

## O13.5

### Salmon-Safe: Human and Salmon Relationships, from Mountains to Oceans

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#### Abstract

Salmon-Safe Certification has a guiding vision entitled *Mountains-to-Oceans*. This vision acknowledges the entire life-cycle of salmon. Salmon are born in freshwater mountain streams. When young they travel down connecting rivers to spend their adult lives maturing in the ocean. When mature, they return to the streams of their birth, to reproduce the next generation. The salmon life-cycle goes on, generation after generation, as it has for millennia.

Salmon-Safe believes salmon and people can live and thrive together. Salmon-Safe has developed a strategy that encourages both farmers and city managers to voluntarily agree to manage their lands to meet Salmon-Safe's science-based performance Standards.

Focused on water quality, Salmon-Salmon Standards require land management practices that eliminate or significantly limit the run-off of water from the land. If there is run-off, Salmon-Safe Standards insures it does not contain chemicals that are toxic to fish and other aquatic species. Salmon-Safe relies upon independent assessments to verify these Standards are being met. When Standards are met, clients can tell the world they are *Salmon-Safe*.

Salmon-Safe works to generate a *Salmon-Safe Culture*, where salmon safe practices are embedded into daily lives and then taught to successive generations. When a cultural tradition, entire communities will learn how to be salmon-safe. To achieve this, Salmon-Safe looks to *Satoumi*, "Village Ocean," as a model, as well as *Satokawa*, ("Village River") and *Satoyama*, ("Village Mountain"). Salmon-Safe's *Mountains-to-Oceans Vision* encourages it to learn from all three traditions: *Satoumi*, *Satokawa*, *Satoyama*.

*Salmon Nations* speaks to the relationships between people and nature found in *Satoumi*, but *Salmon Nation* expands this relationship to much of the Northern Pacific Ocean and its coastlines. United States salmon have been located off the coast of Japan. This geographic reach offers a relationship challenge for residents of *Salmon Nation*.

#### Keywords

salmon, rivers, ocean, culture