

Andrea Matzke
Oregon DEQ
Water Quality Division
811 SW Sixth Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

February 8, 2011

Dear Ms. Matzke,

I wish to express my support for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) proposal to revise state water quality standards based on a fish consumption rate of 175 grams per day. A higher Fish Consumption Rate than is currently recognized by the state of Oregon will result in decreasing the levels of toxic pollution that are considered "allowable" in our rivers, lakes, and streams.

The proposed 175 grams per day fish consumption rate is based in part on a comprehensive study of the ceremonial and subsistence consumption habits of Native Americans who reside in, catch and consume fish within the Columbia River Basin. The results of the study prove that the consumption of twenty-three 8-oz servings of fish per month is a realistic value that represents the fish consumption habits of Native peoples in this area.

The importance of fish to the tribes cannot be overstated, for the fishery resource is not only a major food source for tribal members; it is also an integral part of their cultural, economic, and spiritual well-being. As ceremonial and subsistence fishers, they rely on the protection and enhancement of water quality to a level that is sufficient to protect water and fish from harmful exposure to waterborne pollutants.

Although not a tribal member myself, I feel that the current estimated fish consumption rate is simply not sufficient to protect tribal peoples residing in the Columbia River Basin or other Oregonians that consume healthy amounts of fish. I urge the DEQ to adopt the new 175 gram per day fish consumption standard.

Sincerely,

Jaqueline Anderson

Name

52433 S West Lake Road

Address

Beavercreek, OR 97004

Address

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Affiliation

Signature