

## "Words' Worth" Poetry Readings

Poets at the Culture, Arts, and Parks Committee of the Seattle City Council.

### **Salmon Time** by Tom Casey

Synchronize your heart beat with the full moon  
tide. Inhale the scent your home stream leaves  
behind. Harmonize the seasons that divide your life.  
Now you're living on salmon time.

There's a rhythm when your livin' on salmon time.  
There's a feeling you've been through this all before.  
There's a certainty that life revolves and never ends  
when you see the world through salmon eyes.

So let dreams of immortality decide your course.  
Trust your instincts and your lateral line.  
Balance your pectorals with your dorsal fin then  
leave your dread of death and ruin behind.

The Creator of the sockeye and the Bering Sea,  
the Sculptor of the Cosmos, by design, hand-  
crafted us to swim upstream and spawn new lives  
and to raise 'em up on salmon time.

Our lives serve out their purposes like cohos' do.  
Our fates are finned and scaled then streamlined.  
Sure as winter follows fall, scour out your fears  
then all that once seemed common turns sublime.

From the gravel we all travel to a destiny  
ordained by old Devonian tides.  
What we've become can be undone and made  
brand new, if we'll just go back to salmon time.

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