



# FISHERIES CENTRE

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

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The University of  
British Columbia

## FishBytes

Volume 4 Issue 2 March/April 1998

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FISHERIES CENTRE AT UBC

### FC Team Visits Large Fish Attracting Device

*by Nigel Haggan*

On a recent visit to Hong Kong, Tony Pitcher and I were taken on a guided tour of the Lei Yue Mun live fish market and restaurant area at the thin end of Victoria Harbour. The visit was arranged and conducted by Hong Kong Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) scientists Albert Leung and Keith Wilson.

Lie Yue Mun is something to see - acres of covered alleys. Tiled storefronts with tiers of trays ranging from shallow ones at knee-level to serious fish tanks, some with large groupers. They were large fish, maybe 1m, but as Keith pointed out, they still had yellow pectorals meaning they were juveniles. Adults can get to the size of Volkswagen Beetles, at least could if they were let. This besides scores of other fish species - several types of lobster of the spiny and other persuasions, clams in various shapes and sizes, abalone, and a bewildering variety of minor crustaceans including mantis shrimp which look a bit like a bedroom slipper with feet but taste significantly better.

We walked for about 45 minutes, looking and listening to Albert and Keith talking about the different fish, where they were from and so forth. Few actually come from HK waters, the majority being flown in from the Philippines, Korea and other locations. As we walked, employees pointed special things out and tried to draw us in, so we had to say "just looking." At last hunger got the better of us, so Albert started to negotiate. It goes like this: You pick a fish or they point one out. They dip it up, put it in a plastic bag, you guess the weight and argue back and forth about its attributes. Then they hang it from a hand scales with a vicious circular stainless steel hook at one end of a bar and a sliding weight on the other. Then there's a shorter argument about the price.

In other matters, the FC team worked with ERM Hong Kong Ltd. and met with AFD staff on finalization of input to the artificial reef (AR) study. Dave Cook of AFD

provided useful information for refining the AR Scores that FC will be working on for the final AR report. Because of the interest in fishable ARs, AFD has come up with the ingenious concept of Marine Special Areas (MSAs) which allow different management options from total closure to various types of controlled access. This will allow AFD to pilot different management options developed in consultation with fishing communities. This is more flexible than the one size fits all "no take" MPA approach which, however effective overall, may be highly prejudicial to local interests. The FC is working on MSA design concepts for the final report.

AFD expressed interest in the application of Ecospace to AR sites selected in consultation with the HK fishing community and in ways to involve fishing communities in monitoring and enforcement. We also floated the idea of a 1999 workshop to reconstruct the HK ecosystem as it was in the 40s when many of the fish now only seen in places like Lie Yue Mun were plentiful in local waters. This was well received by Dr Yvonne Sadovy of Hong Kong University who has studied the live fish trade in collaboration with World Wildlife Fund. Professor Rudolf Wu, a UBC alumnus and Head of the Biology Department at HK City University provided creative ideas and encouraging suggestions on funding sources over an excellent lunch in the Faculty Club. A later meeting with AFD indicated substantial interest. ERM Hong Kong Ltd could provide liaison and reporting. Watch future issues of *FishBytes* for new developments in this fast-breaking story.

*(Nigel Haggan is a Research Associate at the Fisheries Centre.)*

## UBC Partners Attend BC Aboriginal Fisheries Commission Assembly

*By Nigel Haggan*

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, Jo-ann Archibald of the UBC First Nations House of Learning (FNHL) and Fisheries Centre members Daniel Pauly, Nigel Haggan, Johanne Dalsgaard, Silvia Salas and Dave Preikshot attended the Annual General Assembly of the BC Aboriginal Fisheries Commission (BCAFC). The Assembly, held in Kelowna in the interior of British Columbia, was attended by delegates from First Nations throughout the province. Morning sessions covered legal interpretation of the December 1997 Delgam'úukw decision of the Supreme Court of Canada. Major elements of the decision are: recognition of Aboriginal title as an interest in land and resources, and direction that courts must give oral history equal weight with written material and other types of evidence. The subtext and final observation of the decision direct the parties to resolve these issues through negotiation rather than continue to refer them to the courts.

Fred Fortier, Chair and Speaker of the BC Aboriginal Fisheries Commission introduced the UBC team and reported on the December 1997 Memorandum of Understanding (see *FishBytes* vol. 4 issue 1). He drew particular attention to sections dealing with traditional knowledge and agreement to work together:

- *"...to protect cultural and spiritual values, and cultural property and to ensure that the traditional knowledge of Indigenous communities is used respectfully and appropriately with all appropriate permissions and due accreditation"; and, to work with Indigenous communities to ensure that values are respected and that all initiatives are relevant to Indigenous communities as well as being of a high scientific and technical standard."*

Daniel Pauly outlined the Centre's local and international linkages including implications of his recent work on the impact of industrial fisheries on marine food webs. Jo-ann described the role FNHL played in supporting First Nations students at UBC and how FNHL could help to link the graduate student program at FC with First Nations educational institutions and programs at regional colleges. Nigel Haggan

described the Aboriginal Fisheries Chair proposal and discussed in general terms how the Back to the future approach could relate to the First Nation aspirations to restore resources to their historic levels. As a specific example, Dave Preikshot outlined the Strait of Georgia ecosystem reconstruction project and how traditional knowledge and quantitative science could work together.

Other agenda items included Department of Fisheries and Oceans presentations on the future of Canada's Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy and on how DFO proposed to protect depleted coho salmon stocks. Delegates raised the equity issue presented by the creation of extremely valuable Individual Transferable Quotas, the implications for treaty settlement and the trend to large marine protected areas as a conservation and rebuilding measure. Don Hall, biologist for the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Nation, described the design and operation of a regional management board between the Nuu-Chah-Nulth and other natural resource interests on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Fred Fortier noted that linkages between this and other emerging regional initiatives could play a significant part in the future of fisheries management in BC. Chief Simon Lucas made a powerful speech about the responsibilities of Hereditary Chiefs to maintain healthy resources and habitat in their traditional territory and cited problems with logging and overfishing in recent decades as examples of the need to involve First Nations in conservation and management.

The Centre and the FNHL would like to thank BCAFC for making time in their tight agenda and for the warm welcome. We look forward to lots of interesting work.

## **UBC's Associate VP Research Visits the Fisheries Centre**

On March 19, UBC's new Associate Vice President of Research paid a visit to the Fisheries Centre. Janet Werker, a professor of psychology, has recently been appointed to the position and has subsequently been busy visiting all of UBC's many research institutes.

At the Centre, Prof. Werker actively listened to comments from faculty and students. Carl Walters, Bill Neill, Daniel Pauly, Rashid Sumaila, Ramon Bonfil and Nigel Haggan spoke of the research currently in progress, and Ying Chuenpagdee presented a student perspective. Art Tautz of the BC Fisheries Branch also commented on the office's connections with the Centre.

Nigel also introduced Jo-ann Archibald of the FNHL and Arnie Narcisse, co-chair of the BCAFC, to discuss the Centre's links with those two organisations (see article on page 2 of this issue).

The discussion was broad and Prof. Werker was interested about the many projects that the Centre is involved in. She also suggested that hers is an enabling position, meant to help facilitate research initiatives.

The session ended with a special tour of the facilities of the Marine Mammal Unit.

The Fisheries Centre appreciates the interest of Prof. Werker in the diverse research undertaken here.

## **The Director in Oz – Part Two**

Observant souls may have noticed your Director-on-sabbatical trying to remain invisible to his graduate students in Hut B8 at the end of March. Now that I am back in Australia, I can safely admit to having visited the Fisheries Centre, which hosted a workshop on the use of Ecosim and Ecospace for multispecies fisheries evaluation, a meeting that also involved no less than two of our six-member International Advisory Council. One of them, Dr Jim Kitchell from Michigan, has been helping to develop Ecosim 2 together with Dr Carl Walters from the Fisheries Centre and Dr Villy Christensen from ICLARM. The other, Dr Kevern Cochrane, late of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute in Cape Town and now at FAO, Rome, arranged FAO's sponsorship of the workshop. (A Fisheries Centre report will be ready by the end of June; watch for an article in the next *FishBytes*).

In South Africa, Kevern had been a natural resources and education policy advisor to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and so he was keen to attend a meeting of our Aboriginal Fisheries steering committee, a co-operative venture between UBC First Nations House of Learning (FNHL) and the BC Aboriginal Fisheries Commission (AFC). We walked together across campus from the Fisheries Centre's sad brown hut to the airy simplicity of the FNHL, with its immense trees, waterfall and Longhouse. I always relax in the gentle atmosphere of the Longhouse, where loquacious scientists are admonished by the carved totems to listen twice as much as they should talk. I think Dr Jo-ann Archibald, the Director of the FNHL (she will step down later this year), should be congratulated for making this a place that truly belongs to First Nations' students, yet encourages productive meetings between our two cultures.

Jo-ann, Nigel Haggan, and Arnie Narcisse and his wife were present at the meeting. Kevern contrasted South Africa, a nation where Indigenous peoples are in the vast majority and where it was only a matter of time before natural rights were re-established, with BC, where First Nations are a tiny minority. He was encouraged to hear that we aim to have Aboriginal people represented, both on campus and in fisheries jobs, at least in proportion to the population. The group, whose partnership was formalised by the signing of an MOU earlier this year (see *FishBytes* vol. 4 issue 1) has recently persuaded UBC to adopt the endowment of a Chair in Aboriginal Fisheries as an official project.

From what I have seen, koori (Aboriginal) students in Australia do not yet have such targeted and culturally appropriate support, and, in general, Aboriginal rights are not being easily won in what appears to be a seriously polarised society. We visited an Aboriginal Centre near Merimbula, in southern NSW. With zero government funding, these people run Aboriginal eco-tours in a brave attempt to establish a cultural bridge to other Australians. Their people historically leached cycad plants (removing cyanide to make flour), harvested possums, kangaroos and wombats, built fish-holding ponds, and sailed 10km offshore to Montague Island for fur seals, penguins and mutton bird eggs. All the men of the tribe were drowned in the early 1800s when a sudden storm sank their canoes. It is said that one young ten year old boy with exceptional character re-established the tribe's traditions. Mount Dromedary (named by Cook, who didn't bother to ask the locals what the koori name was) is representative of the lady who founded the world lying on her side, with Montague Island and a small hill on a peninsula her two sons. Koori ladies say that when the mountain is covered in mist, the boyfriend is visiting. The cultural centre's shop sold nice didgeridoos, but the switch on Val my wife's anti-didgeridoo campaign was in the 'on' position and I failed to smuggle one back to Vancouver. But bellbirds chiming in the spotted gum/cycad forest, tame 'roos and technicolour rosella parrots nibbling from our hands were a real bonus.

I am trying to understand more of the Aboriginal situation in Australia, and am being helped in that respect by a gem of a library in the New South Wales Fisheries Institute at Cronulla, where my sabbatical is based. The library is small but specialised, houses two immensely helpful librarians, and, unlike similar libraries in UK and Canada, has not (yet) died the death of a thousand cuts. Such a library makes the sabbatical a joy. Administrators should not be allowed to destroy such a valuable facility in the name of penny-pinching accountancy, a fate that the archaeology of Hut B5 suggests may have

befallen library of the forerunner of the Centre, the Institute for Animal Resource Ecology, in the early 1980s. Libraries are for the future; their worth cannot be measured in dollars today, as their value lies in what is yet to be built on their store of knowledge.

In my next communiqué from Oz I will look at the status of Aboriginal rights and fisheries, and report on a visit to Hobart, Tasmania to talk at CCAMLR and CSIRO (wait till next time for keys to the acronyms!), the latter the home base of another member of the Fisheries Centre's International Advisory Council, Dr Keith Sainsbury.

## Two Well-Cited Authors

*By Daniel Pauly*

Cornelia Nanen, a friend of mine, recently forwarded to me an email from a colleague who shall remain unnamed and who asked for the initials of an author Cornelia had cited.

This author was 'Anon'. As many young scientists and graduate students do not know of this most prolific author, let me clarify this once and for all: *Anon is the family name of a well-known French polymath of the last century, Pierre Etal, Chevalier d'Anon, whose extensive work in a number of disciplines (including ichthyology and fisheries) caused him to become the most-cited scientists of his time, and indeed of all times to come.*

PS: It is improbable that the 'Anon' in question was the scholar who invented the footnote, who taught at the court of the last Emir of Cordova and whose full name was Ibid al Anon bin Etal.

**Congratulations to Sylvie Guénette** on being selected for a UBC University Graduate Fellowship! One of Tony Pitcher's PhD students, Sylvie's research focuses on marine protected areas and the Newfoundland cod.

## Third Larkin

### Lecture Announced

On Thursday February 18, 1999, the third Larkin Lecture be given by Dr Kevern Cochrane, a senior research officer at FAO in Rome with special responsibility for the Caribbean and Southern Africa. Dr Cochrane is also a member of the Centre's International Advisory Council. On the morning of February 19 there will be an open forum with Dr Cochrane at UBC. More details to follow in future issues of *FishBytes*.

## Conferences

**First International Symposium on Fisheries and Ecology (Fisheco '98)** will be hosted by Karadeniz Technical University in Trabazon, Turkey, September 2-4 1998. The official language for the symposium is English, and the main topics include global

fisheries and aquaculture, marine ecosystem processes, marine organisms, and human interventions on the marine environment. Abstracts (max. 300 words) and registration are due by May 15. For more information, visit [www.ktu.edu.tr](http://www.ktu.edu.tr), call (462)752-2031, fax (462)752-2158, email: [fisheco@risc01.bim.ktu.edu.tr](mailto:fisheco@risc01.bim.ktu.edu.tr), [seyhan@jbsd.ktu.edu.tr](mailto:seyhan@jbsd.ktu.edu.tr), or [fisheco@deniz.ktu.edu.tr](mailto:fisheco@deniz.ktu.edu.tr).

**PICES**, the North Pacific Marine Scientific Organisation, will be holding its Seventh Annual Meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska, October 14-25 1998. Scientific sessions will include invited and contributed papers on a variety of topics, including the impacts of the 1997-98 El Niño event. Abstracts (max. of 250 words) are due July 1, 1998, preferably through email ([pices@ios.bc.ca](mailto:pices@ios.bc.ca)) or posting to the PISCES home page ([pices.ios.bc.ca](http://pices.ios.bc.ca)). If neither of these methods are available, abstracts can be faxed to (250) 363-6827, or mailed to: c/o Institute of Ocean Sciences, PO Box 6000, Sidney, BC, Canada, V8L 4B2. Call (250) 363-6366 for more information.

**The Second International William R. and Lenore Mote Symposium**, November 4-6, 1998, Sarasota, Florida. Sponsored by Florida State University. Topic: Essential Fish Habitat and Marine Reserves. Invited and contributed papers will address such topics as site selection, management, and function of essential fish habitat and marine reserves, and the population level effects and social aspects associated with them. For more information or for registration material, contact: Florida State University, Center for Professional Development, Tallahassee, Florida, USA 32306-1640, phone (850) 644 3806, fax (850) 644 3803, email [register@cpd.fsu.edu](mailto:register@cpd.fsu.edu). Abstracts due June 1, 1998.

## Fisheries Centre Research Report Series

Two new reports in the Fisheries Centre's Research Report series, "Preliminary Mass-Balance Model of Prince William Sound, Alaska, for the Pre-Spill Period, 1980-1989", and "Assessment of Hong Kong's Inshore Fishery Resources". Copies of these and other reports may be obtained at a cost of Can\$20.00 (by cheque, credit card, or money order), including surface mail. Contact the Events Officer at the address given below, or phone (604)822-0618, fax (604)822-8934, or e-mail [events@fisheries.com](mailto:events@fisheries.com)

## Publications

***Adaptive Management of Renewable Resources*** - A reprinted edition of Dr. Carl Walters's classic 1986 work on adaptive management has been made possible by his kind assignment of the copyright to the Fisheries Centre.

The Fisheries Centre is pleased to re-introduce this book in a low cost student edition, as it has been out of print for some time. This work has lost none of its relevance to the management of natural resources since Dr Walters wrote it. An implementation of some of the principles of adaptive management as applied to fisheries management may be found in:

- Hilborn, R. and C.J. Walters. 1992. *Quantitative fisheries stock assessment: choice, dynamics and uncertainty*. Chapman and Hall, New York, 570 p.

To order a copy of *Adaptive Management of Renewable Resources* for Can\$50 (includes surface mail) contact either the Fisheries Centre events officer ([events@fisheries.com](mailto:events@fisheries.com)) or projects officer ([preikshot@fisheries.com](mailto:preikshot@fisheries.com)). Payment may be

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Three new publications from the **Alaska Sea Grant College Program Publications**. *Who Has the Legal Right to Fish?* by Harry Bader, is a primer on the legal basis of rights to fish in Alaskan waters (publication# MAB-49). *Temperature Directed Fishing: How to Reduce Bycatch and Increase Productivity* by Bob Mikol is a manual which teaches temperature directed fishing methods (publication# MAB-48). *Alaska Diving Safety* contains proceedings from a July 1997 workshop (publication# AK-SG-97-03, also available in PDF format at [www.uaf.edu/seagrant](http://www.uaf.edu/seagrant)). For information, call (907) 474-6707, or email [fypubs@uaf.edu](mailto:fypubs@uaf.edu).



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