

## **Opening Statement and Witness Questions**

**The Honorable Edward J. Markey**

**Subcommittee on Water and Power**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2011**

### **Oversight Hearing on “Creating Abundant Water and Power Supplies and Job Growth by Restoring Common Sense to Federal Regulations”**

Environmental regulations have become the latest anathema for the majority, as if clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment are no longer public values that Americans want. Common sense means protecting the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the natural resources on which many livelihoods depend. Common sense means creating jobs across all sectors – from farming to fishing – while ensuring conservation of our environment.

Today I, along with Representatives Napolitano and Garamendi, sent a letter to the EPA Administrator, expressing the need to balance the protection of endangered salmon populations with common sense methods of pesticide application. Three years ago, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the nation's fish experts, gave science-based recommendations to the EPA on placing use-restrictions on pesticide labels, yet these recommendations have never been implemented.

Ensuring that pesticides are used in a way that protects endangered salmon populations is the first step toward recovering these iconic species. For example, restoring the salmon populations of Oregon and Washington alone could yield annual economic benefits of over \$5 billion. In this case, common sense means taking steps to recover west coast

salmon and reap these economic and employment benefits for fishermen and coastal communities.