

SALMON

Coordinated Studies Program, Fall 1978-Winter 1979
Faculty: Carolyn Dobbs, Don Jordan, Peter Taylor (Coordinator)

"Salmon" is an interdisciplinary study program integrating the biology, fisheries, fisheries management, politics, economics, and cultural aspects of salmon in the Pacific Northwest. A principal theme is that the condition of the salmon runs is a measure of the health of the Pacific Northwest -- its physical environment and the institutions of its people. Also, the way in which the current conflicts over salmon are resolved will indicate how conflicts may be resolved in the U.S. for other natural resources.

FALL QUARTER 1978

A broad spectrum of topics were introduced during the fall quarter to establish the range and complexity of the facts and issues of "Salmon."

The faculty team through lectures and workshops presented the overview of "Salmon" topics, introduced salmon biology and Native American culture, and introduced essay-writing, journal-writing and social science research methods. Nine guest speakers contributed firsthand experience with salmon biology, fisheries, fishermen groups and politics. Two films were seen featuring sockeye salmon and Indian fishing rights conflicts, respectively.

Six field trips provided direct views of salmon, salmon habitats, and people, facilities and institutions involved with salmon in Washington State.

One laboratory session was devoted to salmon anatomy, using coho "jack" salmon specimens for examination and dissection.

Seminars were held to discuss reading in several books. The books were discussed for literary meaning and relevance to "Salmon" themes and topics. They were about: 1) the history of conflicts over Indian fishing rights and treaties; 2) Indian culture and the importance of salmon; 3) the history of salmon fisheries in California and Alaska; and 4) salmon-trolling fishery in British Columbia. The books read and discussed were: The Northwest Coast (J. Swan), Uncommon Controversy (American Friends Service Committee), Ishi, Last of His Tribe (T. Kroeber), The Salmon, Their Fight for Survival (A. Netboy), Indian Treaties, American Nightmare (C.H. Williams and W. Neubrech), I Heard the Owl Call My Name (M. Craven), Harvest of Salmon (Z. Landale).

Written work consisted of four essays on elected topics and journals to record and analyze all experiences gained from the "Salmon" program. An off-campus end-of-the quarter retreat was highlighted by debates on four questions for which debate teams prepared through library and institutional sources and by interviews of persons involved with salmon-related activities.

WINTER QUARTER 1979

Themes emphasized this quarter were: (1) "How can the conflicts of people over the salmon resource be resolved?", and (2) "What is the optimal utilization of the salmon resource?" Excursions were made into political economy and human territorial behavior to understand underlying causes of conflicts and to identify restraints in attaining an optimum salmon industry.

The faculty team presented lectures and workshops on salmon ecology, salmon fisheries management, biological-oceanographic features of Puget Sound and the North Pacific Ocean, conflict resolution, ethnography, human territoriality, and language manipulation. Two books supported the latter two topics: No Trespassing! (C. Bakker and M. Bakker-Rabdau) and Language Awareness (P. Eschholz, A. Rosa and V. Clark, editors). Reading in The Cultural Experience: Ethnography in Complex Society (J.P. Spradley and D.W. McCurdy) and a field-interview assignment supported the ethnography. The ethnography "workshop" was optional and involved only a few students. Five guest speakers discussed life of salmon in estuaries, oceanic life of salmon, degradation of fresh-water habitats, conflicts over uses of water in river-stream systems, and resolving conflicts among salmon user-groups. Three films showed territoriality and communication in seagull behavior, and the place of salmon in Northwest Indian culture.

Two meetings having great relevance for "salmon" were attended by most of the group: (1) Pacific Fishery Management Council, February 8, Seattle, about the 1979 salmon management plan for the 200-mile fisheries zone of California, Oregon and Washington; and (2) North Pacific International Chapter, American Fisheries Society, February 20-22, Bellingham, about "enhancement" of salmon and other fisheries resources.

Books featured for seminar discussions this quarter were about: utilization of salmon resources in Asia, interpretations of salmon fishing conflicts, political economy, comparisons of cultures, behavior of administrators, and a commercial fisherman's journal. The titles of the books are: The Salmon: Their Fight for Survival (A. Netboy), The Washington Fishing Rights Controversy: An Economic Critique (R.L. Barsh), 220 Million Custers (B. Lowman), The Politicized Economy (M.H. Best and W.E. Connolly), The Silent Language (E.T. Hall), Parkinson's Law (C.N. Parkinson), and Alaska Blues: A Fisherman's Journal (J. Upton).

Each student defined and pursued an investigative project about a topic relevant to the Salmon themes, requiring use of library and resource-agency sources, visits to salmon facilities, and interviews of persons involved with salmon-related activities. These culminated in written reports and oral presentations to share results with the group. Journals were continued as described for Fall Quarter.