The Nez Perce Tribe and its Fisheries

“Our fate and the fate of the fish are linked.”

Dan Landeen and Allen Pinkham, Salmon and His People
Nez Perce Treaty Fishing Rights And Fish Harvest
Nez Perce Seasonal Round

- "cycle consists of specific times of the year for fishing for salmon, digging camas and other roots, hunting the game, ...[this] economic cycle can generally be summarized as ten months salmon fishing and two months berry picking, with hunting most of the year"

- "that salmon fishing was one of the major sources of subsistence since the main rivers through the area, which include the Snake, the Clearwater, the Salmon, and their branches, were well supplied with this fish in aboriginal times"

_Nez Perce Tribe v. United States, 1967 (Indian Claims Commission)
Governor Stevens assures Chief Looking Glass: “….Looking Glass knows that he can catch fish at any of the fishing stations

Rivers within Nez Perce Country contained the “best fisheries on the Snake River”
The exclusive right of taking fish in all the streams where running through or bordering said reservation is further secured to said Indians; as also the right of taking fish at all usual and accustomed places in common with citizens of the Territory… (12 Stats. 957, Article 3). Treaty of 1855.
Reality of Reduced Fish Runs & Fish Harvest
Changes in NPT Fish Consumption

- Tribal contemporary fish consumption is a fraction of what it was historically.
- This in part due to decline in fish abundance and productivity.
- Tribal harvest activities have been affected by changes in fish abundance, changes in geographic area where fish return to, and a wide range of challenges or conflicts that affect our ability to catch fish.
Salmon Decline
Returning Columbia River salmon (chinook, steelhead, sockeye, coho)

Estimated Average
17,000,000

1,754,334
Salmon Decline

Returning Columbia River salmon (chinook, steelhead, sockeye, coho)
Council is to “protect, mitigate and enhance” fish and wildlife affected by the dams

NPCC provided some information concerning aboriginal use of fish for Nez Perce

- 6,000 tribal members
- Fish constituted “a considerable part of the food supply”
- 300 lbs. per capita - June to October (from Walker 1967)
- Fish species: sockeye, chinook, steelhead, cutthroat trout

Also included “Magnitude of Aboriginal Catch in Columbia Basin Before 1850”

(Source: Compilation of Information on Salmon and Steelhead Losses in Columbia River Basin, 1986)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Native Groups</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Per Capita (lbs.)</th>
<th>Estimated Annual Consumption</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinook</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>400</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tlatskanai</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>365</td>
<td></td>
<td>584,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalapuya</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowlitz(^2)</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>365</td>
<td></td>
<td>438,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Klickitat, Yakima, Wanapum, Palus</td>
<td>11,200</td>
<td>400</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,480,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tenino, Umatilla, Walla Walla</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,450,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cayuse</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>365</td>
<td></td>
<td>182,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wenatchi, Sinkiuse, Peskwaus, Methow, Nespelem, Sanpoil, Colville (part)</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,750,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wenatchee-Spokane group (part)</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalispel, Coeur d'Alene</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>280,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pend d'Oreille, Flathead</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kutenai</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>300</td>
<td></td>
<td>360,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nez Perce</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>300</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bannock, North Paiute, North Shoshoni</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td>150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td>61,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>22,274,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native Groups</td>
<td>Hewes' Per Capita (lbs.)</td>
<td>Migration Calorie Loss Factor</td>
<td>Per Capita Consumption Adjusted for Calorie Loss (lbs.)</td>
<td>Waste Factor</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinook</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>.94</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>0.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tlatskanai</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>.97</td>
<td>376</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalapuya</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>.49</td>
<td>204</td>
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<td>Cowlitz</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>.50</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Klickitat, Yakima, Wanapum, Palus</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>.58</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>0.8</td>
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<td>Tenino, Umatilla, Walla Walla</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>.84</td>
<td>595</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cayuse</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>.81</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>0.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wenatchi, Sinkiuse, Peskwaus, Methow, Nespelem, Sanpoil, Colville (part)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>.64</td>
<td>781</td>
<td>0.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wenatchi-Spokane group (part)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>.66</td>
<td>758</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalispel, Coeur d'Alene, Pend d'Orielle, Flathead</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>.57</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>0.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Okanogon, Lakes</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>.40</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kutenai</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>.39</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nez Perce</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>.58</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>0.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bannock, N. Paiute</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Shoshoni</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>.35</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Note that the tribal groups listed do not necessarily represent the same groupings of present day tribes with the same or similar names.

2 Approximately 4.5 to 5.6 million fish (see Table 31).
Fish Populations

- 32 spring/summer Chinook populations (Clearwater extirpated/reintroduced)
- 1 fall Chinook population
- 24 steelhead populations
- 1 sockeye population
- Coho - extirpated/reintroduced
- Lamprey - life support

All Snake River Salmon and Steelhead populations ESA Listed ... or extirpated
Average Fall Chinook Adult Returns to Snake River Basin by Decade

- **Natural/wild Origin**
- **Hatchery Origin**

Pre-40's

- 500,000

40's

- 100,000

50's

- 50,000

60's

- 10,000

70's

- 10,000

80's

- 10,000

90's

- 10,000

00's

- 10,000
SR Total SP/SU Chinook Returns

![Graph showing the number of fish at Lower Granite from 1985 to 2013. The number of fish fluctuates significantly across the years, with a peak in 2001 at 84,400.]
NPT Chinook Harvest

No. of Fish Harvested

Year

1985 1987 1989 1991 1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005 2007 2009 2011 2013

1985 1987 1989 1991 1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005 2007 2009 2011 2013

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 8,000 10,000 12,000 14,000 16,000 18,000

9,204
Magnitude of Tribal Harvest

- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Minimal

Adult Escapement Threshold

- Extinction
- Viable
- Sustainable
- Ecological

(Source: DFRM 2013-2028 Management Plan, 2014)