensington Hatchery which the Office of Policy and Management has proposed to be cut for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015. This cut is not simply a belt-tightening step but would require the shut-down of the hatchery.

Kensington supports two unique and very popular school programs that cannot be replicated at the State's other hatcheries (Burlington and Quinebaug). The programs are Trout Unlimited's Trout in the Classroom program and the Connecticut River Salmon Association's Salmon-in-Schools program. The two programs reach approximately 15,000 students per year in 150 schools in 90 towns throughout Connecticut.

The hatchery also hosts the last fish containing the genetic strain of Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon. These fish are the result of a four decades long breeding and recapture program. These salmon cannot be transferred to the state's other two hatcheries. As a result, if Kensington closes, the legacy strain of Connecticut River Salmon will be extinguished, along with any hope of bringing salmon back to the Connecticut River.

Kensington is also the only facility in Connecticut which produces trophy Seeforellen Brown Trout, and it produces approximately 7% of the State's Cortland strain of Brown Trout, the work horse of the State's stocking program.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and please vote to restore full funding for the Kensington Hatchery for the next two years. For more detailed information, please see the March 2, 2015 Testimony before the Sub-committee from Mr. Sharp, Chairman of the Fisheries Advisory Council.

Best Regards,

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