

I am concerned that the focus seems to be on the fisheries (a partial, temporary solution?), rather than increasing salmon stocks overall by habitat restorations, which would ideally benefit all the predators; killer whales, pinnipeds, and humans. As well as land mammals and birds, salmon nutrients nourishing spawning grounds and species, plants and trees. Salmon are a keystone species, we must consider the entire interconnected ecosystem.

"1064 Stocks such as NOC (and also many Columbia River Chinook stocks), which have far-north-migrating ocean distributions, are probably not available to SRKW during winter months." We cannot make assumptions that they are not dependent on specific salmon stocks. The SRKW community winter habitat and preferred prey needs to be researched. Sightings of the SRKW in Monterey Bay and off the California coastline began in 1999, is my understanding. Were/are they dependent on the Columbia River salmon stocks?

"883 There is no question that contemporary abundance of Chinook salmon in the Pacific Northwest is small compared to historic abundance, with greatest reductions in abundance for spring-run Chinook from the Columbia River system." I believe the 4 lower Snake River dams should be removed.

The recovery plan for the Southern Resident Killer Whale community should consider a holistic approach. Which I thought the Endangered Species listing protection is supposed to do? The habitat, prey, toxins, and human impacts are all related, and all must be addressed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Caroline Armon

Certified Marine Naturalist of the Salish Sea, Mexico, and Hawaii "A bridge between science, government, and the public"

USCG Licensed 100-Ton Master

Licensed Tour Guide

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