

Why is This Important?

Though the concept of **biodiversity** conservation has found its way into mainstream media and public awareness, it continues to be an abstract concept for many people. For most people, biodiversity is about tigers in India or sea turtles in the Caribbean. But as we lose biodiversity, we lose some of our own heritage here at home - and not in an abstract way. In few other species is this more evident than for the different species of salmon and trout. Still, little attention has been given to the amazing diversity that the salmon family of fish represents - and the peril this diversity is in.

The flesh of these species - esteemed for its taste and consistency - can be found on menus of world-class restaurants as well as on family dinner tables all over the world. However, few think of these fish in terms of biological diversity; restaurant menus will simply list "salmon," despite the fact that there are six different species, native to the United States alone. The entire salmon family encompasses multiple species that are distributed 360 degrees around the northern hemisphere. Many of these are threatened or endangered.

However, these fish not only represent food, salmonid fishes are intimately entwined spiritually, culturally and economically with people and communities around the world - from anglers to commercial fishermen. Thus, when we lose the diversity of these fish, we lose not only species, but also our own cultural heritage. Every salmon and trout has a story, and that story is about us.

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Great Salmon Tour A travel in diversity

Every fish has a story -
a tale inextricable from
our own.



**A quest to see and document
"all" the Salmonids of the
World and to explore the social
and cultural connections that
humans have to them.**

Great Salmon Tour

An Adventure

A Documentary



Pictures from the 2010 tour.

The **Great Salmon Tour** is an ambitious project to document the diversity of salmon and explore the deep cultural and personal connections we humans have to these fish.

- I want to educate about salmonid species, its diversity, and its conservation to promote conservation of these fish.

As we travel to salmonid habitats around the world, audiences will follow and experience through film, pictures, and articles our search for the salmon fishes and the ways they nourish cultural, spiritual, and personal relationships with human communities. The Great Salmon Tour seeks to tell that story, and make us all a vital part in its unfolding. We have a series of species and locations that we plan to visit.

Of Fish and Men

Local Anglers of Virginia

Virginia is one of the last strongholds of brook trout. Here it provides a place for people to connect to the serenity of nature.

The Lost Trout of Mexico

After years of searching for trout only documented in old travel stories, a joint Mexican-US team of scientists found the lost trout of the Sierra Occidental.

Salmon cartels of Spain

In Asturias, Spain, family cartels have managed Atlantic salmon for generations.

The Reef Netters of Washington

In WA, a small commercial fishery using an old native fishing method, reef netting, hangs on.



From top left to right: Arctic char, reef netting for chum salmon, omul from Lake Baikal in Russia, Inuits drying fish in Canada, chum salmon, and fishing for Danube salmon in Europe.

The Project's Outcomes

- Documentary series
- Full feature documentary
- Published articles
- Presentations at schools and universities
- Conservation projects

Expedition Locations

- The Lost Trout of Mexico
- Chum and pink salmon in WA
- Brook trout in WV and VA
- Arctic char in Canada
- Atlantic salmon in Spain
- Danube salmon in Slovenia
- Omul in Lake Baikal, Russia
- The trout of Tigris River, Turkey

*Join me in making the Great Salmon Tour happen. I will contribute significant amount of personal assets such as equipment and time. Thus, my first goal now is to cover the basic expenses for travel and logistics for three critical team members who will undertake this work. Please go to the Great Salmon Tour fiscal sponsor, **Fracture Atlas**, to support the next expeditions. Or contact me for a **Sponsorship**; I would love to feature your business.*