

NEWS

BUSINESS

SPORTS

WEATHER

CONSUMERS

ARTSCANADA

KIDS

FORUMS

CBC ARCHIVES

ON-AIR GUIDE

CONTACT US

SHOPS &amp; SERVICES

CBC CORPORATE  
RADIO-CANADA

## Summit explores ecosystem approach to salmon

*Last Updated Wed, 11 Jun 2003 14:51:05*

ST. JOHN'S - Researchers from around the world are meeting in Vancouver this week to discuss how to help wild salmon populations recover to their historic levels.

Commercial harvesting, aquaculture, pollution and global climate change pose ongoing threats to wild salmon populations.

The status of the fish varies greatly throughout their range. A commercial moratorium has been in place for 11 years off Newfoundland, but Atlantic salmon numbers are as low as ever.



*Pacific sockeye salmon*

Off the west coast, Canadian and northern stocks of wild Pacific salmon are in better shape than most people recognize, according to Dr. Brian Riddell, scientific adviser to the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council.

"In the southern U.S., where there's been major impacts of power development for example, over 50 per cent of the populations we can identify are now either extinct or listed at very high risk," said Riddell.

"In southern, southeast Alaska at least, it drops to under one per cent." He said a first principle of conservation should to err on the side of caution.

Reg Watson, a senior fisheries research fellow at the University of British Columbia, said much like families can live in denial of a loved one's illness, those who live on the world's coasts may ignore the effects of heavy fishing. Symptoms include lower catch rates and having to fish offshore in deeper water.

For Watson, salmon are a good example of how managers can no longer manage a fish species in isolation but need to consider all threats, from

### CHOOSE YOUR MEDIA

AUDIO: Monica Kidd reports for CBC Radio (Runs 1:19)

[Download Player](#)

### EXTERNAL LINKS

- [The World Summit on Simon Fraser Universi](#)

*(Note: CBC does not endorse responsible for the content of - links will open in new window)*

### YOUR TURN

WRITE TO US:  
Send your comments to [letter](#)

JOIN THE DISCUSSION:  
[Share your thoughts](#) on this a news stories!

[Email This Story](#)

[Printable Version](#)

logging to global climate change.

Riddell plans to remind those at the World Summit on Salmon that Pacific salmon not only take from the ecosystem, they also give back nutrients when they find their way back to rivers to spawn.

Canada's First Nations people also value wild salmon in non-economic ways.

"They are still a major part of our diet," said Arnie Narcisse, chair of the B.C. Aboriginal Fisheries Commission. "We sort of rely upon salmon we're able to put away in our freezers and jars, and even when we dry them."

Written by CBC News Online [staff](#)

#### Headlines: Sci-tech

- [World's scientists combine efforts to map cattle genome](#) 🔊
- [Mosquitoes, climate tracked for West Nile warnings](#)
- [Toronto team builds bridge for faster bone healing](#)
- [Brain scan activity linked to shyness in children](#)
- [Genetically matched baby sparks ethical debate](#) 🔊
- [Russia plans space missions for tourists only](#)
- [Male chromosome shows surprises](#)
- [Robotics helps reveal mechanics of speech](#) 🔊
- [Scientists grow decaffeinated coffee plants](#)
- [Colour vision made pheromones redundant for humans: study](#)

[Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Other Policies](#)  
Copyright © CBC 2003