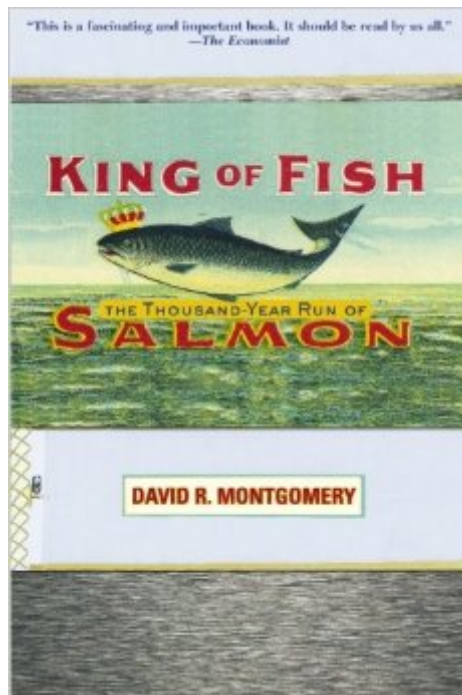


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King Of Fish: The Thousand-Year Run Of Salmon



Synopsis

The salmon that symbolize the Pacific Northwest's natural splendor are now threatened with extinction across much of their ancestral range. In studying the natural and human forces that shape the rivers and mountains of that region, geologist David Montgomery has learned to see the evolution and near-extinction of the salmon as a story of changing landscapes. Montgomery shows how a succession of historical experiences -first in the United Kingdom, then in New England, and now in the Pacific Northwest -repeat a disheartening story in which overfishing and sweeping changes to rivers and seas render the world inhospitable to salmon. In *King of Fish*, Montgomery traces the human impacts on salmon over the last thousand years and examines the implications both for salmon recovery efforts and for the more general problem of human impacts on the natural world. What does it say for the long-term prospects of the world's many endangered species if one of the most prosperous regions of the richest country on earth cannot accommodate its icon species? All too aware of the possible bleak outcome for the salmon, *King of Fish* concludes with provocative recommendations for reinventing the ways in which we make environmental decisions about land, water, and fish.

Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Basic Books (December 29, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813342996

ISBN-13: 978-0813342993

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #207,761 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Endangered Species](#) #80 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Fish & Sharks](#) #443 in [Books > Science & Math > Environment > Environmentalism](#)

Customer Reviews

Dr. Montgomery shows that if the toxic and human waste poured into the rivers of the industrial revolution did not poison Salmon, the incipient capitalist institution of commercial fishing would swallow most of them.. Montgomery quotes records from the holder of fishing rights on a specific part of the Thames river. The records of this particular holder shows he caught 66 salmon in 1801,

18 in 1812 and only 2 in 1821....by the 1960's, the annual salmon catch of England and Wales was a quarter of that a century earlier. He quotes an account of MP Robert Wallace about parliament blocking effective salmon protection laws at the behest of the commercial fishing industry, dam operators, etc. He quotes accounts from the early 19th century including from Henry David Thoreau about the severe depletion of salmon stocks in Northeast U.S. rivers caused by the disruption of salmon spawning beds by the transportation of boats and logs down the river, dams, factory poisons and so on. Salmon stocks continued to decline to near extinction in Eastern U.S. waters. The Danish government agreed to ban its fishermen from engaging in their highly destructive open ocean fishing off the coast of Greenland, where salmon from Britain, the U.S., and Canada often converge for their sojourns in the Ocean, in 1972. However Danes continued to fish heavily near the Greenland shore, and used vessels under other nation's flags to circumvent their salmon catch quota under the 1972 agreement. Montgomery shows how salmon have been sacrificed since the Great Depression in favor of the dams which have provided water and electricity in the Eastern Pacific Northwest from the Snake and Columbia Rivers. In 1937, U.S.

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