

## Rep. Eshoo Praises Commerce Secretary Locke's Decision to Release Remaining Salmon Disaster Funds

Friday, May 1, 2009

Washington, D.C. — Rep. Anna G. Eshoo issued the following statement today after Commerce Secretary Gray Locke announced the continuation of the salmon fishing disaster declared on May 1, 2008. The Secretary's decision today will ensure unspent 2008 funds, totaling \$53.1 million, will be available in 2009 to fishing communities in California and Oregon.

"I'm highly pleased and grateful that Secretary Locke has taken the appropriate course of action in distributing emergency funds to the communities affected by the salmon fishing ban. This is the right thing to do, particularly after another record-low amount of salmon returned to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River this fall. Last year, I fought to have the money allocated by Congress directed to communities that were devastated by the fishing ban, and today I welcome the Obama Administration's decision to release the remaining funds.

"I will continue to work with Secretary Locke and the Administration to ensure the recovery and restoration of the salmon populations along the West Coast, always keeping in mind those whose livelihoods depend on the Chinook salmon."

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