

296 Where Are All the Fish?

Indigenous women in Canada, the United States, and across the world are confronting both tragic histories and new challenges. Global warming is contributing to the decimation of the Chinook salmon population, a mainstay of native culture and nutrition in the Pacific Northwest. Environmental factors along the California coastline have contributed to the decline of the Chinook. These factors include poaching, loss of fresh water and estuarine habitat and hydropower development.

This figure represents a strong Indigenous woman with a tortured past, a fragmented present, and a hopeful future. She mourns her contaminated tribal lands and waters while renewing efforts to protect native fishing rights and promote cultural survival. Her very name calls out, both literally and figuratively, the prevailing question of her existence.