

HIGHLIGHT

Water quality and the effects on salmon



(Above left: Oriki Jack (left) and Xuedong Chen (right) compare laboratory notes; John Stark (middle) talks about his new endangered species project; (at right) Grace Jack explains functions of the lab equipment.)

Restoring Puget Sound is a long-term project now underway with support from Governor Gregoire and funding from the Washington Legislature. Some of the region's best scientists were appointed to a Science Panel that will assist the Governor's Puget Sound Partnership in making decisions and developing programs that incorporate a strong scientific solution to restoring the Sound. Science Panel member John Stark, an environmental toxicologist and Professor of Entomology at the WSU Puyallup Center, has worked with his research team and program collaborator NOAA, to identify and understand the effects of pesticides and agricultural adjuvants, detergents used to improve the performance of pesticides, on salmon. The findings, says Nathaniel Scholz, NOAA Seattle, in a recent ScienceNOW article, "mean that the U.S. EPA may be underestimating the hazards pesticides pose to salmon."



Stark's research team at the Puyallup Center also works with him on a project for the State of California, evaluating the effects of pesticides on several endangered species of butterfly that live in unique habits throughout the state where pesticides are regularly applied for multiple purposes. Grace Jack, Agricultural Research Technician has worked with Stark for 18 years; Oriki Jack is a research staff member and Xuedong Chen is a visiting Chinese scientist.

WSU Puyallup: Solutions for the Region; Programs for Its People

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