

Video and Activity 1: “Climate and Fisheries”

Watch “Climate and Fisheries”

Activity: Order of Importance

Ask the group to break off into pairs and spend 10 minutes ranking the following from what poses the greatest threat to least in regards to fisheries management and traditional harvests within your community. Have pairs discuss with each other and determine whether they can come to an agreement on their ordering. Have each pair share their order of importance and if there were certain items that they couldn't decide/agree on. Have each person give reasons why they choose the order that they did.

1. Mercury pollution
2. Overfishing
3. Increases in water temperature
4. Changes in the onset and duration of seasons, as in spring spawning, affecting timing of harvests, etc.
5. Changes in water levels
6. Decrease in species traditionally available for harvest, such as walleye, and increase in other species, including invasives.

Follow this activity with a 10-minute group discussion on the following prompt:

Fish need specific aquatic habitats to thrive. Climate change is warming waters and affecting the types of fish available for harvest. Some species, like lake trout, require cold oxygen-rich water. Other species, like bass, are more tolerant. Invasive species, like carp, thrive in warmer water. What is your department and/or Tribe doing in terms of fishery management or harvest practices to maintain a sustainable harvest of fish as the climate warms? If you are not taking action yet, what could you be doing?

Optional: Share these answers on the Facilitator' Google doc under Discussion questions.