

Joseph Pavel, Vice Chairman of the Skokomish Tribal Council who also holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fisheries from the University of Washington came home to work for his own people as the Director of the Department of Natural Resources in 2008. His passion for protecting the Tribe's most precious resources fisheries and the environment is demonstrated through his chosen profession and board memberships. His previous job at the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission was also linked to the Skokomish Tribe and caring for the Skokomish Watershed. He continues to seek ways to address the many issues facing the Tribe through his work plus his active participation on the Tribe's Council, Committees, and Boards.

Joseph has served on Council in various offices for most of his life. He served the annual term of General Council President at least 4 years. He has been on Tribal Council serving various offices since the 70's as a member, Vice Chairman, and Chairman. He held both offices of Tribal Council and General Council Presidency concurrently in 1990. Since 2009 until present he serves the Skokomish Tribal Membership as the Vice Chairman of the Skokomish Tribal Council.

He has been upfront for many years in the fight to save the Skokomish River. Prior to 1987 Joseph was appointed to the "Skokomish Rights Protection Committee" established to negotiate a settlement with the City of Tacoma, et al which after years in court finally occurred in 2009 for damage to the Skokomish Tribe resulting from the Lake Cushman Hydroelectric Project. He also served as delegate to multiple other committees and boards as well which include Head Start Parent Policy Council; Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Pacific Region; Point No Point Treaty Council Board; Southern Puget Intertribal Planning Agency Board of Commission; and the National Indian Gaming Association, just to name a few.

Vice Chairman Pavel now resides at the home where he grew up on the Skokomish Reservation. He enjoys spending time with his family, participating in cultural activities, and attending his children's many ball games and school activities.