

Following is the NWRP response submitted to the LA Times, The Oregonian and The Olympian. Each newspaper ran an article submitted by Save our Wild Salmon (SOWS) and a group of 200 chefs from 31 states who want Congress to support the preservation of wild salmon for their dinner menus. They point to the Northwest's federal dams as the reason for declining wild salmon runs; and, expressed support for the McDermott bill proposal of further study to remove the Lower Snake River dams. This effort is part of SOWS's ongoing dam removal campaign.

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May 9, 2007

Letter to the Editor:

In the ultimate irony, the "Vote with your fork" campaign (where chefs are lobbying for dam removal) seeks to save wild salmon by promoting eating more of them.

Consider for a moment that wild salmon is the only endangered species that is harvested, some at levels above 50 percent of returning adult fish. Yet, those that support and profit from that harvest point an accusatory finger at the federal hydro system, which is a vital source of renewable energy for the Northwest and California.

There are many factors involved in fish survival, not just dams. Ocean conditions matter most, as well as harvest, hatcheries, habitat and hydro. At least Northwest electricity consumers are doing their part to address their piece of the problems faced by salmon in their lifecycle. They contribute more than \$800 million each year to help salmon and steelhead, the largest effort to help an endangered species anywhere in the world.

In the Northwest, we're working to ensure that salmon and renewable hydropower can coexist. It's about time others faced up to their responsibility.

Terry Flores  
Northwest RiverPartners