



## Pacific Northwest Region Virtual Book Club

**Salmon** by Mark Kurlansky

7:00 PM PT on October 21<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Meeting Schedule

Parts	Chapters	Date	# of pages
<b>Part Two: A Human Problem</b>	Chapter Three: The Original Salmon	21-Oct	64
	Chapter Four: Old Ways in the New Land		
	Chapter Five: A Golden Fish Arrives in the East		
	Chapter Six: When it Was Working	4-Nov	58
	Chapter Seven: The White Man Comes		
	Chapter Eight: Nowhere to Run		
<b>Part Three: The Problem with Solutions</b>	Chapter Nine: Why Not Make More?	18-Nov	56
	Chapter Ten: Sea Cattle		
	Chapter Eleven: The Release		
<b>Part Four: The Dangerous Future</b>	Chapter Twelve: Elegy for the Atlantic	2-Dec	86

### Chapter Three: The Original Salmon

1. On p. 101 Kurlansky writes "...it was believed that every problem had an industrial solution". Do you think this attitude still exists when it comes to salmon?
2. According to Kurlansky, we knew for centuries that dams, pollution, overharvesting ,etc. would be detrimental to salmon populations, yet we continued to proceed with development and industry, with attempts at regulations or other solutions that seem like "token efforts" (p. 107). Is that what we are still doing?
3. It's pretty fascinating to use cookbooks as a historical record of past populations of salmon. How else could/are cookbooks be used to investigate historic environmental conditions? Is it a legitimate research method?
4. Kurlansky bashes development, industry, and technology, but we certainly depend on those things every day. How can we find a balance that is more sustainable? Is it possible? Do you have any examples of communities that practice sustainable development?

5. Is the PNW repeating some of the “Old Ways” regarding timber and hydroelectricity or do you see our region on a more sustainable path compared to our East Coast counterparts?
6. Do you think it’s simply a coincidence that salmon were tied to knowledge in ancient times while in modern times we associate salmon and their omega-3's to brain health and development?

#### **Chapter Four: Old Ways in the New Land**

1. How do you relate to the recipes in this chapter? Are the ingredients and methods familiar, perhaps used or modified by your own family?
2. Why do you think that Kurlansky includes these recipes in the book?
3. What is your favorite way to prepare/eat salmon? Which species of salmon is best for that purpose? Do you have a preferred salmon species, or do you just buy whatever is the best value?
4. On p. 116 Kurlansky mentioned that Locke was impressed that the New World was a place with no money, but most Europeans saw it as a place to make money. Is the commercialization of nature the only way we are going to be able to feed 7+ billion people?
5. Kurlansky mentioned the book Silent Spring by Rachel Carson. Have any of you read that book? If so what, if any, impact did it have on you?

#### **Chapter Five: A Golden Fish Arrives in the East**

1. On p. 146 Kurlansky says that many Native Americans who ate salmon think of the salmon used for food as a gift given by the salmon. How does this compare/contrast with the European settler view of salmon?
2. Can anyone offer insight as to why chum is preferred over steelhead on the “Asian side”, but the opposite is true on the “North American side”. Does this preference have cultural or economic roots?