



CCA

COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION  
WASHINGTON

March 8, 2010

Phil Anderson, Director  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
600 Capitol Way North  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Urgent: Nooksack River – 62 Derelict Nets Located

Dear Director Anderson,

Derelict fishing gear is a well-documented problem in the Puget Sound, but it's an issue in our freshwater rivers as well.

The attached document describes an alarming number of nets in just one of these rivers, the Nooksack River near Bellingham. Perhaps even more alarming is the fact that most or all of these derelict nets were originally observed in November 2009 and attempts to correct the problem at the local level were unsuccessful. Over three months later these nets are still in the river inflicting unknown damage to already depressed salmon and steelhead populations.

***Please let us know how our members and the public at large can most effectively bring the issue of derelict or illegal gillnets to your agencies attention so they could be addressed more expeditiously in the future. Please let us know how you plan to address this issue and if we can be of any assistance to you or your employees.***

We would not contact you directly if we didn't feel this issue was worthy of your attention. We trust that this matter will receive the Department's immediate attention.

Sincerely,

Bryan Irwin  
Executive Director  
CCA Pacific Northwest

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Dedicated to the Conservation and Protection of Marine Life

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