



Origins of Co-management: Northwest Indian Treaty Tribes

Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability Forum

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Origins of treaty fishing rights in the Northwest

In the mid-1800's, Isaac Stevens, The Washington Territorial Governor, negotiated treaties with the western Washington Tribes on behalf of the United States Government, which were subsequently ratified by the United States.

A key phrase common to each treaty was:

“The right of taking fish at usual and accustomed grounds and stations is further secured to said Indians in common with the citizens of the territory...”

The tribes struggled to realize the promises of the treaties in the decades that followed



U.S. v. Washington 1974 (The Boldt Decision):

- Reaffirmed the tribes' treaty protected rights
- Defined treaty entitlement to 50 percent of the resource
- Established the tribes as co-managers
- Outlined basic management criteria



Tribal Territories:

- Makah
- Quileute
- Hoh
- Quinault
- Lower Elwha Klallam
- Jamestown S'Klallam
- Port Gamble S'Klallam
- Skokomish
- Squaxin Island
- Nisqually
- Puyallup
- Muckleshoot
- White River
- Puyallup River
- Nisqually River
- Deschutes River
- Chehalis River
- Dungeness River
- Elwha River
- Doctwailips River
- Duckabush River
- Hamma Hamma R.
- Skokomish River
- Skagit
- Upper Skagit
- Skagit River
- Stillaguamish R.
- Stillaguamish
- Sauk-Suiattle
- Tulalip
- Suquamish
- Scohemish R.
- Skykomish R.
- Snohomish River
- Cedar River
- Green River

Other Labels:

- Lake Ozette
- Soles River
- Quiltayute River
- Drigechist River
- Hoh River
- Queeb River
- Quinault River
- Lummi
- Nooksack



Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

- Established 1976
- Serves 20 Treaty Indian Tribes in western Washington that possess federally recognized treaty fishing rights
- Provides technical and policy support for fishery management activity to its members
- Is a support services organization



Co-Management

- Each co-manager (tribal, state, federal) regulates and controls their fisheries within their jurisdictions
- Each co-manager operates within a management framework that meets:
 - Resource conservation
 - Sustainable fisheries
 - Assures all parties are afforded the opportunity to harvest their share

Importance of Co-management for the tribes

- Provides independence for determining the wise choice for utilizing the resource
- Secures the right to take fish at all usual and accustomed areas
- Grants the freedom to continue traditional practices
- To maintain a culture you need to practice the culture



North of Falcon Forum

- Ancillary forum within the Pacific Council's annual salmon pre-season planning process
- It represents cooperative stewardship between the federal government, 2 states (Washington/Oregon) and 24 tribes
- It's been a 30 year commitment between independent sovereigns to co-manage salmon in the Northwest

Rationale for North of Falcon

- Regional area subject to the same legal obligations and biological considerations
- Need to accommodate direct representation from each of the 26 sovereigns involved
- The forum allows participants to evaluate the biological consequences of options for the outside (ocean) and inside (Puget Sound and in-river) fisheries and strive for consensus on the final management plan.

Salmon Preseason Planning Process

	Sept – Dec		January	February	March	April
Spawning Ground Surveys	*****					
Run size Forecasts		*****				
US/Canada			*****			
Pacific Council					*****	
North of Falcon				****	*****	

A Successful North of Falcon Process Requires:

- Commitment by all parties to reach a final agreement
- Significant and focused effort
- Joint planning and regular consultation
- Reliance upon jointly developed goals and objectives, as well as agreed upon data

Lessons Learned

A successful co-management process requires:

- 1) Participants to be empowered
- 2) Agreed upon scientific standards and methods
- 3) Jointly developed goals and objectives
- 4) Commitment to the process
- 5) Adaptable and flexible process structure
- 6) Strong and stable leadership

Questions?