

11-24-1982

## Response of the State of Washington

Charles B. Roe Jr.

*Assistant Attorney General for the State of Washington*

Kenneth O. Eikenberry

*Attorney General for the State of Washington*

Robert E. Mack

*Assistant Attorney General for the State of Washington*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.uidaho.edu/walton>

---

### Recommended Citation

Roe, Charles B. Jr.; Eikenberry, Kenneth O.; and Mack, Robert E., "Response of the State of Washington" (1982). *Confederate Colville Tribes v. Walton (Colville Tribes)*. 68.

<https://digitalcommons.law.uidaho.edu/walton/68>

This Brief is brought to you for free and open access by the Hedden-Nicely at Digital Commons @ UIdaho Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Confederate Colville Tribes v. Walton (Colville Tribes) by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ UIdaho Law. For more information, please contact [annablaine@uidaho.edu](mailto:annablaine@uidaho.edu).

DEC 1 1982

J. R. FALLOUST, Clerk  
CLERK'S STAMP Deputy

ACCEPTANCE OF SERVICE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

COLVILLE CONFEDERATED TRIBES, )

Plaintiffs, )

v. )

BOYD WALTON, JR, et ux., et )  
al., )

Defendants. )

STATE OF WASHINGTON, )

Defendant-Intervenor. )

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )

Plaintiff, )

v. )

WILLIAM BOYD WALTON, et ux., )  
et al., and THE STATE OF )  
WASHINGTON, )

Defendants. )

Civil No. 3421 ✓

RESPONSE OF THE  
STATE OF WASHINGTON

Civil No. 3831

On October 26, 1982, the United States, plaintiff in Civil No. 3831, filed a "Response of the United States to the Defendants' and States' Final Arguments." On November 15, 1982, the defendants Walton moved to strike that United States filing.

KENNETH O. EIKENBERRY, ATTORNEY GENERAL

Charles B. Roe, Jr.  
Sr. Assistant Attorney General

Temple of Justice

Olympia, Wa. (206) 459-6162  
98504 Telephone

526

1           The State of Washington, defendant in Civil No. 3831,  
2 takes no position with regard to defendants Walton motion.  
3 However, if that motion is not granted, the State of Washing-  
4 ton desires an opportunity, within a reasonable time, to submit  
5 a response to the United States' "Response" of October 26,  
6 1982. (In regard thereto, the United States has advised the  
7 undersigned that it has no objection to such a filing.)

8           The points (among others) that would be made by the State  
9 of Washington in such a filing, stated succinctly, are these:

10           1. The United States' contention that the reserved water  
11 right for fish spawning has a priority date of "time immemorial"  
12 is erroneous. The United States created, unilaterally, all  
13 reserved rights relating to the Colville Reservation by an  
14 order executed of President Grant. There was no treaty involved.  
15 Thus there was no reserving by an Indian tribe. (Indeed,  
16 there was no tribe as such, for the Indians destined for resi-  
17 dency on the Colville reserve were made up members of various  
18 tribes residing throughout the Pacific Northwest.) United  
19 States v. Adair, 478 F. Supp. 336 (D. Ore. 1979), relied upon  
20 by the United States and now on appeal to the Ninth Circuit  
21 Court of Appeals, is an aberration (involving a treaty estab-  
22 lished reservation) which we submit was erroneously decided.  
23 Indeed, this Court, very recently, did not follow the "time  
24 immemorial" priority of Adair but, rather, concluded that the  
25 date of creation of the reservation by the United States was  
26 the priority date for a fish use water right pertaining to the

1 Spokane Indian Reservation. United States v. Anderson, decided  
2 August 23, 1982. See also the landmark case of Cappaert v.  
3 United States, 426 U.S. 128, 138 (1976) which, citing Winters v.  
4 United States, 207 U.S. 564 (1908), clears the air on this  
5 point by setting forth that federal reserved water rights,  
6 Indian or non-Indian, are created by the United States. Priority  
7 dates are, thus, the date of creation. See also the Ninth  
8 Circuit Court of Appeals' United States v. State of Washington,  
9 infra.

10 2. The assertion by the United States that collective  
11 tribal ownership of fishing rights "mandates" a similar tribal  
12 ownership of all water rights necessary to effectuate the fishing  
13 rights is suspect. United States v. Washington, 506 F. Supp.  
14 187 (W.D. Wash. 1980) relied upon by the United States was  
15 reversed (on the point relied upon by the United States) by  
16 the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit two weeks ago -  
17 November 3, 1982. A copy of the appellate court opinion is  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26


1 attached for the convenience of the Court. See page 16 et seq.,  
2 especially page 17.  
3

4 Dated this 24 day of November, 1982.  
5

6 Respectfully Submitted,

7 KENNETH O. EIKENBERRY  
8 Attorney General

9   
10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 CHARLES B. ROE, JR.  
12 Senior Assistant Attorney General

13   
14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 ROBERT E. MACK  
16 Assistant Attorney General  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS NOV 3 1982

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

PHILLIP B. WINBERRY  
CLERK, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.,	)	No. 81-3111
Plaintiffs-Appellees,	)	DC# CV9213-Phase II
vs.	)	<u>OPINION</u>
STATE OF WASHINGTON, et al.,	)	
Defendants-Appellants.	)	

Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the Western District of Washington  
William H. Orrick, District Judge, Presiding  
Argued and Submitted February 5, 1982

Before: SNEED, ANDERSON, and REINHARDT, Circuit Judges

SNEED, Circuit Judge:

I.

OVERVIEW

In this case the State of Washington ("the State")  
appeals the grant of summary judgment in the second phase of  
this protracted litigation over Indian treaty fishing rights  
in the Pacific Northwest. The district court characterized  
its opinion as "but the most recent link in a long chain of  
opinions construing the following 27 words:

'The right of taking fish, at all  
usual and accustomed grounds and  
stations, is further secured to said  
Indians, in common with all citizens  
of the Territory . . . .'

United States v. Washington, 506 F. Supp. 187, 189 (W.D.  
Wash. 1980). The district court held that hatchery fish are  
included in the fish to be apportioned by the treaty. The  
court further held that the right of taking fish

1 incorporates the right to have treaty fish protected from  
2 environmental degradation. Thus, the treaties impose upon  
3 the State of Washington a duty to refrain from degrading or  
4 authorizing the degradation of the fish habitat to an extent  
5 that would deprive the treaty Indians ("the Tribes") of  
6 their moderate living needs.

7 On review of a grant or denial of summary judgment,  
8 the standard we apply is whether, viewing the evidence in  
9 the light most favorable to the party against whom summary  
10 judgment is granted, the district court correctly found that  
11 there was no genuine issue of material fact and that the  
12 moving party was entitled to judgment as a matter of law.  
13 Vuitton Et Fils S.A. v. J. Young Enterprises, Inc., 644 F.2d  
14 769, 775 & n.2 (9th Cir. 1981); SEC v. Murphy, 626 F.2d 633,  
15 640 (9th Cir. 1980). Our review is identical to that of the  
16 district court. State ex rel. Edwards v. Heimann, 633 F.2d  
17 886, 888 n.1 (9th Cir. 1980).

18 We find that hatchery fish are included in the fish  
19 that Indians have the right to take "in common with"  
20 non-Indian fishermen in Washington. The treaties do not,  
21 however, guarantee an adequate supply of fish to meet the  
22 Tribes' moderate living needs. Nor do they create an  
23 absolute right to relief from all State or State-authorized  
24 environmental degradation of the fish habitat that  
25 interferes with a tribe's moderate living needs. Rather, we  
26 find that when considering projects that may have a  
27 significant environmental impact, both the State and the  
28 Tribes must take reasonable steps commensurate with the  
29 respective resources and abilities of each to preserve and  
30 enhance the fishery.<sup>1/</sup> Both share in the beneficial use  
31 of a fragile resource. Each to the other owes this  
32 obligation.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32

II.

BACKGROUND

This suit was commenced in 1970 by the United States on its own behalf and as trustee of seven Indian tribes. It was bifurcated for trial into separate parts or "phases." United States v. Washington, 384 F. Supp. 312, 327-28 (W.D. Wash. 1974) (Boldt, J.) ("Final Decision I"), aff'd, 520 F.2d 676 (9th Cir. 1975), cert. denied, 423 U.S. 1086 (1976); United States v. Washington, 459 F. Supp. 1020 (W.D. Wash. 1974-1978) ("Post-Trial Decisions"), various appeals dismissed, 573 F.2d 1117 (9th Cir. 1978), 573 F.2d 1118 (9th Cir. 1978), 573 F.2d 1121 (9th Cir. 1978), decisions at 459 F. Supp. 1020, 1097-1118 (W.D. Wash. 1977-1978), aff'd sub nom. Puget Sound Gillnetters Association v. United States District Court, 573 F.2d 1123 (9th Cir. 1978), aff'd in part, vacated in part, and remanded sub nom. Washington v. Washington State Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel Association, 443 U.S. 658 (1979) ("Fishing Vessel"). Phase I addressed whether the fishing clause appearing in six treaties<sup>2/</sup> negotiated by Governor Isaac Stevens between the United States and several Pacific Northwest Indian tribes in 1854 and 1855 ("the treaty" or "the treaties") entitles the Indians to a specific allocation of the salmon and steelhead trout in the treaty area. The geographical region affected by the treaties comprises the State of Washington west of the Cascade Mountains and north of the Columbia River drainage area, including the American portion of the Puget Sound watershed, the watersheds of the Olympic Peninsula north of the Grays Harbor watershed, and the offshore waters adjacent to those areas ("the case area"). 506 F. Supp. at 190 n.6. The Supreme Court concluded that "[b]oth sides have a right,



1 secured by treaty, to take a fair share of the available  
2 fish. . . [and] an equitable measure of the common right  
3 should initially divide the harvestable portion of each run  
4 that passes through a 'usual and accustomed' place into  
5 approximately equal treaty and non-treaty shares, and should  
6 then reduce the treaty share if tribal needs may be  
7 satisfied by a lesser amount." Fishing Vessel, 443 U.S. at  
8 684-85.

9 The plaintiffs-appellees formally initiated Phase  
10 II in 1976 by filing amended and supplemental complaints.  
11 Phase II addresses whether artificially-propagated hatchery  
12 fish are included in the allocable fish population, and  
13 whether the right of taking fish incorporates the right to  
14 have the treaty fish protected from environmental  
15 degradation.<sup>3/</sup> After extensive discovery and pretrial  
16 preparation, the plaintiffs-appellees moved for partial  
17 summary judgment on the issue of the environmental  
18 right.<sup>4/</sup> The parties filed cross-motions for summary  
19 judgment on the hatchery issue. The district court, as  
20 already noted, held that the hatchery fish were includible  
21 and that treaty fish were protected from environmental  
22 degradation.

23 III.

24 DISCUSSION

25 A. The Hatchery Issue

26 1. The district court's holding.

27 At the summary judgment hearing in the court below,  
28 the State argued that the "first generation" of  
29 hatchery-produced fish should be excluded from the  
30 allocation. It conceded that subsequent generations, which  
31 spend their entire life cycle in the natural environment,  
32 are part of the allocable population. The district court

1 rejected the State's position. It held that all hatchery  
2 fish must be included in the computation of shares "in order  
3 to effectuate the parties' intent and the purposes of the  
4 fishing clause." 506 F. Supp. at 197. The court mustered  
5 support for that result from (1) its interpretation of  
6 Fishing Vessel; (2) its inability to discern any recognized  
7 limitations on the Indian right to take fish on the basis of  
8 fish species or origin; (3) the role that non-Indian  
9 commercial fishing and non-Indian degradation of fish  
10 habitat played in causing the natural fishery's decline; (4)  
11 the fact that the State hatchery program was established to  
12 replace natural fish that were "artificially" lost; and (5)  
13 the practical effect of excluding what constitutes an  
14 ever-increasing proportion of the case fish population from  
15 the treaty allocation area.<sup>5/</sup> Id. at 197-99. Thus, the  
16 district court held that hatchery fish are "fish" under the  
17 treaty regardless of whether they originate in State,  
18 Indian, or federal hatcheries, or from cooperative  
19 ventures. 506 F. Supp. at 202.

20 The district court, in interpreting the Supreme  
21 Court's resolution of the Phase I allocation question in  
22 Fishing Vessel, considered the hatchery fish issue as  
23 virtually decided by that case as well. To quote the  
24 district court, "[t]he Supreme Court's recent reaffirmation  
25 of the longstanding view that the treaties were designed to  
26 guarantee the tribes an adequate supply of fish goes far  
27 toward resolving the hatchery issue." 506 F. Supp. at 197.  
28 While we reach the same conclusion as the district court on  
29 the hatchery fish issue, we differ with its interpretation  
30 of Fishing Vessel. Because that difference is fundamental  
31 to understanding our position in this case, we set it forth  
32 here.

1                    In Fishing Vessel, the Supreme Court held that the  
2 fishing clause gives the Indians more than equal access to  
3 the fishing grounds. Under the unforeseen circumstances of  
4 relative scarcity, the treaty right entitles the Indians to  
5 an allocation of up to fifty percent of the harvestable fish  
6 runs that pass through their usual and accustomed fishing  
7 places, subject to reduction if the Indians' moderate living  
8 needs can be satisfied with less. Fishing Vessel, 443 U.S.  
9 at 686-87. The Court did not say that the treaty right  
10 guarantees the Indians that there will always be an  
11 "adequate supply of fish." Compare 443 U.S. at 686 & n.27  
12 with 506 F. Supp. at 197. Nor did Fishing Vessel say that  
13 the treaty guarantees them a means by which their moderate  
14 living needs can be met by fishing in perpetuity.

15                    Although the district court qualifies its  
16 "guarantee" with an express limitation (the requirement of  
17 sharing the harvest "in common with" non-Indians) and some  
18 implicit ones,<sup>6/</sup> we believe that these qualifications do  
19 not undo the faulty presumption inherent in the district  
20 court's "guarantee" of an adequate supply of fish -- i.e.,  
21 that Fishing Vessel created a floor on Indian fishing rights  
22 as well as a ceiling. Cf. 443 U.S. at 686 & n.27. As we  
23 read the Supreme Court's opinion, Fishing Vessel mandates an  
24 allocation of fifty percent to the Indians, subject to a  
25 revision downward if moderate living needs can be met with  
26 less.<sup>7/</sup>

27                    2. The State's arguments on appeal.

28                    On appeal the State argues that the district court  
29 erred in relying on Fishing Vessel to find that hatchery  
30 fish are subject to treaty allocation; that inclusion of  
31 hatchery fish in the treaty allocation depends on the  
32 resolution of questions of material fact, making summary

1 judgment inappropriate; and that the State is entitled to an  
2 equitable consideration for its hatchery contribution to the  
3 case area fishery.<sup>8/</sup> For reasons different than the  
4 district court's, we find these arguments inadequate to  
5 justify granting the State the relief it seeks.

6 a. Fishing Vessel

7 The State argues that the Supreme Court's opinion  
8 in Fishing Vessel neither requires nor suggests that  
9 hatchery fish be included in the treaty allocation. We  
10 agree that Fishing Vessel clearly does not require the  
11 inclusion of hatchery fish by virtue of its ruling on the  
12 allocation question. Moreover, the Court specifically  
13 disclaimed any intention of deciding the hatchery issue.  
14 443 U.S. at 688 n.30. Interpreting the treaty in favor of  
15 the Indians according to established principles, the Court  
16 held that because the Indians gave up something of great  
17 value--their land--they must therefore be presumed to have  
18 obtained rights of significant value in return.<sup>9/</sup> But  
19 because the Indians obtained something of value, it does not  
20 follow that they got everything of value pertaining to  
21 "taking fish, at all usual and accustomed grounds. . . ."  
22 Whether the intent of the parties requires including  
23 hatchery-bred fish in the allocation of fish to the Indians  
24 remained an open question after Fishing Vessel.

25 b. Existence of questions of material fact

26 Production of hatchery-bred fish occurs in a number  
27 of different hatchery programs, most but not all of which  
28 are run by the State. Because each program may involve a  
29 different purpose, stream, hatchery technique, source of  
30 funding, species of fish, or effect on the natural fishery,  
31 the State argues that material issues of fact remain to be  
32 determined before a grant of summary judgment can be

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32

appropriate.<sup>10/</sup>

The State cites the concurring opinion of Justice White in Department of Game v. Puyallup Tribe, 414 U.S. 44 (1973) ("Puyallup II"), for the proposition that Indian treaty rights extend only to the natural fish run that the river would have, left to its own devices.<sup>11/</sup> At a minimum, the State argues, the source of funding for the hatchery program and the size of the natural run as compared with the hatchery run must be determined before hatchery fish can be included with natural fish in the treaty allocation.

On review of this grant of a motion for partial summary judgment, all facts and reasonable inferences to be drawn from the facts must be viewed in the light most favorable to the State, and all reasonable doubts touching the existence of genuine issues of material fact must be resolved against the Tribes and the United States. See Santos v. Scindia Steam Navigation Co., 598 F.2d 480, 483 (9th Cir. 1979), aff'd and remanded, 451 U.S. 156 (1981); Dalke v. Upjohn Co., 555 F.2d 245, 248 (9th Cir. 1977). However, if the district court was correct as a matter of law in finding that all hatchery-bred fish released into waters that pass through the Indians' "usual and accustomed" fishing places are subject to the treaty allocation, the factual questions raised by the State are immaterial. For reasons discussed below, we believe the district court was correct and hold that hatchery fish are "fish" for the purposes of the treaty.

c. Equitable consideration for hatchery-bred fish

For the allocation decision in Phase I it was possible to rely on the express language of the treaties, as well as the parties' intentions and surrounding

1 circumstances, in construing the treaties' fishing  
2 clause.<sup>12/</sup> By contrast, no express terms in the fishing  
3 clause pertain to the hatchery issue. 506 F. Supp. at  
4 194-95. Under these circumstances, the district court  
5 correctly assigned special importance to canons for  
6 interpretation of Indian treaties. These canons call for  
7 promoting the treaties' central purposes, construing  
8 treaties in the sense in which they would naturally be  
9 understood by the Indians rather than according to the  
10 technicalities of learned lawyers, resolving ambiguities to  
11 benefit the Indians, and, in short, broadly interpreting the  
12 treaties in the Indians' favor. 506 F. Supp. at 195  
13 (quoting Fishing Vessel, 443 U.S. at 676). See Jones v.  
14 Meehan, 175 U.S. 1, 11 (1899); Tulee v. Washington, 315 U.S.  
15 681, 684-85 (1942); Seufert Bros. Co. v. United States, 249  
16 U.S. 194, 198 (1919); United States v. Winans, 198 U.S. 371,  
17 380-81 (1905). The district court then interpreted Fishing  
18 Vessel to create a right to an adequate supply of fish. See  
19 supra pp. 4-5. It further found that the increasing  
20 predominance of hatchery fish would inescapably jeopardize  
21 this right if hatchery fish were excluded from the  
22 allocation. Thus, it reasoned, hatchery fish must be  
23 included.

24 Despite our disagreement with the district court's  
25 interpretation of Fishing Vessel, we concur in its  
26 observations concerning the increasing proportion of  
27 hatchery fish in the total fish population in the case area  
28 and the mitigation function of the State hatchery program.  
29 Rather than rely on Fishing Vessel, which expressly notes  
30 that it does not reach the hatchery issue, see 443 U.S. at  
31 688 n.30, we ground our holding that hatchery fish must be  
32 included in the treaty allocation on three independent

1 factors. These are the lack of any basis for State  
2 ownership of the fish once released, the competition between  
3 hatchery and natural fish for the same resources in a given  
4 stream, and the mitigation function of the hatcheries.

5 (1) Lack of state ownership

6 The Supreme Court has rejected the notion that a  
7 state owns fish swimming within its waters. Douglas v.  
8 Seacoast Products, Inc., 431 U.S. 265, 284 (1977). The  
9 State does not seriously contest the issue of ownership, but  
10 argues that nevertheless it has greater regulatory authority  
11 over hatchery fish than over natural fish, by analogy to the  
12 developed waters doctrine.<sup>13/</sup> We find that the State has  
13 demonstrated no legal basis for distinguishing between  
14 natural fish and hatchery fish released into public waters  
15 which pass through the usual and accustomed fishing places  
16 of the Tribes. When the State voluntarily relinquishes  
17 control over such fish by releasing them into the public  
18 waters, they may not be excluded from the treaty allocation.

19 (2) Practicalities of the fishery

20 This result gains strength when practicalities are  
21 considered. Hatchery fish compete with natural fish for  
22 food, space, and other necessities of aquatic existence.  
23 Adding hatchery fish to the natural runs may affect the  
24 harvest and escapement levels of natural fish and contribute  
25 to the decline of the natural fishery. In addition, we note  
26 that separating the hatchery contribution from the natural  
27 contribution to given fish runs is at present problematic.  
28 Hatchery and natural fish generally resemble each other,  
29 although sophisticated techniques are being developed to  
30 attempt to differentiate between them. 506 F. Supp. at  
31 197. Thus, the division of the harvest between hatchery and  
32 natural fish is an endeavor of dubious feasibility,

1 complicated by the need to take into account the adverse  
2 effect of hatchery fish on natural fish.

3 (3) Mitigation function of the hatcheries

4 We also find it persuasive, although not  
5 dispositive, that the hatchery fish programs have largely  
6 served a mitigating function since their beginning in 1885.  
7 506 F. Supp. at 198. Natural fish have become relatively  
8 scarce at least in part because of the commercialization of  
9 the fishing industry and the degradation of the fishing  
10 habitat caused primarily by non-Indian activity in the case  
11 area. The record establishes that the State has developed  
12 its artificial propagation program in order to replace these  
13 fish. Id. Under these circumstances it is just to consider  
14 such replacements as subject to treaty allocation. To share  
15 a resource in common means that any one party's contribution  
16 to the resource benefits all who share the resource.

17 Both the Tribes and the United States, as the  
18 district court found, contribute to the production of  
19 hatchery-bred fish. Nevertheless, the State contributes by  
20 far the largest share. The State disclosed at oral argument  
21 that it produces 86% of the Coho, 65% of the chinook, 82% of  
22 the steelhead, and 65% of the chum from case area  
23 hatcheries. These figures strongly support the proposition  
24 that the State has a vital interest in preserving and  
25 enhancing the anadromous fisheries of the case area, and  
26 that it will act on that interest. After Fishing Vessel and  
27 our holding today, the interests of those non-Indian  
28 fishermen and the Indians, whose previous divergence has  
29 given this sometimes bitter dispute its force, are  
30 inextricably linked. Each additional fish the hatcheries  
31 produce benefits all fishermen, Indians and non-Indians  
32 alike. Thus, unless the State is to abandon the very



1 powerful non-Indian constituency, the prospect of drastic  
2 State-caused decline in the anadromous fishing runs of the  
3 case area is unlikely.

4 In sum, we affirm the holding of the district court  
5 on the hatchery fish issue.

6 B. The Environmental Right

7 To the district court, Fishing Vessel's holding  
8 that the Indians possess a right to a share of the fish "all  
9 but resolved" the environmental issue in favor of the  
10 Indians. 506 F. Supp. at 203. Essentially, the district  
11 court found that the Indians' right to an adequate supply of  
12 fish required that the treaty be construed to incorporate an  
13 absolute environmental protection for the fish. Id. at  
14 208. Otherwise, the State could destroy the fishery, id. at  
15 204, and deprive the tribes of their moderate living needs,  
16 id. at 208.

17 Since we find that the Supreme Court in Fishing  
18 Vessel did not consider whether the treaty guarantees the  
19 Indians an adequate supply of fish, we necessarily reject  
20 the underpinnings of the district court's decision.  
21 Moreover, we find no absolute right to any particular level  
22 of fish supply established by the treaty. To stop there,  
23 however, would be to unduly minimize the treaty obligations  
24 and ignore the natural dependence on one another of all who  
25 share the fishery and the necessity for all to work together  
26 to preserve and enhance its productive capacity. More is  
27 required to resolve adequately the issue of the  
28 environmental right. In the discussion that follows, we  
29 analyze the district court's proposed environmental right in  
30 terms of our four main objections to it: the absence of a  
31 basis in precedent, the lack of theoretical or practical  
32 necessity for the right, its unworkably complex standard of

1 liability, and its potential for disproportionately  
2 disrupting essential economic development. While our  
3 reasoning leads us to reverse the district court on the  
4 question of a comprehensive environmental servitude, we  
5 recognize that there exists the need to formalize the  
6 reciprocal obligations of the State and the Tribes toward  
7 the fishery resource which they now share. See 443 U.S. at  
8 684-85 (treaty grants rights to both parties); United States  
9 v. Washington, 520 F.2d 676, 685, 686 (9th Cir. 1975)  
10 (analogy to co-tenants). Our approach looks toward  
11 cooperative stewardship of the anadromous fish runs.<sup>14/</sup>  
12 We hold that in carrying out their affairs, the State and  
13 the Tribes must each take reasonable steps commensurate with  
14 their respective resources and abilities to preserve and  
15 enhance the fishery.<sup>15/</sup>

16 We recognize that our interpretation of the treaty  
17 places environmental restraints on activities in the case  
18 area. We prefer this option, however, to the establishment  
19 of a comprehensive environmental servitude with open-ended  
20 and unforeseeable consequences. The approach we have taken  
21 channels the inquiry into adverse effects on treaty fish  
22 runs in a way that is more reasonable and more equitable to  
23 all.

24 1. Absence of a basis in precedent.

25 a. Fishing Vessel

26 The district court stated that the Supreme Court  
27 has "essentially rejected the principal assumptions  
28 underlying the State's arguments" on the environmental  
29 issue. 506 F. Supp. at 202. This is not so. The Supreme  
30 Court in Fishing Vessel held that Indian treaty rights  
31 exceeded those envisioned by the equal opportunity theory.  
32 Beyond its holding that the Indians are entitled to a share

1 of the fish, the Court did not indicate in what manner or  
2 under what circumstances this share was entitled to  
3 protection. It certainly did not adopt a comprehensive  
4 environmental servitude.

5 Noting that the fishing clause is the cornerstone  
6 of the treaties and possesses overriding importance to the  
7 Tribes, see 506 F. Supp. at 203 (citing Fishing Vessel, 443  
8 U.S. at 644-67), the district court recognized that there  
9 must be fish to give value to the right to take fish. Id.  
10 While this truth cannot be denied, alone it does not  
11 establish that the Tribes possess an environmental right to  
12 have fish stocks maintained at current levels, previous  
13 historical levels, or economically satisfactory levels. Nor  
14 does it establish that the Supreme Court has so intimated.

15 Any right may be subject to contingencies which  
16 would render it valueless. Examples abound. The stock on  
17 which an option is granted may plummet in value, rendering  
18 exercise fruitless; a supplier's coal requirements contract  
19 may be frustrated when the contracting manufacturer goes out  
20 of business; an author's movie rights may prove worthless  
21 because the movie is never made; a lawyer may never collect  
22 a contingent fee because he loses the case. Each example  
23 demonstrates that an event depriving a right's exercise of  
24 its practical value does not impair the right itself, but  
25 merely eliminates the gain its holder hoped to realize.

26 Admittedly, these examples are not entirely  
27 comparable to Indian treaty rights, because in bargaining  
28 with the United States, the Indians operated at a  
29 presumptive disadvantage in negotiating skills and in  
30 knowledge of the language in which the treaty was recorded.  
31 443 U.S. at 675-76. However, the Supreme Court in Fishing  
32 Vessel considered all the relevant legal and historical

1 implications of the Indian's unique status, see 443 U.S. at  
2 675-81, and decided that the Indians had a right to fifty  
3 percent of the fish, subject to reduction if less would  
4 supply their moderate living needs. Fifty percent was a  
5 maximum, an upper limit. The Supreme Court did not state or  
6 hold that the treaty Indians were entitled to more than  
7 fifty percent of the fish if their reasonable living needs  
8 required more. Id. at 686-87.

9           The spectre the district court raises of tribal  
10 fishermen unprotected by the environmental right dipping  
11 their nets into the water and bringing them out empty, 506  
12 F. Supp. at 203, cannot alter the scope of Fishing Vessel.  
13 Only the extension of the servitude to ban even  
14 non-discriminatory development occurring both within and  
15 without treaty fishing areas could assure against any  
16 decline in the amount of fish taken. The treaty does not  
17 grant such assurance. In its absence, losses arising from  
18 reasonable development should be borne fifty/fifty by treaty  
19 and non-treaty fishermen. This is what the Supreme Court  
20 necessarily intended by holding that the Indians are  
21 entitled to a share of the available fish, 443 U.S. at  
22 685-87 & n.27, rather than to a fixed quantity of fish.

23           A pattern of development which concentrated the  
24 adverse effects of growth on treaty fish runs and spared  
25 non-treaty runs, of course, would violate the treaty right.  
26 No special environmental right based on moderate living  
27 needs or some historic catch level need be created to remedy  
28 such a violation, however. State regulation cannot  
29 discriminate against the Indian fishery. Puyallup II, 414  
30 U.S. at 48. This principle is broad enough to encompass  
31 discriminatory granting of permits for projects with  
32 potentially adverse environmental effects.

1                    b. Other fishing cases

2                    The district court cited three other cases in  
3 support of its environmental servitude. 506 F. Supp. at  
4 204. We read these cases as standing for more limited  
5 propositions; viz., that neither Indians nor non-Indians may  
6 fish in a way that destroys the fishery, Final Decision I,  
7 384 F. Supp. at 401, and that the Indians' right of access  
8 to accustomed fishing places may not be impaired,  
9 Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation v.  
10 Alexander, 440 F. Supp. 553, 555 (D. Or. 1977).<sup>16/</sup> In  
11 United States v. Washington, 520 F.2d 676, 685-86 (9th Cir.  
12 1975), which is to the same effect as Final Decision I, we  
13 said that neither party may permit the subject matter of the  
14 treaties (the fish) to be destroyed by overfishing.<sup>17/</sup>

15                    c. Reserved water rights<sup>18/</sup>

16                    The implied-reservation-of-water doctrine presents  
17 a more serious problem. This doctrine has been used to  
18 safeguard Indian water rights from its inception in Winters  
19 v. United States, 207 U.S. 564 (1908). It holds that upon  
20 the establishment of any federal reservation by withdrawal  
21 of land from the public domain for specific federal  
22 purposes, the United States "reserves appurtenant water then  
23 unappropriated to the extent needed to accomplish the  
24 purpose of the reservation." Cappaert v. United States, 426  
25 U.S. 128, 138 (1976). Where the purpose of establishing the  
26 reservation was to turn the Indians into an agrarian  
27 society, the amount of water impliedly reserved is that  
28 which will satisfy future as well as present needs, measured  
29 in terms of enough water to irrigate all the "practically  
30 irrigable acreage" on the reservation. Arizona v.  
31 California, 373 U.S. 546, 600 (1963).<sup>19/</sup> Otherwise the  
32 purpose of creating the reservations -- to enable tribes to

1 exchange their former nomadic existence for an agricultural  
2 one -- would be frustrated. Winters, 207 U.S. at 576. A  
3 reservation of water for the development and maintenance of  
4 replacement fishing grounds has been implied where  
5 preservation of tribal access to fishing grounds was one  
6 purpose for the creation of the reservation, and the  
7 historic fishing grounds have been destroyed by dams.  
8 Colville Confederated Tribes v. Walton, 647 F.2d 42, 48 (9th  
9 Cir.), cert. denied, 102 S. Ct. 657 (1981).

10 This doctrine grants Indians a priority right to  
11 necessary water that dates from the establishment of the  
12 reservation. In practice, such a right is almost always  
13 senior to any competing claims. See Note, Indian Claims to  
14 Groundwater: Reserved Rights or Beneficial Interest?, 33  
15 Stan. L. Rev. 103, 115 (1980); F. Cohen, Handbook of Federal  
16 Indian Law 578 (1982). Reserved water rights may be implied  
17 only "[w]here water is necessary to fulfill the very  
18 purposes for which a federal reservation was created," and  
19 not where it is merely valuable for a secondary purpose.  
20 United States v. New Mexico, 438 U.S. 696, 702 (1978).  
21 However, where reserved rights are properly implied, they  
22 arise without regard to equities that may favor competing  
23 water users. Cappaert, 426 U.S. at 138-39. Only the amount  
24 of water necessary to fulfill the purpose of the reservation  
25 is reserved, however. Id. at 141.

26 For several reasons, the implied-reservation-of-  
27 water doctrine is inapplicable to the treaty fishing right  
28 here. The Indian treaty right to use streams in the case  
29 area for fishing does not derive from a federal reservation  
30 of land from the public domain, but is an independent grant  
31 not dependent on the existence of a reservation.<sup>20/</sup> In  
32 addition, the cases generally apply to a quantity of water

1 rather than to its quality.<sup>21/</sup> A recent Supreme Court  
2 case, moreover, narrows the scope of the doctrine, whereas  
3 the district court employs it as an analogy in creating an  
4 entirely different doctrine applicable to facts unlike those  
5 that brought forth the implied-reservation-of-water  
6 doctrine.<sup>22/</sup> Finally, the doctrine is not necessary to  
7 the treaty's purpose of guaranteeing the Indians a fair  
8 share, as opposed to an adequate supply, of the fish. See  
9 supra p. 14.

10 2. Lack of necessity.

11 This brings us to the issue whether the  
12 environmental servitude is necessary. At oral argument the  
13 Tribes contended that the hatchery issue and the  
14 environmental right were linked by the Indians' claim to  
15 hatchery fish bred as replacements for wild fish depleted by  
16 the State. We agree that the two issues are closely  
17 related, but in a way different from that which the Tribes  
18 suggest. We find that our holding on the hatchery fish  
19 substantially eliminates any theoretical or practical need  
20 for an environmental right under the treaty as interpreted  
21 in Fishing Vessel.

22 The State argues that this case should not be  
23 decided on the assumption that the State will destroy the  
24 entire fishery resource unless prevented by an environmental  
25 right. State Reply Brief at 1-10. We agree. Several  
26 important federal and state statutes enacted since the  
27 commencement of this lawsuit put increasing restraints on  
28 the State's ability to disregard adverse environmental  
29 effects on anadromous fish. Federal Water Pollution Control  
30 Act Amendments of 1972, Pub. L. No. 92-500, § 2, 86 Stat.  
31 816 (codified at 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251-1376 (1976 & Supp. IV  
32 1980)); Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of

1 1972, Pub. L. No. 92-532, 86 Stat. 1052 (codified at 16  
2 U.S.C. §§ 1431-1434 (1976 & Supp. IV 1980)); Coastal Zone  
3 Management Act of 1972, Pub. L. No. 92-583, 86 Stat. 1280  
4 (codified at 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464 (1976)); Pacific  
5 Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act, Pub.  
6 L. No. 96-501, 94 Stat. 2697 (1980) (codified at 16 U.S.C.  
7 §§ 839-839h (Supp. IV 1980)); Shoreline Management Act, ch.  
8 286, 1971 Wash. Laws 1496 (1st Exec. Sess.); Act of Mar. 20,  
9 1973, ch. 155, § 4, 1973 Wash. Laws 457 (water pollution).  
10 See Blumm & Johnson, Promising a Process for Parity: The  
11 Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation  
12 Act and Anadromous Fish Protection, 11 *Envtl. L.* 497 (1981);  
13 Blumm, Hydropower v. Salmon: The Struggle of the Pacific  
14 Northwest's Anadromous Fish Resources for a Peaceful  
15 Coexistence with the Federal Columbia River Power System, 11  
16 *Envtl. L.* 211 (1981). See also Bodi, Protecting Columbia  
17 River Salmon Under the Endangered Species Act, 10 *Envtl. L.*  
18 349 (1980). Reckless or malicious disregard for the effects  
19 of State projects on the fishery, leading to drastic decline  
20 in the available fish, very likely would be barred under the  
21 "discriminatory regulation" standard of Puyallup I.<sup>23/</sup>  
22 More importantly, it is not in the State's interest to allow  
23 the fish to decline. To do so injures treaty Indians and  
24 all others alike. In light of our affirmance of the  
25 district court's holding that hatchery fish must be included  
26 in the treaty fish allocation, the State's interest in  
27 preserving the fish for treaty Indians and for other  
28 fishermen is identical. More than a sense of responsibility  
29 toward the Indian fishermen in the case area forces the  
30 State to protect the resource. The political clout of over  
31 6,600 non-Indian commercial fishermen and 280,000 sport  
32 fishermen, see 443 U.S. at 664, will require the State to



1 manage the fish responsibly. After Fishing Vessel and our  
2 holding today, the interests of those non-Indian fishermen  
3 and the Indians, whose previous divergence has given this  
4 sometimes bitter dispute its force, are inextricably  
5 linked. Each additional fish the hatcheries produce  
6 benefits all fishermen, Indians and non-Indians alike.  
7 Thus, unless the State is to abandon the very powerful  
8 non-Indian constituency, the prospect of drastic  
9 State-caused decline in the anadromous fishing runs of the  
10 case area is chimerical.

11 In fact, far from disappearing, the catch of each  
12 of the five salmon species in the State of Washington  
13 (chinook, chum, pink, coho, and sockeye), while subject to  
14 fluctuation, has continued in comparative abundance from  
15 1935 to 1970. Joint Biological Statement, Record Exhibit  
16 DH-5 at 13-16, 240. See id. at 204-09 (Puget Sound and case  
17 area catch). The case area chinook and coho catch has  
18 increased dramatically since 1960. Affidavit of Duane E.  
19 Phinney, Record Exhibit DH-12, attachment 8, 9. If present  
20 trends continue, the treaty fishing right which the district  
21 court characterized as "nugatory" without environmental  
22 protection, 506 F. Supp. at 203, will entitle the 800 Indian  
23 commercial fishermen in the case area to over 175,000 salmon  
24 annually. (The 6,600 non-treaty commercial fishermen and  
25 280,000 sport fishermen will also claim 175,000 salmon from  
26 the case area).<sup>24/</sup>

27 Both the Tribes and the United States, as we have  
28 pointed out previously, page 11, supra, contribute to the  
29 production of hatchery-bred fish. This contribution by the  
30 State indicates that it has a strong interest in preserving  
31 and enhancing the fisheries of the case area. This  
32 interest, no doubt, will provide a substantial part of the

1 mitigation of effects attributable to development. Both the  
2 United States and the Indians have emphasized mitigation as  
3 the Tribe's remedy for adverse environmental impact. They  
4 acknowledged that the environmental right would not bring  
5 all potentially adverse development in western Washington to  
6 a halt. As they see it, the right would require a project  
7 to be altered to mitigate its adverse effect, as by adding a  
8 downstream spawning channel, or by building a hatchery in  
9 the affected "usual and accustomed" fishing place.<sup>25/</sup> The  
10 principle we adopt today, viz., that the State and the  
11 Tribes must each take reasonable steps commensurate with the  
12 resources and abilities of each to preserve and enhance the  
13 fishery, resembles their proposal, with at least two  
14 important differences. First, the remedy is not tied to the  
15 Tribes' moderate living needs; second, the State must take  
16 reasonable steps to mitigate adverse impact on the  
17 fisheries, but has no absolute and unconditional duty under  
18 the treaty to maintain or increase existing harvest levels.

19 In support of tying the duty of the State to their  
20 moderate living needs the Tribes point out that the tribal  
21 rights are based not on the case area but on individual  
22 streams. If in the future the Nisqually River, for example,  
23 is dammed, the right of the Nisqually Tribe to fish in their  
24 accustomed place might well be extinguished. The Nisqually  
25 will not possess any special rights over fish from a  
26 hatchery built on a different river to replace natural fish  
27 lost. A right tied to moderate living needs would entitle  
28 them to compensation from the State or federal government  
29 equivalent to their moderate living needs so long as their  
30 fishing rights would have existed but for the building of  
31 the dam.

32 We do not find such an obligation in the treaty.

1           Where the decision to allow development is not tinged with  
2           any discriminatory animus, the treaty fishing clause, as we  
3           read it, does not require compensation of the Indians on a  
4           make-whole basis if reasonable steps, in view of the  
5           available resources and technology, are incapable of  
6           avoiding a reduction in the amount of available fish. We  
7           recognize that the loss of a treaty stream's entire  
8           production, to take an extreme example, will affect the  
9           particular tribe using the stream more than it affects other  
10          treaty Indians and non-treaty users. Although the reduction  
11          in the aggregate available fish is borne fifty/fifty by  
12          Indians and non-Indians, the particular tribe also loses the  
13          fishing privilege that went with the stream. Assuming that  
14          the tribe cannot compete with non-treaty fishermen in other  
15          waters, its fish harvest will decline by the amount of fish  
16          it used to take from the stream. The non-treaty stream  
17          users, who are better able to compete, can shift their  
18          fishing to other streams and force other non-treaty  
19          fishermen to share their loss.<sup>26/</sup> Furthermore, treaty  
20          fisherman, faced with loss of a stream, also will lose  
21          whatever intangible cultural values they may have obtained  
22          from fishing in that particular stream. Non-treaty  
23          fishermen, who have no such intangible ties, suffer no such  
24          loss.

25                        The unequal loss to the Indians in such a case  
26                        justifies according treaty Indians a right to reasonable  
27                        steps commensurate with State resources and abilities to  
28                        preserve and enhance the fishery. However, to interpret the  
29                        treaty to insure moderate living needs would transform a  
30                        right, which is described in the treaty as one "in common  
31                        with all citizens of the Territory," into a guarantee of the  
32                        moderate living needs of one group of citizens, the treaty

1 Indians. We make no forecast of how often and in what  
2 circumstances the "reasonable steps" that we require will  
3 fall short of a make-whole remedy. No doubt the requirement  
4 of "reasonable steps" will be interpreted generously. It  
5 may turn out that in the vast majority of cases "reasonable  
6 steps" are adequate to maintain historic fishing levels or  
7 give appropriate compensation. Should that not be the case,  
8 it presumably will be true that the impairing development  
9 will provide great benefits to Indian and non-Indian  
10 alike.<sup>27/</sup>

11 Indians share many of the materialist goals of  
12 modern non-Indians. Final Decision I, 384 F. Supp. at 358.  
13 Their fortunes are linked with the health of the State of  
14 Washington's economy.<sup>28/</sup> Since Indians, as citizens,  
15 share in the benefits of economic development in the State,  
16 it is not unfair to require them to bear on infrequent  
17 occasions a portion of the costs of non-discriminatory  
18 development.

19 In short, we believe that the gloss that Fishing  
20 Vessel has put on the "in common with" language, taken  
21 together with our holding that hatchery fish are included in  
22 the treaty allocation and our "reasonable steps"  
23 requirement, equitably compensates the Indians for any loss  
24 of the ability to harvest from particular streams. Absent  
25 some showing either that those "usual and accustomed"  
26 fishing areas were discriminatorily selected for development  
27 or that reasonable steps to preserve and enhance the fishery  
28 were not taken, such losses are not precluded by the treaty.

29 3. Unworkably complex standard of liability.

30 The district court's interpretation of the treaty  
31 is also unworkably complex. The environmental right created  
32 by the district court requires the State to refrain from

1 degrading the fish habitat to an extent that would deprive  
2 the Tribes of their moderate living needs. The district  
3 court also held that when the Tribes' treaty allocation has  
4 been set at 50 percent of each harvestable run, as  
5 currently, a presumption is created that the Tribes'  
6 moderate living needs exceed 50 percent and are not being  
7 satisfied under the treaties. To establish a treaty  
8 violation under the district court's interpretation, the  
9 Tribes must shoulder the initial burden of proving that a  
10 challenged action will proximately cause the fish habitat to  
11 be degraded such that future or current runs will be  
12 diminished. If such a showing is made, the State bears the  
13 burden of demonstrating that any environmental degradation  
14 of the fish habitat proximately caused by the State's  
15 actions (including the authorization of third parties'  
16 activities) will not impair the Tribes' ability to satisfy  
17 their moderate living needs. 506 F. Supp. at 208.

18 The remoteness in the causal chain between a  
19 potentially impairing project and a reduced fish harvest is  
20 an inevitable feature of any environmental protection under  
21 the treaty, as is the difficulty of separating out the  
22 effects of different projects, all of which may affect the  
23 fish runs. However, by tying the environmental right to  
24 moderate living needs, the district court further  
25 complicates the inquiry. Not only will the trial court have  
26 to assess the difficult issue of causation, but when some  
27 proximately caused diminution of the fish runs is  
28 established by the Tribes, the State will have to establish  
29 the tribe's moderate living needs and that the diminished  
30 catch will satisfy those needs. Not only would this showing  
31 have to be strong enough to overcome a contrary presumption  
32 arising from the district court's interpretation of

1 fifty/fifty sharing, but also it would entail a  
2 consideration of fluctuations in fishery production, the  
3 economic value of the fish harvest, the income of tribes and  
4 their members, and the projected availability of fish for  
5 harvest in future years. State Brief at 58.

6 A state permit-issuing agency also would be  
7 required to estimate these consequences far in advance of  
8 either their occurrence or any litigation with respect to  
9 them. This time lag, in many instances of between five and  
10 ten years,<sup>29/</sup> either would foreclose the issuance of any  
11 permit arguably affecting treaty fishing rights or would  
12 induce an administrative fatalism not distinguishable from  
13 indifference. The ultimate effect, not likely to be  
14 beneficial to either Indians or non-Indians, very possibly  
15 would be to impose on the State the burden of providing to  
16 treaty Indians an income subsidy necessary to assure their  
17 "moderate living needs." We cannot accept the view that the  
18 Stevens Treaties require this result.

19 4. Disproportionately disruptive effect.

20 A further word on the effect of the district  
21 court's approach on the State permit process is necessary.  
22 This process is a complex one designed by the legislature to  
23 balance state interests in environmental protection with  
24 competing state interests in allowing various types of  
25 development in different locations. The district court's  
26 interpretation of the treaty requires each permit-issuing  
27 state agency to place the highest priority on avoiding any  
28 potential impact upon fisheries that would reduce the income  
29 of tribal members. This interpretation has the potential to  
30 disrupt the existing state regulatory network much more  
31 severely than the implied-reservation-of-water doctrine has  
32 ever disrupted the system of prior appropriation of water in

1 ~~the~~ the Western states.<sup>30/</sup>

2           The proposed environmental servitude affects all  
3 State or State-authorized activities affecting the  
4 environment, not just those involving appropriative  
5 consumption of water.<sup>31/</sup> In many cases the nature of the  
6 activity conducted under State permit will make cutbacks in  
7 rights under the permit extremely difficult where required  
8 in a low-fish-harvest, low-Indian-income year. Municipal  
9 sewer discharge is an example. Furthermore, the prospect of  
10 frustrating permittee expectations under state law cautions  
11 against lightly accepting an interpretation of the treaty  
12 embodying an environmental servitude.

13           The purpose of the Stevens Treaties was to settle  
14 any and all Indian claims to land title in the case area so  
15 that non-Indian settlers could develop their lands without  
16 conflict with the Indians. State Brief at 10, 23-24; Cong.  
17 Globe, 31st Cong., 1st Sess. 262, 411 (1850). See Final  
18 Decision I, 384 F. Supp. at 330. It would be ironic indeed  
19 if the fishing clause in the very treaties negotiated to  
20 eliminate property disputes between Indians and non-Indians  
21 became the source of continual litigation over the effect of  
22 the use of non-Indian property on Indian rights. To avoid  
23 this result, the environmental right must be tempered by a  
24 reasonableness requirement such as we have recognized.

25 C. Reciprocal Obligation to Preserve and Enhance The  
26 Fishery

27           Let us repeat the essence of our interpretation of  
28 the treaty. Although we reject the environmental servitude  
29 created by the district court, we do not hold that the State  
30 of Washington and the Indians have no obligations to respect  
31 the other's rights in the resource. Instead, we affirm the  
32 district court on the fish hatchery issue and we find on the

1 environmental issue that the State and the Tribes must each  
2 take reasonable steps commensurate with the resources and  
3 abilities of each to preserve and enhance the fishery when  
4 their projects threaten then-existing harvest levels. Cf.  
5 Fishing Vessel, 443 U.S. at 684-85.

6 The "reasonable steps" duty we find implied by the  
7 terms of the treaty focuses on whether the State's (or the  
8 Indians') compensatory steps to protect and enhance the  
9 fishery -- whether made necessary by non-fishing or fishing  
10 activities -- are reasonable. Imposition of this duty to  
11 safeguard the fishery is less intrusive on the State's  
12 administrative process than would be the district court's  
13 interpretation of the treaty. In addition, a standard that  
14 evaluates whether compensatory actions to protect and  
15 enhance the fishery are reasonable is more susceptible to  
16 judicial review than would be the environmental servitude of  
17 the district court.

18 The detailed enforcement of the right to reasonable  
19 mitigation measures is not at issue here and must await  
20 resolution by the district court in the event that specific  
21 litigation is brought. Such suits properly belong to the  
22 relief stage of this protracted litigation. We take no  
23 position as to whether the conservation measures currently  
24 employed by the State of Washington, see 506 F. Supp. at  
25 207, are sufficient to fulfill its obligations to reasonably  
26 mitigate under the treaty. That is a question whose  
27 resolution in the first instance we leave to the district  
28 court.

29 AFFIRMED in part, REVERSED in part.  
30  
31  
32



FOOTNOTES

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32

1. The State's obligation derives from the obligation of the United States under the treaty. See infra note 2. Presumably the United States, although not a defendant in this lawsuit, is subject to an equivalent duty to take reasonable steps commensurate with its resources and abilities to preserve and enhance the fishery.

2. See United States v. Washington, 506 F. Supp. 187, 189 n.2 (W.D. Wash. 1980). These treaties bind the State of Washington under the Supremacy Clause, U.S. Const. art. VI, cl. 2, which imposes upon the states the obligation to observe and carry out the provisions of treaties of the United States. 506 F. Supp. at 206; United States v. Washington, 384 F. Supp. 312, 401 (W.D. Wash. 1974) (Boldt, J.) ("Final Decision I").

3. 506 F. Supp. at 191. The district court also retains jurisdiction to implement the allocation decreed in Fishing Vessel. Id.

4. Excluded from the scope of that motion, and hence not before us on this appeal, are two subsidiary environmental issues: whether, if an environmental right exists, the State has violated it; and what remedies, if any, are appropriate. 506 F. Supp. at 194.

5. Hatchery activities have steadily increased, particularly in recent years. Hatchery fish now account for as much as 63% of runs of some kinds of anadromous fish, although other runs are entirely natural. After release from hatcheries, hatchery-bred fish mature and reproduce in the same manner as natural fish and are virtually indistinguishable. 506 F. Supp. at 197.

6. The implicit limitations on the "guarantee" are the Tribes' moderate living needs, the State's power to impose conservation measures, and the physical availability of the fish. 506 F. Supp. at 198.

7. The district court's concluding paragraphs on the environmental right to protection of the fish habitat amply illustrate the problem with the court's emphasis on moderate living needs. See 506 F. Supp. at 208. After reciting that the treaties reserve to the tribes a sufficient quantity of fish to satisfy their moderate living needs, subject to a ceiling of 50 percent of the harvestable run, id., the district court reasoned that this requirement imposes upon the State a duty to refrain from allowing the environment to worsen to an extent that would deprive the tribes of their moderate living needs. This stands Fishing Vessel on its head. "Moderate living needs" is a maximum, not a minimum. See, e.g., Fishing Vessel, 443 U.S. at 686-87.

1 The Tribes have a right to at most one-half the  
2 harvestable fish in the case area. If this amount is  
3 inadequate to ensure Indian well-being, the remedy lies in  
4 Congressional action. It does not lie in the treaty right.

5 While environmental degradation that has a  
6 discriminatory effect on Indians is barred under Puyallup I  
7 if authorized or caused by the State, Puyallup Tribe v.  
8 Department of Game, 391 U.S. 392, 398 (1968), the 50%  
9 allocation standard of Fishing Vessel creates no right  
10 against degradation in and of itself because it sets no  
11 minimum Indian entitlement. Any right to protection from  
12 environmental degradation must therefore have its origin in  
13 a different source.

14 8. At the hearing the State advanced several arguments in  
15 support of its position, not all of which are repeated on  
16 appeal. See 506 F. Supp. at 199-202.

17 9. Specifically, the Indians' rights are not limited to a  
18 right of equal access or equal opportunity to compete with  
19 vastly more numerous non-Indian fishermen for a share of the  
20 fish. Their rights include a right to take a specified  
21 share of the fish, set initially by the Supreme Court at  
22 fifty percent. 443 U.S. at 685.

23 10. The Tribes raise the issue of whether the State is  
24 bound by its assertion at oral argument on the summary  
25 judgment motions that there were no genuine issues of  
26 material fact precluding summary judgment. Ordinarily, an  
27 appellant may not overturn a summary judgment by raising in  
28 the appellate court an issue of fact that was not plainly  
29 disclosed as a genuine issue in the trial court. Von Brimer  
30 v. Whirlpool Corp., 536 F.2d 838, 848 (9th Cir. 1974); 6 J.  
31 Moore & J. Wicker, Moore's Federal Practice ¶ 56.27[1] at  
32 56-1557 (2d ed. 1982). Since we decide against the State on  
its appeal of the grant of summary judgment, we need not  
decide whether it can properly argue the existence of  
genuine issues of material fact.

33 11. The concurrence stated that "the Treaty does not  
34 obligate the State of Washington to subsidize the Indian  
35 fishery with planted fish paid for by sports fishermen."  
36 414 U.S. at 49. However, this view had the support of only  
37 three of the Justices.

38 12. The fifty/fifty allocation between treaty and nontreaty  
39 fishermen was derived from the "in common with" language of  
40 that clause. 443 U.S. at 686 n.27.

41 13. Under the developed waters doctrine, one who by his own  
42 efforts develops waters not otherwise available for use has  
43 a superior right to the use of those waters, even in times  
44 of drought where other appropriators have prior rights in  
45 the water system. J. Sax, Water Law, Planning and Policy  
46 492 (1968) (citing cases). The developed waters cases cited  
47 by the State, see State Brief at 72-73, are unconvincing.

1 Indian treaty rights cannot be determined by analogy to  
2 water appropriation cases involving conflicts between  
3 private parties or between the State and a private party.  
4 In those cases, the critical factor of special protection  
5 for the Indian is absent.

6 14. We do not ignore the unfortunate history of conflict  
7 and ill-will between treaty and non-treaty fishermen in  
8 choosing this approach. Despite the difficulties of the  
9 past, we believe that the ground rules existing as of this  
10 decision -- a percentage allocation of fish to the Indians  
11 with a 50% maximum, and hatchery fish included in the  
12 allocation -- form a sufficiently clear and enforceable  
13 scheme to allow competing fishermen in the case area to put  
14 the dispute-ridden past behind them and proceed with a new  
15 emphasis on good faith cooperation, and protection and  
16 enhancement of the resource. Cf., e.g., E. Chaney, A  
17 Question of Balance 25 (1978) (possibility of coalition of  
18 Indian and non-Indian fishermen lobbying for fish protection  
19 on Columbia River).

20 15. The State's obligation to take reasonable steps to  
21 preserve and enhance the fishery applies to the grant of  
22 State permits as well as to the State's own projects. It  
23 does not create any independent treaty obligation on the  
24 part of private permittees. As in the ordinary case, State  
25 permittees will be required to comply with their permits  
26 under State law.

27 16. In Confederated Tribes, Judge Belloni held that for the  
28 Corps of Engineers to flood Indian fishing stations with 200  
29 feet of water would violate treaty rights, absent specific  
30 Congressional approval of the project. No general  
31 environmental right was established. The fishing stations  
32 were protected under the right to access established in  
33 United States v. Winans, 198 U.S. 371, 380-81 (1905). 440  
34 F. Supp. at 555-56. By contrast, the right here adopted by  
35 the district court would have prevented the construction of  
36 the dam in Confederated Tribes even if access to the fishing  
37 stations were retained, assuming that the Indians could have  
38 shown that the existing fish run would be damaged.

39 17. The district court claims that the environmental right  
40 is merely another particular application of the general  
41 principle that neither party may impair the other's fishing  
42 right. 506 F. Supp. at 204. The "previous applications" of  
43 this principle cited by the district court - impairment by  
44 physical device, United States v. Winans, 198 U.S. 371  
45 (1905), by license fee, Tulee v. Washington, 315 U.S. 681  
46 (1942), by discriminatory regulation, Department of Game v.  
47 Puyallup Tribe, 414 U.S. 44 (1973) ("Puyallup II"), or by  
48 discriminatory application of neutral regulations, Final  
49 Decision I, 384 F. Supp. 312, 388-99, 403-04 (W.D. Wash.  
50 1974) - tellingly illustrate how much broader the  
51 environmental right is. Three of the cited instances are  
52 direct controls on Indian fishing. The remaining case,  
53 Winans, more closely resembles the environmental right.  
54 Like environmental impairment, the impairment of Indian  
55 fishing rights in Winans can be viewed as a secondary and

1 unintended result of a primary goal--use of the fish wheel.  
2 Even in Winans, however, the purpose of the non-Indian  
3 infringement was to take fish.

4 Like the district court, we interpret the treaty to  
5 apply to the building of dams, factories, and highways  
6 provided they are State-authorized. But unlike the district  
7 court, we acknowledge the danger of overreaching what the  
8 treaty fairly requires, by framing the obligation to  
9 compensate for adverse environmental impact in terms of  
10 reasonableness. See supra pp. 12-13.

11 18. We note that the plaintiffs-appellees specifically  
12 disclaimed a reserved water rights theory of the  
13 environmental right in response to State interrogatories.  
14 State Brief at 36 n.34. Thus, the case before us is not a  
15 reserved water rights case. The district court based its  
16 holding on the fisheries cases, citing the reserved water  
17 rights cases only for analytical support. See 506 F. Supp.  
18 at 204-06.

19 19. Where public lands are reserved to create a national  
20 forest, the federal government has impliedly reserved  
21 sufficient water to protect timber or to secure favorable  
22 water flows. United States v. New Mexico, 438 U.S. 696,  
23 702-08 (1978).

24 20. The implied-reservation-of-waters doctrine applies only  
25 to water appurtenant to lands withdrawn from the public  
26 domain for specific federal purposes. United States v. New  
27 Mexico, 438 U.S. at 698. Where water is needed to  
28 accomplish those purposes, a reservation of appurtenant  
29 water is implied. Id. at 700; see Colville Confederated  
30 Tribes v. Walton, 647 F.2d 42, 46 (9th Cir.), cert. denied,  
31 102 S. Ct. 657 (1981).

32 While the United States withdrew lands from the  
public domain in order to create the Indian reservations  
granted by the Stevens Treaties along with explicit fishing  
rights, see 506 F. Supp. at 189-90, the waters necessary to  
the treaty right to take fish are not appurtenant to  
reservation lands in the sense required by the doctrine.  
Instead, the treaty fishing right and the simultaneous grant  
of reservation land here are essentially independent.

In Menominee Tribe v. United States, 391 U.S. 404  
(1968), the Supreme Court held that termination of a tribal  
reservation did not extinguish hunting and fishing rights  
reserved by implication in the treaty establishing the  
reservation. Nor did termination impair the exercise of  
such rights within the area of the terminated reservation.  
Id. at 411-13. Similarly, here the termination of the  
Indian reservations granted under the Stevens Treaties does  
not affect the treaty right to fish in common with other  
citizens. Final Decision I, 384 F. Supp. at 339. See  
Puyallup I, 391 U.S. at 394-95 & n.1 (distinguishing  
reservation rights from treaty fishing rights). The treaty  
grants the right to fish at usual and accustomed places  
whether or not the surrounding lands are held in Indian  
title, or are within the boundaries of a reservation. Cf.

1 Kimball v. Callahan, 493 F.2d 564, 569-70 (9th Cir.), cert.  
2 denied, 419 U.S. 1019 (1974), and later opinion, 590 F.2d  
3 768, 773 (9th Cir.), cert. denied, 444 U.S. 826 (1979)  
4 (right to hunt, fish, and trap free of state regulation on  
5 former reservation lands survives) (rights against private  
6 landowners not adjudicated); Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes v.  
Oklahoma, 618 F.2d 665, 668 (10th Cir. 1980) (hunting and  
fishing rights on allotments and tribal trust lands survive  
disestablishment of reservation); F. Cohen, Handbook of  
Federal Indian Law 469-70 (1982).

7 21. See generally F. Cohen, Handbook of Federal Indian Law.  
8 575-96 (1982) (citing cases). But cf. id. at 587 (water  
9 quality probably protected) (citing unpublished decision).

10 22. In United States v. New Mexico, the Supreme Court held  
11 that where water is necessary to fulfill the very purposes  
12 for which a federal reservation was created, it is  
13 reasonable to conclude that the United States intended to  
14 reserve it. But a contrary inference arises where water is  
15 only valuable for a secondary use of the reservation. 438  
16 U.S. at 702. Thus, in setting aside the Gila National  
17 Forest from other public lands the United States was held to  
18 have reserved water sufficient to preserve the timber in the  
19 forest or to secure favorable water flows, but not for  
20 aesthetic, recreational, wildlife-preservation, and  
21 stockwatering purposes. Id. at 696. But cf. F. Cohen,  
22 Handbook of Federal Indian Law 583-84 (1982) (suggesting a  
23 broader scope for Indian reserved rights).

24 23. 391 U.S. at 398. It is hard to imagine such events  
25 occurring without at least a partial motivation of  
26 discriminatory animus towards the Indians.

27 24. The numbers of fishermen in the example are taken from  
28 Fishing Vessel and are facts found by Judge Boldt in 1974.  
29 443 U.S. at 664. The figures for size of the case area  
30 salmon catch are based on the 15-year average catch of  
31 356,997 salmon from Indian salmon fishing areas from 1957 to  
32 1971. Joint Biological Statement, Record Exhibit DH-5 at  
209.

A report prepared by the Washington Department of  
Fisheries, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and  
the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission in compliance with  
district court orders of March 10, 1976 and December 15,  
1976 in United States v. Washington shows the size of the  
1975 salmon catch by Washington treaty and nontreaty  
fishermen in the case area. The treaty and nontreaty  
catches of major salmon stocks by area of origin are  
presented in tabular form. Totalling the figures for treaty  
and nontreaty catches yields the result of 996,000 for the  
Indian catch and 6,115,000 for the non-Indian catch of case  
area salmon. See Washington State Department of Fisheries,  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service, & Northwest Indian  
Fisheries Commission, 1975 Joint Salmon Catch Report For  
Case Area, U.S. vs. Washington, Civil No. 9213 (February  
1977). The report notes that the catch statistics presented  
therewith are accepted by the parties for the purpose of the

1 report only. Id. at 1.

2 More recent data published by the Washington  
3 Department of Fisheries indicate that in Puget Sound alone  
4 the 1978 treaty-Indian commercial catch came to 1,295,366  
5 salmon. The non-Indian fishery commercial catch in the same  
6 region was 2,394,886 salmon. Harvest Management Division,  
7 Washington Department of Fisheries, Progress Report No.  
8 135: Puget Sound Commercial Net Fishery Data Report for  
9 1978 11 (table 6) (April 1981). These figures have not been  
10 found as facts by any court, and we do not rely on them. If  
11 proven or stipulated as facts, they would of course tend to  
12 support the inference that the benefit the Indians presently  
13 draw from the treaty is not insubstantial.

14 25. The establishment of replacement fishing grounds  
15 through artificial propagation has been considered an  
16 acceptable mitigation of the impairment of historic fishing  
17 rights. See Colville Confederated Tribes v. Walton, 647  
18 F.2d 42, 48 (9th Cir. 1981).

19 26. For example, assume non-treaty streams A, B, C, and D  
20 each produce forty fish and support four non-treaty  
21 fishermen. Treaty stream E produces eighty fish, and  
22 supports one tribe and four non-treaty fishermen. Before  
23 the closing of stream E, each non-treaty fisherman takes ten  
24 fish, and the tribe takes forty fish. After the stream is  
25 closed, the tribe takes no fish. The four non-treaty  
26 fishermen who used to fish stream E begin fishing at streams  
27 A, B, C, and D. As a result, each non-treaty fisherman now  
28 takes eight fish. Both the Indians and the non-Indians have  
29 lost forty fish, but the tribe has been unable to spread its  
30 loss to the other Indians.

31 27. The district court's approach would apparently require  
32 that such benefits be foregone. For example, a power  
project of great value to the State might harm a particular  
tribe's treaty-protected run. If there were no acceptable  
location for hatchery development within the tribe's usual  
and accustomed fishing places, and the State lacked funds to  
pay full compensation, under the district court's  
interpretation the project could conceivably be enjoined.

25 28. So much so that at oral argument the State asserted  
26 that any current challenge to the 50% allocation of fish to  
27 the Indians (based on need) would be futile, given the  
28 effect of Washington's depressed logging industry on Indian  
29 incomes.

30 29. For example, if an applicant approaches the relevant  
31 state agencies in 1981 with plans for a major project, the  
32 required package of permits, including a waste discharge  
permit, hydraulics permit, shorelines substantial  
development permit, and various federal permits, will  
probably take until 1983 to complete. After a year or more  
to obtain financing and to construct the project, it would  
be ready for operation. Its operation would affect the  
out-migration of juvenile salmon the following spring. The

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32

affected salmon will be ready for harvesting two or three years later, depending on the species of fish. Thus, a project commenced in 1981 would not have its economic impact, if any, on the affected tribe until 1986 or later. State Brief at 58-59.

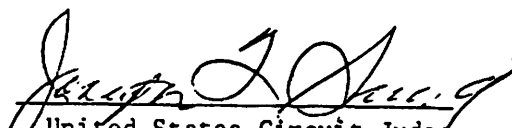
30. The district court relied on the implied-reservation-of-water doctrine for support by analogy of the environmental right. See 506 F. Supp. at 204-05; supra note 18.

31. The review required by the district court's environmental servitude would necessarily resemble in breadth the all-encompassing review for "significant environmental impact" required of "major federal projects" under the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370 (1976 & Supp. IV 1980) (NEPA). However, while the breadth of NEPA review is tempered by NEPA's role as a procedural statute imposing no substantive obligations on the agency carrying out the project, no such limitation exists for the environmental servitude.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al. v. STATE OF WASHINGTON,  
et al., - No. 81-3111

Judges Sneed and Anderson concur in this  
opinion; Judge Reinhardt concurs in the result only and  
will file a separate concurring opinion at a later date.

  
United States Circuit Judge

**FILED**

NOV 3 1952

PHILLIP B. WINBERRY  
CLERK, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

COLVILLE CONFEDERATED TRIBES,

Plaintiff,

v.

BOYD WALTON, JR., and KENNA  
JEANNE WALTON, his wife; and  
WILSON WALTON and MARGARET  
WALTON, his wife,

Defendants,

STATE OF WASHINGTON,

Defendant Intervenor.

No. C-3421

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

WILLIAM BOYD WALTON and KENNA  
JEANNE WALTON, his wife; and  
the STATE OF WASHINGTON,

Defendants.

No. C-3831

STATE OF WASHINGTON )

) ss.

COUNTY OF THURSTON )

PATRICIA KOROSEC, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes  
and says:

KENNETH O. EIKENBERRY, ATTORNEY GENERAL

Charles B. Roe, Jr.  
Assistant Attorney General  
Sr.

Temple of Justice  
Olympia, Wa. (206) 459-6162  
Telephone

1 That she is a secretary in the legal division of the Department  
2 of Ecology; that on the 29 day of November, 1982, she duly  
3 forwarded by United States mail, postage prepaid, a true and correct  
4 copy of the Response of State of Washington to Statements of Issues  
5 Filed by Other Parties to the following parties at the following  
6 addresses:

7 Mr. William H. Veeder  
8 Attorney at Law  
9 818 - 18th Street, N.W.  
10 Suite 920  
11 Washington, D.C. 20006

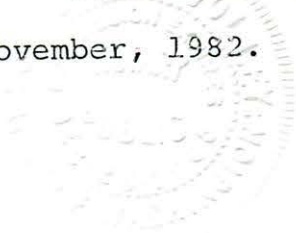
12 Mr. Richard Price  
13 Attorney at Law  
14 P. O. Box 1687  
15 Omak, Washington 98841

16 Mr. Robert M. Sweeney  
17 United States Attorney  
18 P. O. Box 1494  
19 Spokane, Washington 99210

20 Mr. Michael Taylor  
21 Colville Confederated Tribes  
22 Legal Office  
23 P. O. Box 150  
24 Nespelem, Washington 99155

25 Patricia Korosec  
26 PATRICIA KOROSEC

27 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 29th day of  
November, 1982.



28 Beverly S. Volley  
29 Notary Public, in and for the  
30 State of Washington, residing  
31 at Yelm.

32 AFFIDAVIT OF  
33 MAILING