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Richard Stoll [00:00:10] Well I've been a lifelong Angler. I started it in the stroller when my mom used to roll me on Crystal Pier in San Diego and tie a string around my neck and throw a piece of bait in the water. But as far as stories go there are many, many, many because I've been fishing for well over 70 years. And I can remember at one time in Norfolk Stillaguamish River walking down the river I ran into Syd Glasso who's a good friend of mine, I don't know if you know who the Syd Glasso is, he's a famous fly tier and steelheader. And Syd had, had a beautiful female steelhead on his hand carrying it up the river. This is in the early '70s in the '70s and he said, I said this beautiful fish, he says well it's mate is right there and cast in there, and her mate was right there and we got both of them. That was a special moment in a lot of ways it was because of the river, because of the person, because of the environment in general.

Richard Stoll [00:01:26] Well like I just said you know my mother did it, my mother was an incessant angler, not a flagger, just an angler. And I started in the stroller and...

James Thull [00:01:39] In about what year would that have been, about when, where?

Richard Stoll [00:01:41] 1944-1945 San Diego.

James Thull [00:01:45] So saltwater.

Richard Stoll [00:01:46] Yes saltwater, absolutely surfperch I mean pile perch, croaker, halibut things like that yeah.

Richard Stoll [00:02:02] They're limited but in so far as they are limited in the area in waters and things like that they're very very important. I know that Olympic National Park near where I live has a program to expunge non-native species and introduce and reintroduce species that related to the area. A lot of the high lakes that had trout that have trout now, did not have trout originally so they've gotten rid of them. Olympic National Park has a lot of rivers running out of it that are salmon rivers. The parks are very very important. So conversely state parks and national forests are a different story altogether. They're multipurpose use places and they're not necessarily sensitive to salmonids.

Richard Stoll [00:02:56] I do we live in an area with a lot of saltwater on the, near the Olympic Peninsula on Kitsap Peninsula. And so I fish saltwater a lot for salmon and sea-run cutthroat trout salmon mostly. And so one of my favorite spots is a place called Point No Point. And Point No Point is a point that looks out the straights of San Juan de Fuca And it's unique in that when the salmon start migrating in the mid-summer to late fall they cross right across that point. So it's a wonderful place to fish.

Richard Stoll [00:03:35] As a proactive thing I don't know that it's important or not. I really don't, I think people should do what they like to do. I think the issue here is just not to be exclusionary necessarily. And so my wife as it is a very very good fly angler, she loves to do it but other people don't. I don't see that as an issue.

James Thull [00:04:01] Do you think it's history and culture that play into that? I mean we typically we learn from other people who taught us.

Richard Stoll [00:04:09] Of course it's a culture thing and culture changes over time, but it is cultural to a great degree. Women have their traditional roles and men have their

traditional roles, and it's changing a lot. We find a lot of women who fly fish now but to proactively recruit anybody I'm not sure that that's a great thing.

Richard Stoll [00:04:41] I've been an environmental scientist for forty-seven years. The changes are huge. Our resources are going away wholesale, and conversely, populations of anglers are going up. And we drove down from Yellowstone Park yesterday and the rivers were lined with anglers, after those few fish that are left in these rivers. Quite a few out there I don't know but it's just going to get worse. And that combined with the fact that because of a lot of environmental factors we're losing a lot these resources it doesn't pretend to well for me.

Richard Stoll [00:05:23] Absolutely absolutely. And you know where we live you know the logging of the forest, the decimation of small streams in particular. And small streams are extremely important to salmon and fisheries because that's where a lot of these fish spawn and rare. They're just disappearing. And you know I don't know that pollution is a big factor, but other factors are really really important in leading to the decimation of our natural resources. There's just too many people out there, and unrestrained capitalism is just eating up everything. And as we go along including the profit economics of support fisheries. Which really drives a lot of the industry, companies want some rods, reels, and lines, waders, and what not. Writers want to sell more make articles to magazines and write more books. Guides want to guide more people. Smart people want to do it. I mean the resources are finite.

Richard Stoll [00:06:37] I think it should be a concern for everyone because our natural resources simply disappearing, and under the current administration issue and as you're well aware they're proposing exactly that happens. And it is a very very short sighted thing and it's something that that it's designed to bolster our whole capitalistic society. Create more jobs so to speak.

Richard Stoll [00:07:10] All of those things and all those things overlay each other. All of those things you know where I live on the hood canal, which is a branch of the Puget Sound we have a problem with oyster sets because of acidification of the saltwater. You know ocean acidification is a big big issue. Once you diminish the larvae in the ocean, oyster larvae and other larve you know you just interrupt the whole food chain. It's a big deal, and people don't understand it really really big deal.

Richard Stoll [00:07:55] I suppose so. I consider my fly fishing as sort of a separate thing entirely. But you know it gives me a broader understanding of the environment I'm angling in so to speak, much broader understanding of it.

Richard Stoll [00:08:19] Piece of advice. Go out and have fun. I mean that's about it. Go out and have fun, get together with somebody that can teach you a little bit. You know people don't understand the issues unless they're involved with the issues in some way. Issues related to angling and our loss of resources and things like that. Yeah go out and have fun.

Richard Stoll [00:08:54] Good looking. Yeah, a good conversationalist. Somebody who likes a mild cigar good scotch. Yeah and isn't really intense on catching a fish. Someone that likes to go out, and relax, and have fun. That makes good fishing partner.

Richard Stoll [00:09:24] Retired people get bored and I do like to do research. I did substantial literature research on these books, very substantial. And I suppose if I were in

a university setting I could have done some papers and things like that but I'm not. And so I just sat down and did em, not particularly difficult.

Richard Stoll [00:09:55] Yeah I think there is in that I fish a lot of saltwater. I fish a lot of salmons and I fish and a lot of other species too. But sea-run means out of rivers and things like that. And that's I'm fascinated with their life histories and things like that so that's what I do. But we fished a lot of other saltwater fisheries to not just drop the salmon. We spent a lot of time in South Pacific.

Richard Stoll [00:10:36] We fish for Trevally, Barracuda. We spent quite a bit of time in Hawaii, believe it or not, this year Moloka'i and O'ahu both have offer some of the biggest bonefishing in the world. I love tarpon and permit things like that. Yeah.

Richard Stoll [00:11:04] That's hard to say but among the sports species maybe permit maybe permit.

Richard Stoll [00:11:17] I think the thing surprising is the diversity of between populations that vary a lot depending on where they are but what marshes they come out of, and these sorts of things. Very little was known about sea-run cutthroat trout. The reason is because they're not an economically important species very very little. And so I found on a lot of things about it and worked with the Washington Department of Wildlife. Who started the sea-run cutthroat program still am. And I think I elucidated a lot of things about sea-run cutthroat that were heretofore not understood in this whole project. In addition, I created a relatively substantial list of sources for information of sea-run cutthroat trout. There's not a lot out there 40, 50, 60 papers but that's about it. And so, but sea-run cutthroat trout nowadays particularly out in Washington state and not so much more Oregon, in British Columbia though are what I call a designer species. The designer species in the sense that that other things are going way. The steel heading isn't what it was, the salmon fishing isn't what it was. And here we have this trout that nobody's realized is here in the saltwater along our beaches. And is really really getting promoted heavily heavily for saltwater species for angling opportunity amongst shops, and purveyors, and guides, and that sort of thing. And so one of the things I did it with my book and I think it was maybe the primary driver, is that I really emphasized the ecology and conservation issues related to these species. Because that's really one what I wanted to communicate to people not so much how to fish em. But of course, the book has that in it if it didn't nobody would read it.

Richard Stoll [00:13:32] What's the value of history in general and history gives these sorts of things give us perspective on the past. And you know I talk about that in I think the second to last chapter in my book, about this whole baseline syndrome and what our perspectives are on the baseline it changes over time. My baseline is what I remember, my kid's baseline is now and it's different. Do we look back to our baseline and we don't see the change. And so you know these historical collections and things like that it can to some degree, to the people that that take advantage of and give us perspective on what things were relative to now.