

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

My name is **Marcus L. Luke II** and enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation here in Pendleton, Oregon.

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. All types of Salmon and many other fish are not just a major food source for tribal members; they are also our blood line and integral part of our cultural, economic, and spiritual well-being and practices.

As a ceremonial and subsistence fisherman on the Columbia River and Umatilla River just like my forefathers before me & teaching my son today, we rely on the protection and enhancement of water quality that is sufficient to protect our waters and fish from harmful exposure to waterborne pollutants.

Oregon's current estimated fish consumption rate, and that previously proposed, is 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 generations to come and all Oregonians to enjoy the benefits of living in a land whose waters are protected from all toxic pollutants. Thank you.

**Marcus Luke II**

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Affiliation

Signature

