

SALMON: BIOLOGY, FISHERIES AND CONTROVERSY
Group Contract, Fall 1980 - Peter Taylor, Faculty Sponsor

This group contract program featured the biology of the Pacific salmon, the fisheries and their management, aquaculture, and the social and political issues of the salmon resource. Activities included lectures, invited speakers, films, reading, seminars, field trips and laboratory sessions. Participants also prepared for panel discussions and debates of selected issues of salmon biology, fisheries and resource management.

Lectures, Invited Speakers and Films -- Lectures by P. Taylor were on the biology of the Pacific salmon (distributions, life histories and ecology), and on an overview of fisheries, fisheries management and aquaculture of salmon. Topics presented by invited speakers were: history of commercial salmon fishing in Puget Sound (H. Droker, Seattle Library), fisheries management required by federal court decisions on Indian treaty rights (F. Olney, USFWS), comparisons of salmon and Atlantic striped bass management (J. Everett, Washington Department of Fisheries WDF), private aquaculture (D. Swecker, Swecker Salmon Farm), Indian treaty fishing rights and tribal fisheries activities (R. Cumbow, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission), mitigation by utilities (E. Weiss, Pacific Power and Light Co.), stock assessment (J. Ames, WDF), harvest management (M. Barker, WDF), economics of salmon fisheries management (R. Trimble, WDF), and political overview of fisheries management (W. Miller, management consultant). Five films and a slide-tape presentation featured salmon biology and fisheries and Indian treaty fishing rights conflicts.

Texts and Seminars-- Six seminars on assigned reading and written comments for: The Salmon. Their Fight for Survival (A. Netboy, 1973), Uncommon Controversy (Amer. Friends Service Committee, 1970), I Heard the Owl Call My Name (M. Craven, 1973), and Highliners (W. B. McClosky Jr., 1979). For two seminars, groups of several students each read and reported on: The Northwest Coast (J.G. Swan, 1857 and 1972), Indian Fishing. Early Methods on the Northwest Coast (H. Stewart, 1977), Salmon Fishers of the Columbia River (C.L. Smith, 1979), Alaska Blues (J. Upton, 1977), Return to the River (R. L. Haig-Brown, 1974), and The Washington Fishing Rights Controversy. An Economic Critique (R. L. Barsh, 1977). Other seminars were used for discussion, review and synthesis of various topics.

Laboratory -- The gross anatomy of Pacific salmon was studied during two sessions using fresh adult specimens. References used were Pacific Fishes of Canada (J.L. Hart, 1973), Smith's Introductory Anatomy and Biology of Selected Fish and Shellfish (A.A. Rich and L.S. Smith, 1978), and A Practical Guide to the Anatomy and Physiology of Pacific Salmon (L.S. Smith and G. R. Bell, 1976).

Field Trips -- Salmon-related facilities were visited during four field trips: The Seattle Aquarium, Fishermen's Terminal, and Lake Washington Ship Canal Locks fishway, all in Seattle; WDF weir for sockeye salmon, Cedar River near Renton; WDF Deschutes River fishway and egg-taking project, Tumwater; WDF egg-box project, Kennedy Creek near Kamilche; WDF George Adams and Hood Canal hatcheries; National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field station, Manchester; and University of Washington Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) field station on Big Beef Creek, Seabeck. Presentations were heard during the visits on: problems facing commercial fishers (S. Harrington, Sea Grant Advisor), egg-box enhancement program (T. Burns, WDF), biochemical tagging (S. Grant, NMFS), diseases (L. Harrell, NMFS), smoltification (E. Prentice, NMFS), and reproductive behavior (S. Schroder, FRI).

Panel Discussions and Debates -- Each student prepared for and participated in a panel discussion or debate on one of six "salmon" issues held to conclude the program. Written reports were also required.