

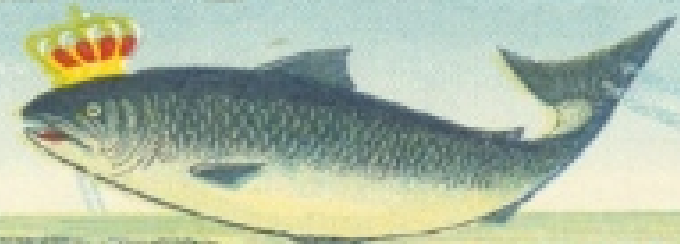
David R. Montgomery



dirt

The Erosion of Civilizations

KING OF FISH



THE THOUSAND YEAR FALL OF
SALMON

DAVID R. MONTGOMERY

Civilizations around the world have risen and declined. How much did past societies contribute to their own decline?

QuickTime™ and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture.

**Mesopotamia
Minoans
Greece
Rome**

**Indus
Angkor Watt**

**Olmec
Maya
Inca**

What would be required to sustain a civilization?

Recognizing that $>97\%$ of our food comes from the soil, the fundamental condition for sustaining a civilization is sustaining the soil.

Can soil erosion limit the lifespan of civilizations?