



# Human Health Focus Group

Final conclusions



# Development of the Human Health Focus Group

- In April 2007, DEQ, EPA, and CTUIR requested nominees for Focus Group from the Core Team. We sought members that were:
  - Technical experts in toxicology, risk assessment and public health;
  - Non-biased in reviewing data/providing expert opinion
- Received ~26 nominations- 6 members were chosen for final Focus Group



# Focus Group Members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
<b>Dave McBride</b>	<b>Washington State Department of Health</b>
<b>Sue MacMillan</b>	<b>URS Corporation</b>
<b>Joan Rothlein, PhD</b>	<b>Oregon Health &amp; Science University</b>
<b>Ken Kauffman</b>	<b>Oregon Department of Human Services</b>
<b>Elaine Faustman, PhD</b>	<b>University of Washington</b>
<b>Pat Cirone, PhD</b>	<b>Retired Federal Scientist</b>



# [ Questions for the Focus Group ]

- **Question 1:** “Considering the available local, regional and national information on fish consumption, what is the scientific evidence Oregon should rely on in selecting a fish consumption rate to use in setting water quality standards?”
- **Question 2:** “How should salmon be considered in selecting a fish consumption rate?”
- **Question 3:** “To what extent are populations who consume more than the current fish consumption rate of 17.5 g/day at a greater risk for health impacts?”
- **Note:** Focus Group members were tasked to just focus on the science and not policy.

# National & International Surveys

9 Surveys were selected that were most relevant to Oregon

## Oregon Populations

- Columbia River Treaty Tribes

- Sauvie Island and Columbia Slough Fishers

## Washington Populations

- Puget Sound Tribes

- Lake Whatcom Fishers

- Lake Roosevelt Fishers

- Asian Pacific Islanders

## National Survey

- US population

# Selecting fish consumption rates

Oregon Populations

Columbia River Treaty Tribes

Washington Populations

Puget Sound Tribes (Suquamish,  
Tulalip, Squaxin Island)

Asian Pacific Islanders

National Survey

US population

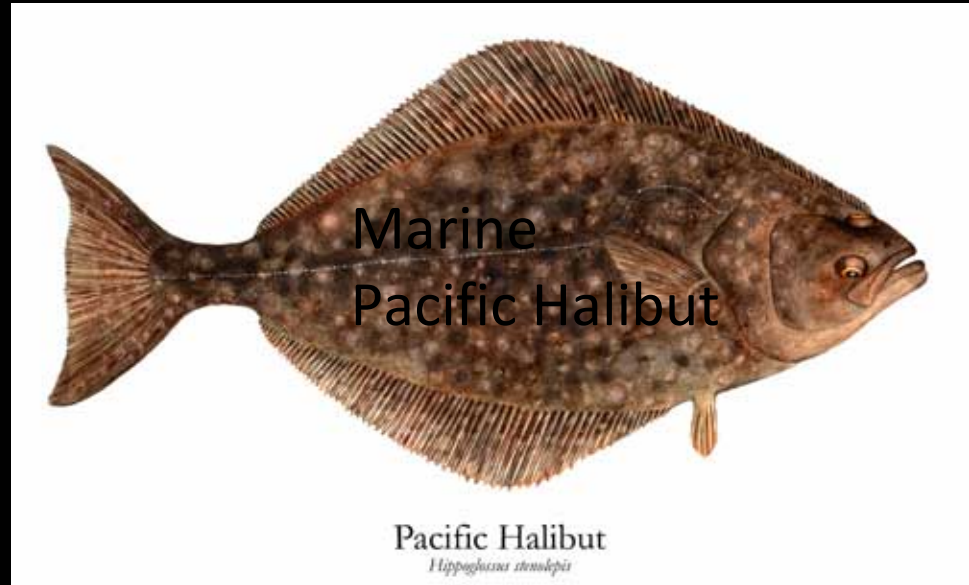


Note: Current fish consumption rates may be suppressed due to pollution and/or decreased fish abundance.

The HHFG selected fish consumption rates for: **People who eat all types of fish or shellfish that were bought in stores or restaurants or caught locally**



# Anadromous Coho Salmon



# Fish and shellfish purchased in a restaurant or store or harvested locally



# Protect people who eat fish particularly the most vulnerable



# Fish Consumption Rate

	<u>statistic grams per day</u>					
	<u>mean</u>	<u>median</u>	<u>75%</u>	<u>90%</u>	<u>95%</u>	<u>99%</u>
<b>Current WQ criterion rate</b>				<b>17.5</b>		
<b>Columbia River Tribes</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>389</b>
<b>Squaxin Island Tribe</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>332</b>
<b>Tulalip Tribe</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>312</b>
<b>Asians &amp; Pacific Islanders</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>U.S. General Population</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>519</b>
<b>Suquamish Tribe</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>132</b>		<b>489</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>

## Conclusions from Human Health Focus Group:

- We were able to identify multiple regionally relevant studies of high quality for selecting a fish consumption rate
- Current fish consumption rates may be suppressed due to pollution and/or decreased fish abundance.
- The current rate of 17.5 grams per day does not reflect Oregon or US population fish consumption rates

## Conclusions from the Human Focus Group (continued)

- All agreed that we should consider fish consumers only
- We agreed that all types of fish should be included regardless of whether they were bought or harvested locally

## Conclusions from the Human Health Focus Group (continued)

- All agreed that Pacific salmon should be included in the fish consumption rate recommended by the HHFG
- The data were not available in the surveys we reviewed to distinguish between coastal marine species and deep ocean marines species. Therefore, the recommended fish consumption rates include all types of marine species

# Population Based Fish Consumption Estimates

Oregon population of adults (over 18) is 2,665,700

Assuming only 28% eat fish = 746,400 people

With a fish consumption rate of 248 grams per day  
(From the Us population at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile)

74,640 Oregonians (10% of adults ) who eat more than  
248 grams per day would be potentially at risk

# Scientists provide advice

- “Many of the choices facing society are moral and ethical ones, and scientific information can inform them. Science does not provide the solutions but it can help understand the consequences of different choices.”  
(Lubechenco, 1998)