

Responses to questions from Committee Members:

Questions from Chair Katie Porter for Mr. David Troutt, Natural Resources Director,

Nisqually Indian Tribe.

1. How has the loss of coho populations affected the economic health of the Nisqually Indian Tribe?

The collapse of our Nisqually coho populations has created tremendous hardships within our community. All of our households are connected to salmon and salmon fishing, so the impact is tribal wide. The reduction in our catches from 20,000 or more in the 1980's to only 2,000 to 4,000 recently has greatly reduced the income to all of our families with limited ability to make up for that loss. The loss of income annually amounts to more than \$300,000 to the community. More importantly it has also resulted in less time on the River in an effort to protect these fish which has long lasting economic and social impacts on our community.

2. How has the loss of coho population affected the physical health of the members of the Nisqually Indian Tribe of the loss of 99% of coho?

Salmon are a critical part of the diet of Nisqually tribal members and have been for thousands of years. Tribal members metabolism and ability to process certain food types has evolved over generations with salmon and the protein and the significant content of healthy fats of salmon is the basis of their diets. Replacing this source of protein with other sources has had negative consequences. The rates of diabetes, high blood pressure, and significant allergies are all directly related to the diminished availability of salmon and other traditional food sources in their diet. The Nisqually people are suffering physically, emotionally, and spiritually with the reduction of our salmon populations.