



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Natasha Dworkin (206) 382-9555, x26
(425) 422-7223 (cell)
ndworkin@lltk.org

**LONG LIVE THE KINGS TO CEASE OPERATION OF
WISHKAH RIVER SALMON HATCHERY**

Seattle— The private non-profit Long Live the Kings (LLTK) will cease operation of the State-owned Wishkah River Salmon Hatchery (formerly Mayr Brothers Ponds) and return responsibility for the facility to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), effective June 30, 2007.

LLTK has funded and operated the hatchery since it reached an agreement with WDFW to begin a Chinook recovery program there in 1986. For over 20 years, the Wishkah Hatchery has supported wild salmon recovery, pioneered natural fish-rearing techniques, contributed to a popular Grays Harbor sport fishery, and hosted thousands of community visitors.

While it is LLTK's belief that the hatchery serves many important functions in the Chehalis basin, particularly its ongoing contribution to the maintenance of the genetically distinct Wishkah Chinook population, the organization has decided that it is an appropriate time to return management responsibility to the State.

"LLTK is proud of the tireless and creative work that Hatchery Manager Terry Baltzell has done to transform the Wishkah facility into what the independent Hatchery Scientific Review Group has deemed a 'model' for watershed-scale, conservation hatcheries," stated LLTK Executive Director Barbara Cairns. "The organization is grateful for the support of many community partners and volunteers who have helped to make this work possible. Additionally, LLTK extends its thanks to the many students, legislators, fishers, birders, and citizens who have visited and supported the hatchery over the past two decades."

The Wishkah Salmon Hatchery has enjoyed the support of many national and community partners, including: Congressman Norm Dicks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Quinault Indian Nation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Port of Grays Harbor, Washington Department of

(page 1 of 3)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Natasha Dworkin (206) 382-9555, x26
(425) 422-7223 (cell)
ndworkin@lltk.org

(continued)

Fish and Wildlife, Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force, City of Aberdeen, Grays Harbor County, and the Grays Harbor Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Habitat improvements have been made in partnership with: Ben B. Cheney Foundation, GeoEngineers, and Green Diamond Resource Company. Equipment for these improvements has been provided by: ITT Rayonier, MRGC, The Campbell Group, and Weyerhaeuser Company. *[see below for a complete list]*

“We are grateful to WDFW for providing us the opportunity to work with such diverse partners over 20 years,” said Cairns. “LLTK has had the privilege of helping to make the Wishkah Hatchery an important part of the Chehalis Basin community. It’s been a difficult decision for us, but LLTK is leaving the hatchery with its projects now firmly established and operations stable. It is an appropriate time to hand it back to the State.”

LLTK has agreed to fund the hatchery field staff and project management staff through the final release of Chinook in June, as well as helping to meet expenses associated with concluding LLTK’s management of the facility.

To read more about the history of the Wishkah Hatchery, or for more information about LLTK’s current projects, please visit www.lltk.org.

>06/12/2007<

LLTK’s mission is to restore wild salmon to the waters of the Pacific Northwest. Since our founding in 1986, we have created recovery projects designed to conserve wild salmon and support sustainable fisheries. Current projects include a Hood Canal basin-wide supplementation experiment to test the effectiveness of hatchery uses in recovering naturally-spawning steelhead; a multi-year project with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to help the agency implement a new management framework for decision-making about hatcheries, harvest, and habitat; and the operation of two conservation and research-oriented hatcheries—one at Lilliwaup on Hood Canal, and one at Glenwood Springs on Orcas Island.

(page 2 of 3)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Natasha Dworkin (206) 382-9555, x26
(425) 422-7223 (cell)
ndworkin@lltk.org

WISHKAH HATCHERY PARTNERS

The Wishkah Salmon Hatchery has enjoyed the support of numerous community partners, including:

Congressman Norm Dicks
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Quinault Indian Nation
Port of Grays Harbor
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Ecology
Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Archibald Foundation
City of Aberdeen
Grays Harbor County
Grays Harbor Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Ocosta High School
Elma Game Club
Grays Harbor Poggie Club
Grays Harbor College
Northwest Renewable Resources Center
Long Live the Kings Board of Directors
Long Live the Kings Individual Donors

Habitat improvements have been made in partnership with:

Ben B. Cheney Foundation
Forest Foundation
GeoEngineers
Hancock Timber Resources Group
Green Diamond Resource Company

Equipment for these improvements was provided by:

ITT Rayonier
MRGC
The Campbell Group
Weyerhaeuser Company

(page 3 of 3)