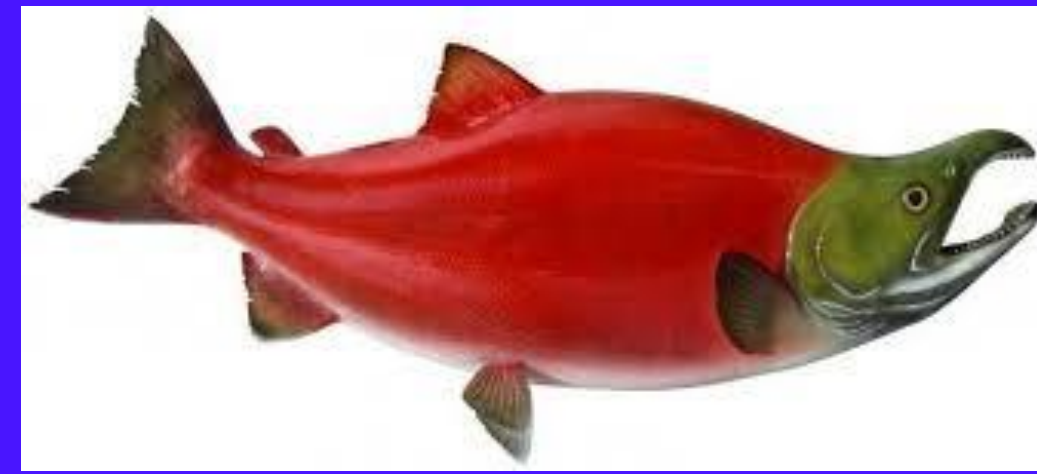


# Fish Fights: Values of Nature in Columbia River Salmon Conservation

Gabriella Francolla – ENVS 400 – Spring 2018

*“...today we find conservation challenging not our muscles, but our minds”*



How does conservation need to change to better protect endangered species in the Anthropocene?

## Guiding Theories

- Conservation in the Anthropocene
- The Social Construction of Science and Nature
- Environmental Ethics
- Wicked Problems and Clumsy Solutions

## Salmon Hatcheries



Caption: As it should be, if hatcheries were well maintained.

- Initially constructed to support the salmon canning industry. Perpetuated the belief that we could harvest above the sustainable yield without sufficiently depleting the population for future years.
- Critics of hatcheries arose as valuing nature as “pure” or “wild” became more prominent.
- Today, 80% of the salmon returning to the Colombia are hatchery salmon, creating tension between conservationists.

## Selected References

“Hatcheries.” The Northwest Power and Conservation Council. April 23, 2012.  
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In what ways do values influence competing management plans for salmon in the Columbia River basin?



## Methodologies

- (1) Historical analysis of changing values of nature
- (2) Discourse analysis looking to newspaper articles, blogs, government publications, etc. and applying a framework to analyze the values expressed through these public statements
- (3) Interviews with people representing the four main conservation interests



**Values** → Have direct relevance to an organization’s management plans

**Science** → A way to legitimize a certain course of action since it is fact-based.

However, **science cannot tell us how to manage species, only values can**, the is/ought distinction.

Science is also a social construct, a product of a culture and its values, not any objective truth or reality.

## Implications

- Natural space is social space
- Science and values, humans and nature must be integrated
- Politicized landscapes complexify collaborative natural resource management
- We will only achieve clumsy solutions with value transparency



“‘Values’ are too often treated in scientific discourse as if they were written not in the book of nature but in an appendix to it, added on afterword rather than intrinsic to the stories through which we constitute nature for ourselves and others.”

-- Katherine Hayles

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