

Tulalip Lushootseed Family Activity

Blessing of the Fisherman

The First Salmon Ceremony Unit

Activity Overview:

This activity is to understand the importance to bless and pray for our fisherman's (dx^wsɬiʔɬdahəb) health and safety because they are keeping us healthy and fed.

Families (ʔiišəd) will discuss why we have a first salmon ceremony (sʔəsq̣ʷuʔ ʔə ti hik^w siʔab yubəč) and prepare to participate in the event.

Illustrations by Elizabeth Starks

Lushootseed

sduhubš - *Snohomish People*

sʔəsq̣ʷuʔ ʔə ti hik^w siʔab yubəč

First Salmon Ceremony

dx^wsɬiʔɬdahəb - *Fisherman*

g^wəhəliʔtx^w - *Blessing*

hik^w siʔab yubəč
King Salmon

g^wəhəliʔtx^w čəʔ ti dx^wsɬiʔɬdahəb
We bless the fishermen.

ʔəsʔəxid k^wi g^wədəx^whəliʔtx^w čəʔ ti dx^wsɬiʔɬdahəb.

Why do we bless the fishermen?

tišdx^w čəʔ ti dx^wsɬiʔɬdahəb

We take care of the fishermen.

tišdubuʔ ti dx^wsɬiʔɬdahəb.
The fishermen take care of us.

Activity Instructions



Writing Blessings and sing blessing of the fisherman:

1. Review why we g^wəhəli?tx^w čəł ti dx^wsłi?łdahəb (Blessing the fisherman) at The First Salmon Ceremony (s?əsq^wu? ?ə ti hik^w si?ab yubəč).
2. Take turns as a family to share what g^wəhəli?tx^w (blessings) you will give to the dx^wsłi?łdahəb (fishermen).
3. Draw/write the blessings (g^wəhəli?tx^w) you will offer to the dx^wsłi?łdahəb (fishermen) for the s?əsq^wu? ?ə ti hik^w si?ab yubəč (First Salmon Ceremony).
4. After writing g^wəhəli?tx^w (blessings) and prayers for the dx^wsłi?łdahəb (fishermen) meet up with a local fishermen in your family or go to the marina or hatchery and sing the “g^wəhəli?tx^w ti dx^wsłi?łdahəb” (Blessing the Fishermen) for those who are out on the water for their first catch of the season!

