

FISHBYTES

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William E. Ricker, 1908-2001

By Melanie Power

William E. (Bill) Ricker, father of the Ricker Curve, passed away on September 8, 2001. Born August 11, 1908 in Waterdown, Ontario, he was the only son in a family of four children. He was educated at the University of Toronto, receiving a BA in Biology in 1930, an MA in 1931, and a PhD in 1936.

In 1938, shortly after receiving his doctorate, Dr Ricker began tagging sockeye in Hell's Gate in British Columbia's Fraser Canyon for the Canadian Salmon Commission. According to an obituary by Tom Hawthorn published in *The Globe and Mail* on October 9, 2001, Dr Ricker and three colleagues tagged thousands of salmon in that one summer. Hawthorn quoted Dr Ricker as saying, "Of course, there was no road down to the Gate in those days. Only a steep trail, actually, but nothing you couldn't handle if you were young and skookum."

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Following his summer in the Fraser Canyon, Dr Ricker accepted a post in zoology at the University of Indiana, where stayed until 1950. At that time he returned to Canada to work for the Fisheries Research Board, editing the board's publications and eventually becoming the board's chief scientist.

In addition to his own publications (nearly 300 scientific papers), he was also noted for his skill in translating. Self-taught in Russian, Dr Ricker translated scientific papers between English and Russian, thereby bridging a divide during the Cold War era. Indeed, he prepared a *Russian-English Dictionary for Students of Fisheries and Aquatic Biology*, and according to Hawthorn's obituary he "was treated like a star when he toured Russia in 1992."

Dr Ricker received numerous awards and honours during his distinguished career. A fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, he was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1986. In addition to an award of excellence from the American Fisheries Society (1969) and the Eminent Ecologist award of the Ecological Society of America (1990), he also received honorary degrees from three Canadian Universities: Dalhousie, Manitoba, and Guelph. The AFS administers an annual award given in his name; the William E. Ricker Resource Conservation Award was this year awarded to the Pacific Biological Station.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada also bestowed honours upon Dr Ricker: the CGCS W.E. Ricker research vessel was named in his honour in 1986, and a road leading to Nanaimo's Pacific Biological Station is named, quite appropriately, Ricker's Curve.

Although he is best known for his contributions to fisheries science, Dr Ricker's interests were diverse. He played the violin and bass viol, and for some time performed as a member of the Nanaimo Symphony Orchestra. His interest in folk music was noted in a 1998 letter from his son Eric to Great Canadian Scientists. His son also detailed Dr Ricker's interest in Sherlock Holmes stories (having even published his own "Sherlockian tale") and North American railways.

With many and varied accomplishments, it is interesting to

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Hong Kong Artificial Reef/ Protected Area Programme Launched!

By Nigel Haggan

Keith Wilson of the Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Dept. (AFCD) reports that, on July 10, the Hong Kong Executive Committee overruled objections from trawl fishers in favour of their proposals for AR deployment and the creation of 'fisheries Special Areas' including no-take zones in Port Shelter and Long Harbour. Fourteen letters of support were received including letters from WWF-HK, Marine Conservation Society and 12 small-scale fisher's groups. The Hong Kong Government immediately approved the deployment of HK\$ 7 million in redundant structures (mainly piers & dolphins) in Outer Port Shelter HK\$ 9 million in tyre AR units (5m x 5 m x 5 m) in Outer Port Shelter and Long Harbour and HK\$ 27 million in vessels and quarry

rock ARs in Outer Port Shelter and Long Harbour.

AFCD have also recommended on amendments to the Fisheries Protection Ordinance to allow for the designation of Fisheries Protection Areas at Port Shelter & Tolo/Long Harbour in 2003 when AR deployment is completed. This represents the culmination of an exhaustive 4 year study that included UBC-FC involvement in initial stock assessment, consultation with HK fisher's groups, an initial round of ecosystem modelling to determine effective MPA size and a final round of spatial (Ecospace) modelling on the selected areas. We are proud to be associated with this farsighted effort to restore marine ecosystems.



News and Notes - Congrats!

Congratulations



Congratulations to **Stephen Watkinson**, who successfully defended his thesis in early September. He plans to settle in Bella Coola after honeymooning in Greece for a month.

Congratulations also to **Gunna Weingartner**, who defended her PhD thesis, "Effects of Experimentally Induced Hyperthyroid State on Diving in Harbour Seals", at the University of Innsbruck in Austria earlier in the summer. Gunna worked as the Fisheries Centre's Events Officer while conducting her doctoral research at UBC.

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consider the one activity at which he reportedly did not excel. As his son stated in that 1998 letter, "One thing he was not, curiously, was a good fisherman – although he loved to fish and spent countless hours trolling the waters around Nanaimo and up and down the coastline of Vancouver Island in earlier years."

Dr Ricker was predeceased by his wife Marion. He is survived by four sons and three grandchildren.

(With information from The Globe and Mail [Tom Hawthorn, "William Ricker: Pioneer in fisheries research", Tuesday, October 9, 2001, p. R11], the Great Canadian Scientists website [www.science.ca/css/gcs/Ricker/ricker.html], and from the Pacific Biological Station website [www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sci/pbs/english/RICKER.html].)



Window on the World's Oceans

FishBytes has recently received notice of the new OceanPortal from Peter Pissierssens, Head of the Ocean Services Section of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. Through OceanPortal, it is possible to submit URLs, suggest corrections and make detailed searches in the portal database.

Mr Pissierssens wrote that "There are

now almost 3000 links to important ocean-related sites on the web, so we believe it is fair to say that it is the largest ocean-related Portal on the Internet."

Developed by Greg Reed and Murray Brown, OceanPortal can be found at oceanportal.org.



Double Entendre ?

Scientists are generally brought up to believe that brevity with precision is a virtue, that a succinct concinnity enhances communication. What price then these instructions to referees by NSERC: "Brief reports may be seen as negative even if the comments are positive"? Looks like NSERC will weigh our words carefully ...



News and Notes - Hellos and Goodbye

Welcome

The Fisheries Centre attracts graduate and post-doctoral researchers from around the world, and this September was no exception. In addition to many new faces, several Fisheries Centre researchers have begun new graduate studies this fall. Welcome, all!

Cam Ainsworth, who has for some time been working on the Sea Around Us project, has just begun an MSc in RMES with Tony Pitcher. Originally from Abbotsford, BC, Cam holds a BSc in Marine Biology from UBC. For his Master's degree, he will be working on Back to the Future for Coasts Under Stress, using Ecopath and Rapfish to assess herring and other forage fish in the Hecate Strait and to link environmental trends to indices of historical abundance.

Eny Buchary has been at the Fisheries Centre for 6 years already – she first came to Canada from Indonesia to begin graduate work, and received an MSc in RMES in 1999 (see *FishBytes* vol 5(3)). Since then, she has been working on the Sea Around Us project. Eny now begins a PhD in RMES with Tony Pitcher, for which she plans to evaluate and analyse the decadal impact of El Niño on the volatile small pelagic fishery in Indonesia's Bali Strait. Eny says that she is planning to do some fieldwork, making for a good excuse to visit Bali!

Ahmed Gelchu has begun a PhD in RMES with Daniel Pauly. Ahmed holds a BSc degree in Biology from the University of Addis Ababa in his native Ethiopia, and an MPhil in Fisheries Biology and Fisheries Management from Norway's University of Bergen. His research interests include the evolution and distribution of global fishing effort.

Kerry Irish has begun an MSc in RMES with Andrew Trites in the Marine Mammal Research Unit. She is originally from North Vancouver but lives in Victoria, and her research will focus on killer whales in Alaska.

Saeko Kumagai has begun Master's studies in Zoology, working with Andrew Trites. Saeko hails from Yamaguchi, Japan, which she explains is in the western area of the main island, near Hiroshima. She graduated last year with a BS in Marine Biology from Texas A&M University at Galveston, and says that she doesn't know much about fish but loves to eat fish, but is looking for restaurant recommendations!

Vasiliki Karpouzi has joined the Fisheries Centre from Greece. She will be a Master's student in Zoology and supervised by Daniel Pauly. Vasiliki holds a BSc in Biology from the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Yajie (Lucy) Liu came from China to the Fisheries Centre nearly year ago to work here. She has now begun a PhD in RMES, and will be supervised by Rashid Sumaila. She received a Bachelor's degree in Marine Fisheries Science in China, and a Master's degree in International Fisheries Management from the Norwegian College of Fisheries Science at the University of Tromsø. Lucy will be coordinating this year's Fish 500 seminar series, and says she is very happy to be here.

Hector Manuel Lozano Montes has joined the Fisheries Centre from Mexico. He holds a BA in Biology from UNAM and an MSc in Marine Ecology from CICESE. At the Fisheries Centre, he will be supervised by Tony Pitcher, and his research will involve Back to the Future modelling in Mexico's Gulf of California, with special regard to fossilised fish scales.

Dr Maria (Deng) Lourdes Palomares has joined the Sea Around Us Project as a post-doctoral fellow, and is directly supervised by Daniel Pauly. Deng hails from Philippines, where she has been working on the FishBase Project since completing her PhD at France's Ecole Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Toulouse.

Tom Okey has also been at the Fisheries Centre for some time, first as a visiting scientist and subsequently as a research associate. This autumn, however, he begins a doctorate in Zoology with Daniel Pauly. He intends to focus on "Alternate states in marine ecosystems". Tom has a BSc (St. Lawrence University) and MSc (Moss Landing Marine Laboratoris).

Nathan Taylor has begun an MSc in Zoology with Carl Walters. He is from Vancouver, and holds a BSc in Honours Oceanography and Biology from UBC. He describes his research interests as "slaying lots and lots of squawfish!"

Pablo Trujillo Montebruno is a new MSc student in RMES with Tony Pitcher, and will be a part of the Fisheries Centre's Back to the Future work. He is a Chilean-Canadian, and holds a degree in Marine Biology from the Universidad de Concepcion.

Welcome also to **Annie Lin**, our new Clerk Receptionist. Thanks to **Alex Vallee** for filling in during the transition period.

Farewell

Farewell to **Ramón Bonfil-Saunders**, who was one of the Fisheries Centre's founding students (the Centre's B₀?), having followed Tony Pitcher here from London, England. Ramón has taken up a position in New York with the Wildlife Conservation Society as a Conservation Fisheries Scientist.

News and Notes - Things to do and read

Conference Calls

Coastal Zone Asia-Pacific, "Improving the State of the Coastal Areas" – Bangkok, Thailand, May 12-16, 2002.

This international conference is the first of its kind for the Asia-Pacific region that aims to promote innovative approaches and best practices to improve the state of the coastal areas. Researchers, communities, coastal managers, policy makers and others interested in sharing the practical solutions to address problems in these coastal areas are invited to attend. Abstracts (paper, poster, or video presentations) are due 15 January 2002. Registration fee is \$150 US (or \$85 US for students). For more information, visit www.vims.edu/czap, or contact Dr Ratana Chuenpagdee, Conference Co-ordinator, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, PO Box 1346, Gloucester Point, Virginia, USA, 23062, phone (804) 684-7335, fax (804) 684-7843, or email ratana@vims.edu

The **Third International Conference on Recreational Fishing** – Darwin, Australia, May 22–24, 2002, to be hosted by Australia's Northern Territory. The Conference is a forum for members of the recreational fishing fraternity including managers, researchers, policy makers, industry representatives and the angling public to discuss issues relevant to the sustainable management of recreational fishing through the new millennium. The theme of the Conference is "Regional Experiences for Global Solutions". For further information, contact John Harrison – Amateur Fishermen's Association of the Northern Territory (afant@octa4.net.au), or Anne Coleman – Fisheries Division, DPIF (anne.coleman@nt.gov.au). The Fisheries Centre's Tony Pitcher is among the members of the International Steering Committee. Conference secretariat: Convention Catalysts International GPO Box 2451 Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, 0801, phone +61 8 8981 1875,

fax +61 8 8941 1639, email convention.catalysts@norgate.com.au, or visit www.conventioncatalysts.com.au or the Fisheries Centre's website.

The **Fourth World Fisheries Congress** - Vancouver, BC, May 2-6, 2004. The theme of this conference is "Reconciling Fisheries with Conservation". Previous Congresses were in Athens (#1, 1992), Brisbane (#2, 1996) and Beijing (#3, 2000). Dr Tony Pitcher has been confirmed as Programme Chair while Dr Bruce Ward from the BC Government Fisheries Unit is in charge of local arrangements and Dr Max Stocker from DFO sits on the Steering Committee. More details will be published in *FishBytes* as they become available.

Publications

New from the Alaska Sea Grant College Program, *Seabird Bycatch: Trends, Roadblocks, and Solutions*, edited by Edward F. Melvin and Julia K. Parrish. This book significantly adds to the knowledge base of seabird incidental mortality in commercial fisheries, and emphasises the importance of comprehensive solutions. The product of a 1999 symposium held by the Pacific Seabird Group, *Seabird Bycatch* is a response to escalating seabird bycatch, a global conservation and fisheries management issue. In a classic synthesis of the symposium, the editors discuss techniques to measure bycatch in fisheries worldwide, obstacles to solving bycatch, and viable bycatch solutions. Contact: Alaska Sea Grant College Program, University of Alaska Fairbanks, PO Box 755040, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA, 99775-5040, phone (907) 474-6707 or (888) 789-0090, fax (907) 474-6285, email FYPUBS@uaf.edu.

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Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Fisheries Centre or its members.

Be sure to visit the Fisheries Centre's website, www.fisheries.ubc.ca, and follow the links to *FishBytes*. There, you'll also find details on Fisheries Centre projects, publications, faculty and students, as well as information on upcoming Fisheries Centre events.

