

Subject: Save Kensington Hatchery

As you are a member of the Conservation Sub Committee of Appropriations, I'm contacting you to request that the hatchery be removed from the list of cuts proposed in the governor's budget because this hatchery generates more money for our state than it costs, and it provides unique benefits that we cannot afford to lose.

A 2011 study by the CT Center for Economic Analysis at Uconn reports that \$38 in economic activity is generated by every \$1 our state spends on natural resources.

The award winning Salmon-in-Schools Program would be terminated after this school year which would affect 60-70 schools and more than 6000 Connecticut students each year. Valuable genetic traits defining Connecticut River salmon will be lost forever.

Likewise, the Trout-in-the-Classroom program (serving over 9,000 students at 110 schools) would be lost due to the need for chilled water (only available at Kensington) during egg development. These very cost-effective educational programs also develop environmental awareness in kids.

The brood stock salmon stocking program will end in CT, and along with it, up to 7,000 Atlantic Salmon fishing trips per year.

The successful Seeforellen Brown Trout strain will be completely lost to Connecticut anglers, as will much of the trophy brown trout program.

Our other two hatcheries are operating at maximum and will be unable to make up for the loss of Kensington's capacity and unique capabilities. Decreased fish stocking will lead to less angler hours realized, less tourism, less revenue for small businesses and therefore less tax and license revenue for CT. Trout anglers take over 2 million fishing trips per year in CT, generating approximately \$50 million in revenue to the state.

The closing of Kensington would eliminate less than \$200,000 in a multi-billion dollar budget, and would be poor economic policy.

**Sincerely,
Stephen Sawczuk
11 Sandstone Rd
Plainville CT 06062**