

In Hot Water:

Does Salmon Fishing Have a Future in the Pacific Northwest?

A Stakeholders' Forum on Building Solutions to Climate Change

The Mountaineers Building, 300 3rd Ave. W., Seattle, Washington, 98119

Wednesday, November 12, 2003

5:30-6:30 Drinks & Hors D'oeuvres, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Speakers & Discussion

Hosted by



In partnership with

Save Our Wild Salmon, the Wild Salmon Center, the Northwest Energy Coalition, Climate Solutions, the University of Washington, the Washington Wildlife Federation, and the Canadian Wildlife Federation

Featured speakers:

Dr. Nate Mantua, Climate Impacts Group, School of Marine Affairs/Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Oceans, University of Washington, Seattle

Mr. Jim Martin, Conservation Director, Pure Fishing; former Chief of Fisheries of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; NWF Board Member



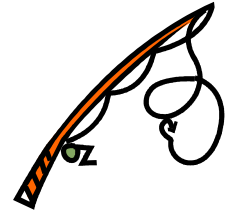
Recognizing the important contribution that individuals and organizations affiliated with the sportfishing community have made to conservation in the Pacific Northwest, National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and its partners invite you to participate in a stakeholders' forum to learn the latest science of how climate change may affect fish in the region and discuss ways in which each of us can help promote meaningful solutions.

RSVP by calling NWF's Seattle office at (206) 285-8707 x100 or emailing boawn@nwf.org. We need your response so we can plan for food—thanks!

Learn about the problem:

In Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, recreational fishing is more than just a pastime. Nearly two million people flock to the region's blue ribbon streams and lakes each year to fish for trout, salmon, and steelhead, spending billions of dollars in the process. For these avid anglers, little can compare to the thrill of encountering a 16-inch cutthroat trout under the cool shade of a forest canopy, or seeing their child land that first perfect cast.

Recreational fishing is part of the culture and tradition in the Pacific Northwest, and concerned citizens throughout the region have been working hard to protect the ecosystems that support this and other activities and ensure that the wildlife and wild places they know and love will always thrive. Unfortunately, the trends may not be in our favor.



On top of the continuing problems of habitat destruction and pollution, the region's cold-water fish species face the rapidly mounting threat of global climate change, which scientists attribute in large part to human activities. As we burn coal, oil, and gas in our power plants, factories, and cars, humans are sending tremendous amounts of heat-trapping "greenhouse gases" such as carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The buildup of these gases is causing the planet to heat up and is altering the basic climate systems to which nature is adapted. Recent research shows that, among other things, a 1.3-3.2 degree Fahrenheit increase in the maximum weekly average stream temperatures in the region could reduce viable habitat for trout and salmon species by as much as 34 percent by the middle of this century.



Lead on the solutions:

The good news is, there are solutions. The Pacific Northwest has an enormous opportunity to play a leadership role and show the rest of the nation that it is possible to respond to climate change in ways that strengthen the economy and improve the quality of life for people and wildlife alike.

As part of this forum, participants will have an opportunity to help lay the groundwork for ongoing efforts to reduce the threat that climate change poses to the region's fisheries and other natural resources. Among other things, we will help identify resources and tools that participants can use to educate their constituencies, develop their own organizational or community mitigation activities, identify appropriate policy measures, and communicate with key decision makers. We will also maintain a list of participants who are interested in becoming active leaders on the issue within their communities.

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