Columbia River – Unregulated flows

average unregulated flows at The Dalles

Cubic Feet per Second

Jan | Mar | Apr2 | Jun | Aug1 | Sep | Nov

- Natural
River Flows and Energy Demand Did Not Match
1948 Portland, Oregon
Columbia River Treaty 1964
Columbia River – regulated flows

average flows at The Dalles -- natural and regulated

Graph showing average flows for Columbia River at The Dalles, comparing natural and regulated flows. The graph displays flow measurements in Cubic Feet per Second from January to November, with peaks in June and August for both natural and regulated flows.
Northwest Electrical Generation Profile (Capacity)

- Hydro: 57%
- Coal: 12%
- Natural Gas: 16%
- Wind: 10%
- Nuclear: 2%
- Biomass: 2%
- Other: 1%
- Other: 1%
Values of Maf are for The Dalles April-August Runoff

Columbia River Treaty Flood Control Benefits

Year Event

1997

134 Maf

1894

165 Maf

1996

111 Maf

Regulated

Unregulated

Columbia River Treaty
Flood Control Benefits
The large Chinook populations in the Columbia and Snake ... may have formed core populations for regional metapopulations ... Most large mainstem spawning populations were extirpated, which drastically altered metapopulation organization.

*Return to the River, 2000*

Photo: NOAA Fisheries
The elders told me what the resource had been. We had the word for salmon in our language, but we had no salmon. Grand Coulee Dam was the final blow to our salmon."

Chief Wilfred Jacobs, 1993
1934 Letter:  
Canada  
Department of Fisheries  

October 27th, 1934.

Dear Doctor Skelton,

I have to acknowledge your note of the 19th instant, enclosing copy of Despatch No. 992 from the Canadian Legation at Washington, dealing with the construction of two large dams in the Columbia River system. It is noted that fishways are proposed in the project at Bonneville and Oregon, but in the other, there is the understanding no such facility is to be incorporated, and inquiry is made whether Canadian interests would suffer from the fishery standpoint.

The assumption that there is no commercial salmon fishery on the Columbia River in Canada is correct, and hence Canadian interests in that respect will not be affected if the dam at Grand Coulee is not equipped with fishway facilities.

Yours truly,

Wm. A. Found,  
Deputy Minister.

Doctor O. D. Skelton,  
Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs,  
Ottawa.
Fishing at Kettle Falls, circa 1900

Spokane 1929
(Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture)
“My plea is this . . . if a small percentage of that [fish production] could be made available to the watershed above this barrier, then I think everybody would be satisfied.”

W.J.E. Biker, Nelson, IJC hearing Trail, Sept. 3, 1941
“The Indians used to come to our place to fish. They came from Montana and all over. It was one of the finest places to fish. Salmon. They kill enough fish in a month to last them a year.

“I caught the last one here about 15 or 20 years ago. Weighed forty-five pounds. I got him at the bridge at Fairmont.

“I’d like to see them come back.”

– Kootenay Chief Martin Morigeau, Invermere, 1964

Salmon at Brisco, BC, 1910s
Courtesy Ede Family Collection
Kinbasket Lake (Mica Dam)
Revelstoke Dam
Libby Dam, Kootenai River
Hanford Reach
Bonneville Dam
Columbia River Estuary