

● AWARENESS OF THE SALMON ISSUE

Important Issues Facing the U.S. and Washington State

To determine the relative importance of the salmon issue, participants were asked to identify the most significant issues facing the U.S as a whole. The following concerns were predominant:

- breakdown of "family values"/social morality;
- the health care system/welfare reform;
- violence;
- economy/national debt;
- income gap between rich and poor;
- failure of the political process.

In each group, only one person mentioned the environment as a national concern.

● Participants were then asked what they thought were the most important issues facing Washington State in particular. The issues that emerged were:

- environment/ecology:
 - clear-cutting of forests;
 - dams/Ballard locks;
 - pollution;
 - the ecological state of Puget sound;
 - the decline of the fisheries.
- high taxes;
- failure of the education system;
- homelessness;
- breakdown of family values.