

*Testimony for February 16th Oregon EQC Public Hearing:
Toxics Water Quality Standards/Fish Consumption Rate*

My name is Jennifer Karson Engum.

I am an anthropologist who lives and works closely with members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. When I arrived on the reservation over ten years ago, it was immediately impressed upon me that salmon was a cultural as well as a natural resource and that the health of that and other species was tantamount to the tribes' survival. I quickly understood that efforts to protect fish resources stemmed from both an ecological as well as a cultural arena.

The importance of fish to the greater Northwest's tribes cannot be overstated. Salmon and other fish are not just a major food source for CTUIR tribal members; they are also an integral part of the ongoing and continuous cultural, economic, and spiritual well-being and practices of all Columbia River peoples.

Surveys have shown that consuming twenty-three 8-ounce servings of fish meals per month is a realistic, scientifically-sound value that accurately represents the fish consumption patterns of Native people.

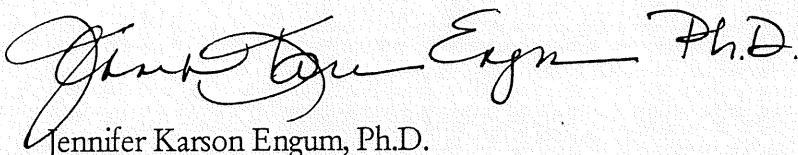
As ceremonial and subsistence fishers, Native people rely on the protection and enhancement of water quality that is sufficient to protect our water and fish from harmful exposure to waterborne pollutants.

This letter is therefore written to express my support for the Oregon DEQ's proposed rules that revise state water quality standards for toxics using a 175 grams per day fish consumption rate.

Increasing the fish consumption rate incorporated in Oregon's standards will result in decreasing the levels of toxic contaminants that are considered "allowable" in our state waterways.

Oregon's current estimated fish consumption rate, and that previously proposed, are not adequate to protect people that eat healthy amounts of fish from our local lakes, rivers and streams.

I urge DEQ to adopt standards that will allow my community and all Oregonians to enjoy the benefits of living in a land whose waters are protected from toxic pollutants. Thank you.

 Jennifer Karson Engum, Ph.D.

314 Northwest Fourth Street

Pendleton, Oregon 97801

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My name is Chris Fulton. I am a fisheries habitat biologist employed by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

This letter is to express my support for the Oregon DEQ's proposed rules that revise state water quality standards for toxics using a 175 grams per day fish consumption rate.

Increasing the fish consumption rate incorporated in Oregon's standards will result in decreasing the levels of toxic contaminants that are considered "allowable" in our state waterways.

Surveys have shown that consuming twenty-three 8-ounce servings of fish meals per month is a realistic, scientifically-sound value that accurately represents the fish consumption patterns of people of the Pacific Northwest tribes. In addition, although I and my family are not tribal members, we also consume fish from waters of the Pacific Northwest as often as we can incorporate this high-quality protein into our diet.

The importance of fish to the Northwest's tribes cannot be overstated. Salmon and other fish are not just a major food source for tribal members; they are also an integral part of the cultural, economic, and spiritual well-being and practices of the Northwest's tribes.

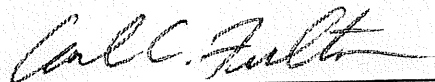
Tribal ceremonial and subsistence fishers, as well as all Oregonians, rely on the protection and enhancement of water quality that is sufficient to protect the water and fisheries resources from harmful exposure to waterborne pollutants.

Oregon's current estimated fish consumption rate, and that previously proposed, are not adequate to protect people that eat healthy amounts of fish from local lakes, rivers and streams.

I urge DEQ to adopt the revised 175 gram per day fish consumption rate and water quality standards based upon that rate.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Chris Fulton

Fisheries Habitat Biologist

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Testimony for February 16th Oregon EQC Public Hearing:
Toxics Water Quality Standards/Fish Consumption Rate

My name is JOAN C. WATLAMET.

I am a member of UMATILLA & WALLA WALLA.

This is to express my support for the Oregon DEQ's proposed rules that revise state water quality standards for toxics using a 175 grams per day fish consumption rate.

Increasing the fish consumption rate incorporated in Oregon's standards will result in decreasing the levels of toxic contaminants that are considered "allowable" in our state waterways.

Surveys have shown that consuming twenty-three 8-ounce servings of fish meals per month is a realistic, scientifically-sound value that accurately represents the fish consumption patterns of our people.

The importance of fish to the Northwest's tribes cannot be overstated. Salmon and other fish are not just a major food source for tribal members; they are also an integral part of our cultural, economic, and spiritual well-being and practices.

As ceremonial and subsistence fishers, we rely on the protection and enhancement of water quality that is sufficient to protect our water and fish from harmful exposure to waterborne pollutants.

Oregon's current estimated fish consumption rate, and that previously proposed, are not adequate to protect people that eat healthy amounts of fish from our local lakes, rivers and streams.

I urge DEQ to adopt standards that will allow my family and all Oregonians to enjoy the benefits of living in a land whose waters are protected from toxic pollutants. Thank you.

Joan C. Watlamet
Name

Address

Address

Affiliation

Signature

Get rid of the
ski boats in
and around the
Yone & Area.
Because the water
is still the oil
residue contaminates
The Columbia River.