

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission **NEWS**

Vol. XVII Number 3
Summer 1997



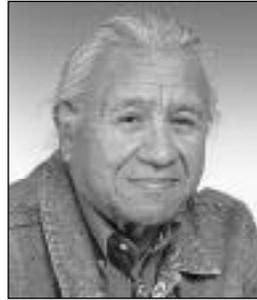
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Congress, Get To Know Us

**By Billy Frank Jr.
NWIFC Chairman**

Whether he knows it or not, Senator Slade Gorton has done the tribes a favor. In his unsuccessful move to attach anti-tribal provisions to the 1997 Senate Interior Appropriations bill, he brought us together and underscored the need for Congress to get to know us better.



The Gorton-sponsored provisions attached to this year's appropriations bill would have sabotaged these efforts. Chief among these were Section 120, which would have waived tribal sovereign immunity, and Section 118, which would have subjected the tribes to means testing, which translates into funding manipulation, funding cuts and violation of the federal trust responsibility. Both were quietly slipped into Interior appropriations legislation without public hearings.

All governments, including the tribes, have the option of waiving their sovereign immunity in special instances. But no government can operate without it. Section 120 clearly represented an effort to destroy the tribes, and it was appropriately killed.

Section 118, which would require a means test prior to the provision of funding already promised to the tribes, reverted to a study bill. In the study, we urge Congress to realize that

subjecting tribal governments to unilateral means testing, to which states and other governments are not subjected, is discriminatory and unconstitutional.

Hearings to rejuvenate the immunity and means test issues next year are already being discussed. In the process of planning these hearings, we encourage members of Congress to get out onto the reservations and see for themselves how law is administered and appropriations invested in Indian Country where each dollar must do the work of 10, and where the annual per-person federal expenditure averages two-thirds that of other Americans.

We would even encourage Congress to hold its hearings on our reservations, so they can break bread with us and look us in the eye on our own ground. Here, they can see for themselves how our meager appropriations are put to work feeding the children of our communities. They can see how appropriations are used to promote the safety of our people. They can see that we need to have hope — just like everyone else.

Yes, we encourage Congress to continue to get to know us. We ask it to never again rely on ignorant or misleading statements to determine how the United States will live up to the responsibility it assumed when it signed treaties with the tribes and took the lands and resources it needed to become the strongest nation on earth.

On The Cover: A Canadian Native respectfully asks Quileute tribal leaders for permission to land. Nearly two dozen canoes representing Indian tribes from Washington, Canada, and other areas came to the northwest Washington coast for A-KA-Lat, a two-day celebration of native traditions, Aug. 10-11 in LaPush. *Photo: D. Williams.*

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission News

The NWIFC News is published quarterly on behalf of the treaty Indian tribes in western Washington by the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, 6730 Martin Way E., Olympia, WA 98516. Complimentary subscriptions are available. Articles appearing in NWIFC News may be reprinted.

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Historic Tribal Shellfish Harvest On Private Beach

The oysters served at the Skokomish Indian Tribe's annual elders' honoring picnic might not have looked or tasted any different than those of past celebrations, but they were unique. They were harvested Aug. 15 by tribal members from private tidelands whose owner wanted to prove that treaty shellfish harvest rights and private property rights can co-exist.

William Matchett, a retired University of Washington English professor and member of the Hood Canal Environmental Council and Kitsap County Planning Commission, went to tribal representatives to work out a sharing agreement for the clams and oysters on his Hood Canal tidelands. He said he was eager to prove to his neighbors that tribal shellfish harvests on private tidelands could occur without problems.

Less than two hours after Tom Strong and brothers John and Arthur Gouley

landed on Matchett's sheltered beach south of Seabeck in Kitsap County, 100 dozen oysters were loaded into the tribe's boat for the picnic. Skokomish Fisheries Manager Dave Herrera monitored the harvest and discussed the agreement – and the possibility of future shellfish enhancement agreements – with Matchett.

"I've been looking forward to this for some time," said Matchett just as the harvest was concluding. "They took all of those oysters today, and it seems like they didn't even make a dent on this beach."

"This harvest is the starting point of trying to work with tidelands owners," said Herrera. "This shows we can work out agreements with private tidelands owners and exercise our treaty rights."

Matchett began forming his plan to work out an agreement with local Indian tribes through a local forum that brought Hood Canal watershed residents together to discuss a multitude of issues.

"There were tribal representatives on that body, and we spent a great deal of time talking about how we could bridge conflicts – for instance, how to protect property rights and Indian treaty rights at the same time," Matchett said. "The more I thought about it, the more it seemed to me the way to solve this was through a contract."

He met with shellfish biologist Lisa Veneroso with the Point No Point Treaty Council, the fisheries management consortium of the Skokomish, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Jamestown S'Klallam and Lower Elwha Klallam tribes. Matchett and the tribes agreed that they could develop a harvest management plan that would provide a framework for treaty shellfishing on his tidelands.



Skokomish Fisheries Manager Dave Herrera discusses the harvest with beach owner William Matchett. Photos: D. Williams

Veneroso conducted a thorough survey of Matchett's tidelands and concluded that 15,000 oysters – 7,500 for Matchett and 7,500 for the tribes – could be harvested each year from the property. This harvest level ensures healthy oyster populations for the tribes and Matchett year after year.

Each off-reservation shellfish harvest is preceded by a tribal regulation issued to the state and property owner. The regulation lists the date, time, and location of the harvest, the amount and types of species to be harvested, and any other restrictions.

Plans are developing for additional tribal shellfish harvests on other private Hood Canal tidelands. Matchett said he has been talking with neighbors about his successful management agreement.

Matchett's beach could be enhanced through the harvest management agreement. Efforts could include placing netting down over what are now low-density clam beds to help prevent predation. Matchett is also interested in re-introducing Olympia oysters – the region's only native oyster – onto his tidelands.

"If people would be willing to cooperate with the tribes, they might even be able to make some money themselves," he said.

The tribes' treaty-protected right to harvest shellfish from all usual and accustomed areas – including private tidelands – was re-affirmed in 1994 by U.S. District Court Judge Edward Rafeedie.

— D. Williams



Skokomish tribal member Arthur Gouley harvests oysters from William Matchett's private tidelands.

Tribes Scramble To Address Hatchery Reductions By State

When the Lummi Nation organized a community effort to rescue 800,000 of the state's hatchery salmon last summer, it illustrated one way treaty tribes are scrambling to deal with a recent Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife decision to back away from some of its hatchery programs.

Two other tribes — the Quinault and Quileute — continue to search for solutions to the problem.

WDFW announced last summer that, due to a legislative mandate that all state agencies cut their budgets by 5 percent, it would reduce salmon production at its Kendall Creek, Sol Duc and Shale Creek facilities. What's more, WDFW has not ruled out completely shutting down those or other facilities to deal with future pressures on its \$125 million biennial budget.

"Everyone benefits if we save these fish," said Merle Jefferson, Lummi Natural Resources Director. "If salmon production falls, it impacts treaty and non-treaty fishers."

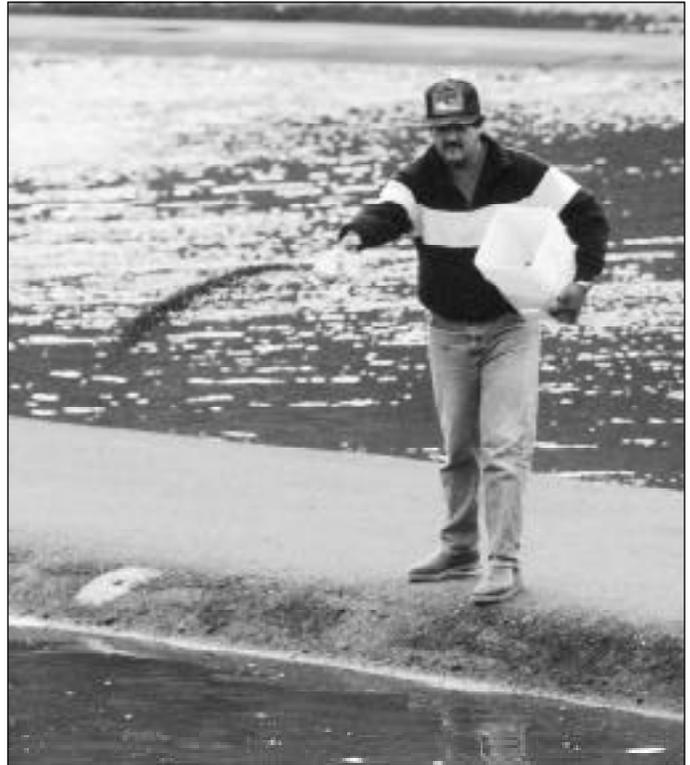
The decision, ironically coming at a time when millions of dollars are being spent to recover Northwest salmon, is getting roundly criticized by at least one lawmaker. State Rep. Jim Buck, R-Port Angeles, said state law requires WDFW to "preserve, protect, perpetuate and maintain both commercial and sport fishing."

Buck believes hatcheries will play a key role in recovering wild stocks and that closing them would place more pressure on declining native runs.

"My feeling is we should not be closing hatcheries at this time and potentially further down the line until we can get wild stocks back up to strength," Buck said. "If we want to rethink our hatchery strategy, it needs to be over the long term rather than just closing hatcheries."

WDFW, in closing the Shale Creek facility, has ended a 13-year involvement in joint efforts with the Quinault Indian Nation to improve natural production of Queets River coho, a wild stock on the Washington coast. The facility is an essential component in carrying out important coho supplementation and chinook indicator stock programs in the Queets River system. It is expected that the tribe will have to raise up to \$35,000 annually to keep the facility operating.

Also on the Olympic Peninsula, the Sol Duc Fish Hatchery near Forks expects it will have to prematurely dump more than 1 million salmon fingerlings (850,000 coho and about 250,000 spring chinook) due to budget cuts. Releasing the fish prematurely would mean certain death and quite likely closing the hatchery, at least for the short term.



Assistant hatchery manager Marlin Dennis feeds coho salmon at Lummi Nation's Skookum Hatchery, where the state in October will truck 800,000 hatchery coho fingerlings it can no longer raise due to budget cuts. *Photo: L. Harris*

If the salmon are dumped and the hatchery is closed, it will have a major impact on the Quileute Tribe, which helps with spawning, some broodstocking and pays for feeding at the state facility.

"The subject is still under discussion between the Quileute Tribe and the WDFW," said Quileute Fisheries assistant manager Steve Meadows. "We are trying to determine how we can adjust the hatchery program to accommodate the state's reduced budget. Stronger emphasis will be placed on natural coho production."

Quileute Natural Resources Director Mel Moon said the tribe will transition out of strictly hatchery programs to increased chinook wild stock supplementation. Steelhead will be the only hatchery program left in the Quillayute River system because it has advantages in run timing that chinook don't.

Meanwhile, the state announced it would cut production of its Kendall Creek Hatchery coho from 1.1 million to 300,000 even though, just like at Sol Duc, the fish were already partially reared. "It's like flushing the fish down the toilet," said Jefferson of a tentative plan to dump the fledgling fish into the Nooksack River.

So Jefferson led a letter-drafting effort with the Nooksack Tribe and the state, asking companies and organizations for \$18,500 to keep the fish alive until next summer, when they can be released with a true chance at survival. Timber company Crown Pacific quickly committed 70 percent of the

(Continued On Next Page)

Fraser Sockeye Escapement Goals Met

Responsible sockeye fisheries by treaty Indian and non-Indian fishermen this summer ensured that Canada's escapement goals for the Early Stuart and Early Summer runs were met, despite Canada's refusal to negotiate a pre-season management agreement under the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

Angry political rhetoric, claims of U.S. overfishing, the blockade of an Alaska state ferry in Prince Rupert, B.C., and a harmful "Canada First" fishing policy marked the summer of Canada's discontent after the country walked away from the bargaining table and accused U.S. fisheries managers of initiating a "Fish War".

As in past years when agreement was not reached under the Pacific Salmon Treaty, tribal and non-Indian fisheries were managed responsibly, using data provided through the bi-lateral Pacific Salmon Commission Secretariat. U.S. fisheries were coordinated with Canadian managers under procedures agreed upon by both countries. Indian and non-Indian harvests were taken from a portion of the run surplus to the escapement needs (the number of fish needed to spawn and perpetuate the run) of the stock. Both the run size and escapement needs for Fraser sockeye are determined by Canada. This year's sockeye run was an estimated 17 million fish.

As of Sept. 18, Washington treaty Indian and non-Indian fishermen had harvested 1.3 million Fraser sockeye. Of that total, tribal fishermen had taken 642,000 fish; non-Indians harvested

672,000. Canadian fishermen have caught 9.8 million Fraser sockeye.

This year's Fraser sockeye run had been originally forecast to total about 18.2 million fish, but current estimates peg the actual run size closer to 16.9 million. Most of the run's components were larger than anticipated with the exception of the summer run — the main component of the run — which returned slightly below expectations.

Tribal and non-Indian fishermen fell far short of harvesting the preseason target of 2.6 million sockeye, largely because a high percentage of sockeye that normally would swim through U.S. waters instead migrated down the "inside" of Vancouver Island through Johnstone Strait.

While escapement goals were successfully met, Nature dealt a harsh blow to early returns to the Fraser River. High water flows from rapid snowmelt and heavy rains are believed to have caused high mortality rates.

Despite the conservative fisheries implemented by U.S. fisheries managers, Canadian politicians railed about U.S. fisheries throughout the summer fishing season. Upset at what they perceived to be overfishing of Canadian-bound salmon stocks by southeast Alaskan fishing fleets, Canadian commercial fishermen for two days blockaded the Alaskan ferry Malaspina in Prince Rupert, B.C. in protest.

Later in the season, Canadian fisheries managers implemented a destructive "Canada First" policy that encouraged

heavy fishing in the Strait of Juan de Fuca with the potential of damaging fragile wild coho runs returning to both Washington and British Columbia waters. Coho are vulnerable to Canadian nets set to catch Fraser sockeye before they enter U.S. waters. Most of the Fraser sockeye migrating through the Strait of Juan de Fuca remained in Canadian waters, leaving little harvest opportunity for U.S. tribal and non-Indian fishermen.

Tribal and state fisheries managers, as well as a coalition of independent fish experts and environmentalists in British Columbia said the "Canada First" policy could have been disastrous to some severely depressed American and Canadian coho stocks.

A bright spot in resolving the impasse has appeared, however, in the appointment by both countries of two high-level representatives to make a fresh attempt at settling the salmon dispute.

William Ruckelshaus, who served two terms as administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and University of British Columbia President and Chancellor David Strangway will attempt to reinvigorate a stakeholders process to resolve differences in the interpretation and implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

"We must get back on track in our joint effort to manage salmon stocks," said Billy Frank Jr., chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. "The salmon are depending on us to work together and do the right thing."

— T. Meyer

Hatchery Reductions

money, then the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, a local stream rehabilitation organization, chipped in the balance. Lummi, for its part, volunteered to rear the fingerlings at its Skookum Creek Hatchery. The question is whether Lummi will have to be this creative every year.

"I think if there was anything good to come out of this, it

was the coordination that developed for those Kendall Creek fish," said Buck. "We're saving some money and we don't lose those fish. I like the coordination and the innovation. But whether or not that is something that would have to happen every year, I don't know if we would want that."

— L. Harris

A-KA-Lat Paddle To LaPush Renews Traditions

The Quileute Tribe's welcoming song drifted over the rocky beach to the Quillayute River like blue smoke from a nearby driftwood fire. There it mixed in the fog with songs and chants from the pullers of nearly two dozen cedar canoes.

Despite sore arms, sunburned necks and windburned faces, the pullers sang for the final few hundred feet of

their tribe's two-week canoe journey from Port Hardy on Vancouver Island's northeastern shore to the Quileute Tribe's community of LaPush for A-KA-Lat, a gathering of Pacific Northwest and Canadian cedar canoe tribes, Aug. 11-12.

Canoes painted black and red with images of wolves, eagles, or bears, and with fresh cedar and hemlock boughs draped over the sides gently nudged the shore bearing tribal



Clockwise: A tribal elder welcomes cedar canoes to the A-KA-Lat celebration in LaPush. A young paddler practices for his tribe's grand entrance to the gathering. Hundreds of people crowded onto the beach to sing songs of welcoming as the canoes made the final leg of the weeks-long journey. Paddlers of nearly two dozen canoes enjoyed calm seas and warm temperatures as they arrived Aug. 10.

Photos: D. Williams



chiefs adorned in eagle feathers, animal skins, and cedar headdresses. Each chief's request to land on Quileute soil was answered in a booming voice from Chuck Harrison Jr., co-captain of the Quileute canoe.

"We have heard of your journey, and we welcome you to our land. We will feed you, house you, sing and dance with you. We are glad that you have come here."



The Quileute word for James Island that lies just off the river's mouth, A-KA-Lat was the largest canoe gathering on Washington's coast in recent memory. Most canoes came to LaPush Aug. 10 under a soft blue sky at a place where balmy summer days are rare, cherished gifts. The following day, when the official procession was held, the most distant canoes were all but hidden by a swirling fog that the sun never managed to conquer.

That night, every door to the community gym was propped open by a folding chair or cinder block to help cool the hundreds of revelers inside who watched and listened as each tribe performed its traditional songs and dances. The celebration continued until dawn.

For Rita Obi, a Quinault tribal member, the paddle to Quileute turned into a family reunion of sorts. Her son, grandson, niece and nephew all completed the grueling trip from northern Vancouver Island.

"I was worried about them all the time," she said. "I only talked to them once or twice the entire couple of weeks."

The paddle to LaPush was the third such gathering in a dozen years. The region's canoe tribes came together in Seattle in 1989; four years later the canoes went north to Bella Bella, B.C. In 2001, the tribes will once again ready their cedar canoes for travel on the sea and paddle north to Squamish, B.C.

Edwin Poulin, co-chairman of the A-KA-Lat Gathering Committee and co-captain of the Quileute canoe, said at least 50 members of the Quileute Tribe played a role in the celebration, which was intended to restore native traditions.

"I was speaking with my grandmother, Lillian Pullen, and she was saying how this celebration brought back a lot of memories of the potlatches they used to have a long time ago here," Poulin said. "That's why we wanted to bring the canoes here. We used to go up to Canada (for gatherings) and bring back photo's and stories, but we wanted our children to see all of this firsthand for themselves.

"It's exciting – all of these canoes coming to life like this," Poulin said.

—D. Williams



Project Will Open Miles Of Habitat

It's been almost a century since native coho and chinook salmon have spawned in the upper reaches of the Puyallup River.

But that is about to change.

The Puyallup Tribe and Puget Sound Energy, Inc. are implementing a Resource Enhancement Agreement that will re-open about 20 miles of mainstem river habitat and 10 miles of tributary streams to spring chinook, coho and steelhead.

Key to the agreement that was reached in April are improvements that Puget Sound Energy will make at its Electron Dam near Orting. The agreement averted a lawsuit by the tribe over the impact of the dam to salmon and their habitat in the river system.

The 90-year-old dam will be equipped with a fish ladder to enable returning adult fish to reach the upper Puyallup River watershed as part of the \$1.5 million improvement project.

A system to prevent young salmon and steelhead migrating downstream from being drawn into the dam's turbines also will be installed. The utility also agreed to ensure adequate in-stream flow levels to meet the needs of the fish.

Several salmon rearing ponds will be installed upstream of the dam. Young coho and spring chinook from local stocks will be transported to the upper watershed ponds to be acclimated before release.

The fish passage improvements are expected to be completed by June 2000, when the first adults return to the upper watershed. The returning fish will spawn naturally and are



The Electron Dam, while only about 10 feet high, has effectively blocked salmon migration to the upper reaches of the Puyallup River System since its construction almost a century ago. *Photo: R. Ladley, Puyallup Tribe*

expected to quickly repopulate the upper river and its tributaries.

"We think some of those tributaries have the potential to be real fish factories," said tribal fisheries biologist Russ Ladley. "This project is something the tribe has wanted for a long time."

Adding to salmon habitat improvements on the upper Puyallup is a levee relocation project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Orting area was hit hard by flooding in 1996. Property along the river is being purchased and levees are being set back and reinforced to provide better protection.

The project will add about 122 acres of additional floodplain and enhance side channel and tributary stream habitat, Ladley said. —*T. Meyer*

Stemming Spartina Invasion

Swinomish tribal members Jordan Stone and Donna Ikebe hoist buckets of Spartina during a large cooperative effort to rid Padilla Bay wetlands of the invasive weed in July. The noxious weed is notorious for spreading quickly and choking off fish and wildlife habitat. An environmental army that included representatives from Swinomish, Suquamish, Tulalip and Stillaguamish tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Skagit and Whatcom counties, state Department of Fish and Wildlife, and volunteers helped dig out the weeds near the north entrance of Swinomish Channel. *Photo: L. Harris*



Tracking Habitat Trends

A unique monitoring program is helping provide protection for salmon by tracking trends in habitat conditions and evaluating the effectiveness of forest practices.

The Timber/Fish/Wildlife Monitoring Program (TFW-MP) headquartered at the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission helps the TFW process implement the principles of adaptive management — the process of gathering and using scientific information to constantly evaluate and improve management decisions.

Watershed information gathered and analyzed through the program helps evaluate the effectiveness of forest practices in providing improved protection for salmon on a site-by-site basis. Because conditions particular to each watershed can be taken into account, forest practices regulations can be developed to pinpoint areas of concern, rather than forcing landowners to contend with blanket regulations covering large areas.

The TFW Agreement created a cooperative natural resource management process to address forest practices on state and private forestlands in Washington.

Monitoring the effects of forest practices on salmon habitat has been an important part of the TFW Agreement since it began in 1988. Like any successful relationship, communication and trust are critical.

For a group as diverse as that which comprises the TFW process — tribes, the timber industry, environmental organizations, state agencies and others — a common language is critical. There must be shared definitions that describe stream conditions to help resource man-

agement decision-making. For example, there must be agreement about exactly what constitutes a pool or a riffle in a stream.

Reliable data also is critical to shared decision-making. Often, when natural resource managers are confronted with an issue, valuable time is lost questioning the reliability of existing data. When the information is known to be highly accurate and reliable, however, managers can move much more quickly to address the issue.

In the past nine years of the TFW-MP, hundreds of natural resources staff from tribes, government agencies, timber companies and environmental organizations participating in TFW have learned to speak the same language and gather reliable data to help monitor and manage salmon habitat in watersheds throughout the state.

Through the program's training

'Consistency is the critical part of monitoring.'

— Allen Pleus

manual, standardized training provided through workshops or on-site visits, and a data quality assurance review process, a feedback loop is created that provides a steady flow of information on areas where methods for gathering and analyzing data can be refined.

"Consistency is the critical part of monitoring," said Allen Pleus, lead training biologist for the program. "Information has to be gathered the same way every time."

That consistency is achieved through training programs and workshops offered through the program.

Annual workshops cover topics rang-



Lyman Bullchild, TFW-MP volunteer instructor, demonstrates gravel sample processing techniques to Sue Alvarez of Ridolfi Engineers. *Photo: T. Meyer*

ing from conducting stream temperature surveys to determining the composition of spawning gravel. All provide both basic instruction and hands-on practice in survey methods. Core staff, volunteer instructors, guest speakers and others combine their talents to provide high quality training.

Most TFW participants ensure that staff receive training through the program annually to maintain consistency in their monitoring strategies and data quality. In fact, demand for the training has outstripped the ability to meet all requests for the services.

To ensure that the TFW-MP methods are being consistently applied, quality assurance review services are provided in the field while data is being gathered. Participants receive detailed reports on crew strengths, weaknesses and recommendations for improvements.

But after nearly a decade spent mostly gathering data, the program is moving toward a new level of sophistication in evaluating the effectiveness of forest practices in protecting salmon habitat through development and implementation of the TFW Effectiveness Monitoring Program.

"We will be linking the practices with what's happening in the habitat," said Dave Schuett-Hames, TFW Ambient Monitoring Program Coordinator. "We will be applying what we've learned from past monitoring and watershed analysis to conduct a much more effective examination of how well the forest practices are working." —*T. Meyer*

Master Carver Repairs Chief Sealth's Memorial



Master carver Gene Jones looks for storm damage at Chief Sealth's memorial in Suquamish. *Photo: D. Williams*

Chief Sealth, one of the greatest spokesmen for western Washington's Indian people and the man for whom the city of Seattle was named, is still honored today by both Indians and non-Indians.

Visitors to his final resting place have worn a footpath into the gently sloping cemetery at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Suquamish. Walking past the rows of graves marked "Unknown," they leave gifts of tobacco, fruit, shells, or money at Sealth's burial site, which is flanked by two cedar dugout canoes sitting high

above the headstone.

The final resting site of Sealth, who died in 1866, was in a state of disrepair following last winter's wind and snow. A great branch from the gnarled maple tree that shades the plot broke off under heavy snow and ice, smashing one canoe and just missing the headstone. The damage revealed more problems to Gene Jones, a Port Gamble S'Klallam tribal elder, minister and master carver who is using his skills to repair the memorial.

"The support logs are all rotten, so I'll either have to replace them or cut them

off," said Jones, his hands running along the roughly hewn timbers that hold the canoes aloft. "They're not bolted down or anything – they're just sitting there."

Although uncertain of their exact age, Jones said the canoes and support structures are only about two decades old. The original carver was a Canadian Native who designed the ceremonial canoes with Canadian Native features, not the Coast Salish features that Puget Sound-area tribal carvers would have used to honor Sealth. Though the differences might seem subtle or unimportant to the casual observer, they are like night and day to Jones, who decided to correct the canoe sterns.

"The Canadian design has an angle to it, while ours comes out straight," said Jones, pantomiming the sterns with flattened hands.

A power saw makes quick work of the Canadian design elements, lopping off the sterns in a blizzard of sawdust and noise. The remaining restoration work is done at a slower pace with handmade adzes.

"My grandfather used to make canoes, and a lot of the old-timers did, too. I learned from watching all of them," Jones said.

"It's a real honor for me to be working on this man's memorial," he said. "He's known by people worldwide for his love and respect of the land and the water. I'm honored that the tribe had the faith in me to do this work."

— *D. Williams*

A Little Help

A member of the Haida Heritage Dancers sings and drums — with a little help — at the Salmon Homecoming celebration in Seattle, Sept. 11-14. Food booths, dancing, Native art displays, and many other activities were enjoyed by thousands of visitors to the annual event. *Photo: D. Williams*



Cooperation Spawns Habitat Restoration

Working separately is no way to save fish habitat. Representatives of Lummi Nation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state Department of Natural Resources reiterated that point as they surveyed a crew reopening a choked off Nooksack River tributary in early September.

“The only way we are going to recover this watershed is by pulling together,” said Lummi Natural Resources Director Merle Jefferson

“People have tried separateness — everybody managing things in their own different ways,” said Joanne Stellini, a USFWS biologist. “But fish and wildlife don’t recognize different management plans, or different political divisions



Replacing old culverts, such as this one on Hutchinson Creek, is opening up miles of fish habitat in a cooperative project involving the Lummi Nation and several agencies.

Photo: L. Harris

or different landowners. They recognize the habitat that is available to them.”

The crew, from native-owned Toby Construction, is working along a logging road east of Acme, replacing culverts and constructing rock weirs in Hutchinson Creek. The work is opening to coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, some three miles of spawning and rearing habitat, including a large pond and wetlands ideal for coho winter habitat.

The restoration may not have occurred but for the cooperation of the three agencies.

A three-way cost share is paying for the roughly \$40,000 project. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Jobs in the Woods Program and Lummi Natural Resources are sharing the cost of labor needed for installation, along with project planning and engineering. Much of the project is taking place on land controlled by DNR, which is supplying materials for the restoration.

The Hutchinson Creek project is one of five in the Nooksack River Basin to be funded through Lummi and USFWS cooperative efforts in the next year. All told, the agencies will spend \$276,000 on projects like storm proofing of orphaned roads, delineation of wetlands and salt marshes, re-establishing conifer stands in riparian areas, removal of invasive knot weed, and the restoration of native streamside vegetation. Much of the work will take place in cooperation with DNR, and some projects will include Seattle City Light and private landowners. — *L. Harris*

Jim Harp Appointed To PFMC Tribal Seat

Jim Harp, a Quinault tribal member, was named recently as the first tribal representative to occupy a new seat on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) designated for Indian tribes. A fisheries policy adviser to the Quinault Indian Nation, he also serves as an NWIFC commissioner.



Jim Harp

Harp, who has served on the PFMC for nine years, also was honored at a banquet recently for his longtime service to the federally-funded body, which develops management regimes for fisheries within 3-200 miles of the coast. Prior to his appointment to the new tribal seat by the Secretary of

Commerce, Harp served in an at-large position on the council at the recommendation of the governor of Washington.

Creation of the tribal seat on the council formally recognizes tribal co-management status and acknowledges the tribal role in the stewardship of West Coast fishery resources. Northwest treaty tribes have participated in the council process since its creation in 1976, providing technical support and data critical to development of its fishery management plans.

Tribal fishermen are active in council-managed fisheries for salmon, halibut, rockfish, groundfish, sablefish and whiting. Tribal interest and involvement in PFMC activities is expected to increase further as the council contemplates involvement in the management of Dungeness crab.

Chinook Recovery Plan Breeds Success

A small state hatchery on a minor tributary to the Dungeness River is releasing big numbers of chinook salmon in an effort to save the weak native run.

The chinook recovery program at Hurd Creek Hatchery began in 1992 in response to a near-complete collapse of fish numbers in the river. Habitat loss, floods, irrigation withdrawals, and over-

fishing are blamed for the stock's poor condition. Dungeness chinook were listed as a "critical" stock in a 1992 state/tribal inventory of western Washington salmon and steelhead stocks. There have been no directed tribal fisheries on chinook or pink salmon in Dungeness Bay or the river since 1974.

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, lo-

cal fisheries interests and local government brought the issue of Dungeness chinook to the forefront in the mid-1980s, and after careful study of the cause of the decline, a recovery plan using captive broodstock was developed.

Next spring, 1.8 million juvenile chinook, whose parents spent their entire lives in freshwater tanks, will be released into the river system.

"The program has been so successful, we are actually exceeding our production goals," said Brad Sele, fisheries manager for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

Several factors have contributed to the early success of the program, including high water quality and low egg mortality.

But above all, it's been the hatchery crew's "hands-off" policy that's done the most for the program.

"The biggest reason for our success has been keeping our hands off the fish," said Dan Witczak, hatchery manager at Hurd Creek. "Every time you handle the fish, some will die. It's that simple. Our goal is to restore a critically depressed wild stock. Evaluating captive broodstock technology has been a secondary, but important, objective. We have put the fish first. The less we handle the fish, the lower the mortalities will be." — *D. Williams*



Sharing The First Salmon

Ron Whitener, Squaxin Island tribal member, shares the First Salmon with visitors to the tribe's annual First Salmon Ceremony at Arcadia Beach on southern Puget Sound. The ceremony honors the First Salmon, a scout for the Salmon People. According to legend, if the First Salmon is well received and treated with proper respect, he will return to the Salmon People and lead them back to the tribe's fishing waters in abundance.

Photo: T. Meyer

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