

From: [Robin Paster](#)
To: [ECY RE Fish Consumption](#)
Subject: needed: greater accuracy in fish consumption rate numbers
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2011 9:45:21 AM

Dear Director Sturdevant and staff,

Washington water quality standards are being established on an outdated and inaccurately low fish consumption rate.

Washingtonians, especially in the Puget Sound region, consume quantities of fish and other seafood that are higher than when the official consumption rate was established. Yet this rate is still being used to determine our clean water standards.

Since that rate was established, our residents have not only learned, but been bombarded with, information regarding the nutritional and health value of consuming fish. And based on that information, as well as our easy access to fish and other seafood, we have significantly increased our fish consumption.

Residents are currently consuming large quantities of fish (most people eating fish multiple times per week, if not daily) believing it is healthy. However, unless our water quality standards are increased to reflect our consumption, the benefits of the fish will be more than offset by the chemical toxins ingested with it.

Unfortunately, among the people most affected by the current standards are Native Americans who eat lots of fish, in part, as part of a traditional diet, and the poor who eat local fish because they can catch and eat it for free.

I urge you to increase our state's fish consumption rates to reflect our true and greater rate of fish consumption.

Thank you.

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