

SALMON



Fishing represents a way of life among our Tribal members. Our community depends on salmon for sustenance, income, and cultural identity.

Because of differences in life history and habitat among the different stocks and species of salmon, steelhead, and trout, the same climate events seem to affect different stocks and species in varying ways. Some common impacts are listed below.

What climate change impacts do we expect?



Lower summer streamflows impeding migration.

Low streamflows make it hard for adult salmon to swim upstream to spawn.

They also make it hard for juvenile salmon to travel downstream to the ocean.



Warmer stream temperatures affecting physiology.

Increased stream temperatures can affect salmon by:

- Decreasing growth rates and depleting energy reserves.
- Changing migration timing.
- Making them more susceptible to disease and predation.
- Increasing mortality.



Heavier winter rainstorms affecting viability of salmon eggs.

High-flow events can scour and damage deposits of salmon eggs.

These events can also lead to more sedimentation, which can suffocate salmon eggs or reduce the amount of gravel substrate available for spawning.

What are we doing about it?

The Tribe has already been collecting data and doing studies to better understand the health of salmon coming in and out of Hood Canal. This will be even more important as climate change puts additional stress on salmon. The Tribe also engages in a range of salmon recovery efforts, including participating in the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery process. These recovery efforts will help build resilience to climate change impacts. In the coming year, we will be building on the climate impact assessment and discussing additional climate adaptation measures that might be needed to help protect salmon in the coming decades.

Want more info?

Contact Sam Phillips in the Natural Resources Department at sphillips@pgst.nsn.us or 360-297-6289.



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PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBE