Semester Long Project Deliverable #1

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**Dataset: Salmon Population Summary (Status 2015):** [**https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/apex/f?p=261:30::::RP:P10\_ARCHIVE,G\_CURRENT\_ARCHIVE:51,51**](https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/apex/f?p=261:30::::RP:P10_ARCHIVE,G_CURRENT_ARCHIVE:51,51)

**Project Proposal:**

I have chosen the Salmon Population Summary dataset from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association from 2015. This dataset contains the estimated spawn numbers of different species of salmon in the rivers of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Columns include the location of the estimation, the species of fish being counted, the year the data was collected, and other important factors that contribute to the US Northwest salmon population. The data goes as far back as almost 90 years ago and is up to date to 2015. I chose this dataset because I am an avid fisherman in Idaho and have genuine curiosity about the salmon population in this area.

While not much monetary value will come from analysis of this dataset, I believe it can be used by environmental protection agencies such as the Fish and Game Commission in these specific states to gather helpful insights on the salmon population conservation. These insights will provide relevant agencies with confirmation of their conservation efforts or perhaps a need to change their policies if a declining trend is identified. After doing some research, experts say the population of many species of salmon have been declining for several years, but strict policies have been put into place to prevent the extinction of the endangered species. Hatcheries have been built to combat this trend, but many species suffer from overfishing and are losing their habitats due to dams blocking their paths back to where they spawn.

For my project, I would like to divide the populations and species by area and see the rivers which are most affected by these recent trends. I will create relevant charts and statistics that illustrate how the population has changed over the years in the US and propose alternatives to how agencies can save the endangered species.