

The newsletter for stewards of salmonids and their habitat • Volume 13 • Number 1 • Spring 2006

Marine Protected Areas

Planning for a sustainable future

By Karen Blinkhorn

How do we go about protecting marine ecosystems and biodiversity while sustaining the livelihoods of coastal communities? Since 1993, the B.C. chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) has been working with government agencies, communities, First Nations and other stakeholders to create a viable network of marine protected areas (MPAs).

MPAs are ocean regions with long-term legal safeguards. Some are small areas where no human activities of any kind are allowed. Larger ones, such as the Gully Marine Protected Area off Nova Scotia and Australia's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, have several zones with different levels of activity and protection.

"Because coastal communities have strong traditional, cultural and economic ties to the ocean, MPAs are usually designated for the purpose of sustainable use rather than pure conservation," says Jodi Stark, the marine campaign coordinator of CPAWS-BC.

CPAWS has participated in policy and legislation development and in the identification of potential sites. For several years, it has been leading a network of non-governmental organizations, scientists and local stakeholders to promote the establishment of a National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) in the southern Strait of Georgia. NMCAs are marine protected areas established by Parks Canada. An NMCA in the Strait of Georgia would build on existing

conservation-based management measures.

"MPAs can't solve all the problems in the ocean, but they are an important foundation," says Stark. "They challenge us to consider how marine species interact with their habitats and with each other, and

how we can benefit from our marine resources in a sustainable way.

"Our current approach to oceans management is focused on managing each sector separately. This fragmented approach to fishing, tourism, transportation, etc., has led to significant declines in global fish stocks and overall decreasing environmental health of our oceans."

Stark points out that right here in B.C. a range of species - from rockfish and eelgrass to orcas and oystercatchers - are in decline.

Only 2 per cent of B.C.'s marine environment falls under some form of legislation, and even this has a limited amount of actual species or habitat protection. Most are recreational areas.

Why does Canada lag behind other nations in the creation of MPAs? One reason often given is overlap in jurisdiction. Both the federal and provincial governments have some control over our marine environment. But there is hope for collaboration.

In 1994, the federal and provincial governments created an



intergovernmental steering committee to develop a Marine Protected Areas Strategy for B.C. Both governments have committed to completing a system of MPAs on the Pacific coast by 2010.

CPAWS is working with other groups to develop a proposal for a coordinated approach governments could use to achieve this goal.

"The continued efforts of British Columbians will be rewarded when resident species begin to recover," says Stark.

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The eagles return

The 10th annual Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival was held in November. That is the perfect

time to witness the intertwined life cycles of salmon and eagles. The Harrison River is home to chinook, coho, chum, pink and sockeye. Spawning in its tributaries occurs from August to late December. Up to 1,200 bald eagles return each year to feed on the spawning salmon, and people are there to celebrate.

All week, in a variety of locations, participants sang, danced, listened, talked, painted, laughed, and ate their way closer to an understanding of Fraser Valley biodiversity.

Silverdale Creek Wetland, west of Mission, hosted tours and talks on

the importance of wetlands and the astonishing diversity of life in a pond. Leq'a:mel Hall laid on environmental displays, crafts, and delectable First Nations cuisine. The



The Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society (OWL) nursed this eagle back to health and released it, to the delight of festival-goers.

historic Xa:ytem Longhouse was open for tours and cultural talks.

A "personal pledge" was part of the program this year. After each event, people were asked to identify one thing they could do to help create a sustainable environment.

Educator and facilitator Peter
Donaldson inspired dozens of
personal pledges from Mission
students. His ongoing Salmonpeople
project aims to teach citizens of all
ages how to make lifestyle choices
that recognize the interdependence
of ecology, economy, and society
in their home ecosystems. The
festival week culminated with a
performance of his one-man play at
the Clarke Theatre.

We will be doing it all again next year! Visit www.fraservalleybald eaglefestival.ca to get involved.

New minister visits B.C.

Loyola Hearn of Newfoundland, the new Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, was in Vancouver in March.



He chaired a gathering of the Pacific Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers, meeting with B.C. Environment Minister Barry Penner and Yukon Deputy Minister of Environment Edward Huebert, among others. Hearn says he plans

to move ahead with reforms to improve the overall management of the Pacific fisheries.

"Today's meeting was a great opportunity for us to get together and discuss issues affecting Pacific fisheries," he said. "I'm looking forward to building on these new relationships by working closely with my counterparts in B.C. and Yukon."

Planning to make a career of salmon stewardship? This bursary is for you.

Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) has announced two \$500 bursaries for the 2005/2006 academic year. Each bursary is awarded to a full-time post-secondary student, enrolled in an education program aimed at a career in salmon recovery, who is also a stewardship volunteer.

Last year's winners were BCIT's Brenda Boye of Surrey, and Leonard Guno, a Malaspina University-College student from New Aiyansh.

Leonard Guno is in his second year of the Resource Management Officer Technician program. He has worked and volunteered for the past five years with Nisga'a Fisheries' Nass River Fishwheel program, Radio Telemetry program, and chinook and coho studies.

Brenda Boye is in her second year of the Fish, Wildlife and Recreation program. She volunteers with the City of Surrey Parks & Recreation Releaf Program doing riparian rehabilitation along salmon-bearing streams.

DFO community advisor Joe Kambeitz began fundraising 18 years ago for such a bursary. "This celebrates outstanding achievement and commitment to the future of Pacific salmon," he says. "My sincere congratulations to both winners."

Information and application packages about the PSF Stewardship Community Bursary is available at www.psf.ca/bursary and at B.C. colleges and universities. To donate to the bursary fund, call PSF at 604-664-7664.



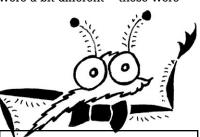
Dave Chitty

Retiring - but not quitting

After many years, Dave Chitty is retiring as education coordinator for School District 70 in Port Alberni.

Dave says his first involvement with salmon enhancement was in the 1970s. "We raised salmon in garbage cans. Primitive, but fun."

In the mid-1980s he became an education coordinator, feeling strongly that school programs were a vital part of environmental stewardship. He involved students in enhancement projects centred on Cherry Creek. Elementary students operated a smolt trap. Hundreds of children of all ages have since taken part in riparian planting, fencing and enhancement. 1992 and 1993 were a bit different – those were



The Community Advisors of the Lower Fraser and the Pacific Streamkeepers Federation invite you to kick up your feelers at

Ugly Bug Ball II
and DFO
Volunteer
Recognition and
Appreciation Day

Saturday, June 17, 2006

A Rocha Field Studies and Ecology Centre 512 - 172nd Street, Surrey

Check for updates at www.pskf.ca/ubb/

Bring your family and enjoy a day of food, fun, and sharing of stories about your volunteer efforts and successes.



Dave Chitty confers with young workers at the smolt trap.

the years when Japanese students studying salmon came to Port Alberni, and 20 students from Port Alberni got to go to Japan.

Dave is proud of the holistic approach that he and the program's many supporters have taken over the years. Active roles have been taken by teachers, Robertson Creek Hatchery management and staff, volunteer groups, local government, non-governmental organizations, and individuals such as biologist Dave Clough. This has made it possible for a large number of children to benefit from a community-based, more meaningful program. "Due to our location, we have been left alone to modify and develop our own approach to salmonid education, using DFO materials as a baseline."

We haven't seen the last of Dave. He is retiring from day-to-day Salmonids in the Classroom activities, but we'll still be able to find him at the Cherry Creek smolt trap, the Alberni Valley Enhancement Association, and getting dirty with the Rogers Creek Streamkeepers project.

A View of the Future

What does someone with Dave Chitty's experience and knowledge foretell for environmental education and stewardship?

"If we are to succeed in Stream to Sea we must make it an inclusive process. We need to bring as many community, corporate and government groups into it as possible. We must stop treating salmon as a resource and seek to reestablish habitats that are healthy for all. We should strongly resist the focus on "numbers" and instead rebuild, enhance and protect ecosystems. At the same time we must incorporate realistic, locally-based harvesting processes.

"The key is teamwork. Much of the work to improve and protect habitat is being done by an aging group of volunteers. DFO needs to recognize this and actively support these groups and individuals. Let's get more people involved and having fun."





Boxed talks and ugly bugs

When your group is invited to address an audience about watershed issues, it takes a lot of effort to put together a presentation and find a volunteer

willing to give it. The most knowledgeable and experienced people are often already over-extended with stream rehabilitation and protection, and involvement in public planning and policy processes. Preaching to the unconverted ends up being a little neglected.

The Pacific Streamkeepers
Federation (PSkF) is working on a
series of PowerPoint presentations
that can be downloaded or mailed
to you. These "talks in a box" will
make it possible for newer members
to present with confidence to a
variety of audiences. The supplied
photos and script will be easily
adaptable to your region. You will
also be able to insert your own
photos and text.

Our first presentation, *Trails*, can be found at www.pskf.ca. Our next one is in the works. *Invasive Species as Zone Invaders* will help people identify their local geoclimatic zone, and learn how to encourage beneficial native plants and discourage alien invaders.

Ugly Bug Ball II

The PSkF and DFO community advisors from the Lower Mainland are teaming up to bring you Ugly Bug Ball II. Once again salmon enhancement/streamkeeper communities will gather at Surrey's A Rocha Field Study Centre for a time of sharing, networking and good old fashioned fun! This year we are looking at data collection. What information did you gather

and where has it taken you? Many new project ideas have been spawned through the creative imaginations of our aquatic stewardship community. Incorporate this into your display to share with those on site as well as through video to a much wider audience. PSkF videographer Pat Morten will be there to help you capture your group's message on tape. Have a look at http://www.pskf.ca/ubb/ for more ideas, and mark June 17 on your calendar.

Module updated

Module 12 of the Streamkeepers
Handbook and Modules is being
revised. The methodology for
spawner surveys will be brought
in line with the stream inspection
log method. The Streamkeepers
Data Entry Tool already allows for
the entry of information collected
in this fashion as does DFO's stock
assessment database. Information
collected in a standardized way fits
into a larger number of processes.
This will make your group's data on
returning salmon more applicable.
The PSkF has produced a video on

Tool Tip

A clinometer is a device used to measure the angle of a line of sight above or below horizontal. You can use it to measure the slope of a stream.

To help you use your clinometer correctly, first practise shooting across land you know is level (0 per cent slope), and take note of the way you are holding the tool. Hold it the same way when shooting on a stream. Remember that you must be standing at water level in order to shoot the slope of a stream. If you stand on the bank you may be in a depression or on a rock, which will affect your reading.

DVD about the stream inspection log to ensure standard training.

To order, please contact pskf@direct.ca or write to Pacific Streamkeepers Federation,

720 Orwell Street, North Vancouver,
B.C., V7J 2G3.

Valuing Nature:

Stewardship and Conservation in Canada

Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador, July 5 - 8

Held every three years, this national conference attracts participants from a wide variety of backgrounds, including all levels of government, non-profit organizations, industry and Aboriginal groups from across Canada and beyond.

Building on successful conferences held in Victoria in 2003 and Guelph in 2000, we will chart and evaluate progress, as well as contribute to the evolution and implementation of the 10-year action plan conceived at Victoria. Themes for this year's conference include:

- Stewardship Economics and Sustainability
- Stewardship's Web of Conservation Lands/Waters in Canada
- Headwaters to Oceans
- Funding Strategies and Financial Instruments for Stewardship
- Community-Based Monitoring for Stewardship

For more information, or to register for the conference, visit www.stewardship2006.ca, or phone (709) 637-2043 / (709) 634-1444.





From dream to reality in just five years

by Jean Peachman

Port Coquitlam's Hyde Creek Streamkeepers had a dream. They wanted to create a full-time salmon hatchery to replace one operated out of a backyard for over 15 years.

In 2001 they formed Hyde Creek Watershed Society and received a creekside lease of property from the City of Port Coquitlam. DFO and the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) contributed funding, contractors donated time and equipment, and work began.

Petro Canada committed to large donations over the course of the project. In 2003 the new hatchery began operations in earnest and the first stocks of chum and coho eggs were nurtured. The rearing pond and channel were completed in time for the first fry.

Free tours and classes, held in tents on loan from Petro Canada, were conducted rain or shine.

More dry storage was needed. Home Depot donated materials and students from Terry Fox Secondary School built a shed. 2004 funding from PSF purchased predator netting and an aeration tower. New funding from BC Gaming and many corporate donors built a second floor. To raise more funds, volunteers painted a stream mural decorated with colourful fish.

By September 2005 the tents were no longer needed. The classroom was bare, but dry and warm, and school programs and public tours took off. Recently, IKEA has furnished tables and chairs. And in May the Hyde Creek Watershed Society will host the official opening of the new facility.

Major donors include BC Gaming, City of Port Coquitlam, Petro Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, PSF, Coquitlam Concrete (1993) Ltd., Read Jones Christoffersen, Thistle Plumbing, Wesbild Holdings Ltd., Bel/Pacific, Coast Capital Savings, Jack Cewe Ltd., Liberty Homes Ltd., Westminster Savings, and CIBC.

Our members can take a deep bow for their hard work and dedication. Special recognition to Shane Peachman for his coordinating and construction skills that brought this project to fruition – under budget. Thanks also to Jean Peachman and Linda Dore for their fundraising and office support.

You are invited to see the dreamcome-true at an open house on April 22. Contact peachman@telus. net for more information.

A Stewardship Chain Reaction

Have you ever stopped to think about how every stewardship action lays the foundation for the next? Maybe your group started out as a few friends cleaning up a creek. Then you got the local school involved, and petitioned your city council for some funding. You gave yourselves a name, and sponsored a booth at the Fall Fair to promote watershed conservation. More people signed up. And now, many years later, you're part of the Eagle Festival, and you're on TV, and David Suzuki is calling...!

The next time you meet, take some time to draw up your organization's chain reaction on a big sheet of paper. Make a chart to show the links from the first idea to your achievements of today. You'll be amazed at what you've accomplished, and energized to carry on and do even more.

Is your watershed pesticide-free?

Does your municipality permit the use of chemicals to control garden weeds and harmful insects?

Commonly used products such as Killex, Weed Stop and Weed Out contain the herbicide 2,4-D, some formulations of which are toxic to fish (and creatures that eat them). Some insecticides contain

News Flash!
Community Workshop 2007
will be held in Williams Lake
on next year's May long
weekend. Watch for
updates!

malathion, diazinon or carbaryl, which are acutely toxic to both insects and fish. Surveys conducted in the Greater Vancouver Regional District and Victoria showed that 66 to 87 per cent of homeowners are still using pesticides in the garden.

This is a scary statistic in terms of human and watershed health. Recent reports from Environment Canada show toxin levels increasing in our water supply. Scientists are concerned at the buildup of medicines, rubber from vehicle tires and harmful chemicals including pesticides.

Banning the use of garden pesticides for cosmetic reasons is

a step in the right direction. Since 2001, when the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the right of Hudson, Quebec, to pass a municipal bylaw banning the use of cosmetic pesticides, 86 municipalities across Canada have adopted similar regulations, and many more are drafting their own bylaws. The latest one to sign on is Gibsons Landing.

We need to encourage our city councils to ban the use of such chemicals. In B.C., only 10 municipalities are on board so far, including Vancouver, New Westminster, Nelson and Cumberland. How about yours?



New lesson plans for B.C. teachers

http://www-heb.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/community/education

Are you a teacher wanting to meet learning outcomes while getting involved in fun and fishy projects? Visit the upgraded education portion of DFO's website for new lesson plans clearly linked to Integrated Resource Packages in subjects such as science, language arts, social studies, and career and personal planning. Check out these examples.

Anti-Freeze, Anti-Fish – Drama, Grade 5. A short play introduces students to problem-solving and conflict-resolution over a common pollution source.

Make a Redd – Science, Grade 3. This classroom experiment shows how salmon protect their eggs.

Coho Habitat Loss – Science, Grade 4. Adapted from DFO's *Watershed Works*, this lesson augments the habitat section of the *Probe* textbook. Teams identify threats to coho habitat.

Killer Whales and Bioaccumulation

various disciplines, Grades 7 and 8.
 Explores the natural history of B.C. killer whale populations and uses graphing to study bioaccumulation. In the final lesson, students plan changes in their own lives which will help killer whales.

Sakinaw Sockeye Case Study – Science. Grade 8. Exercises in role-playing and consensus-building.

Nechako White Sturgeon Decline

 Science, Grade 8. Includes a graphing and interpretation exercise for students to understand the life history of white sturgeon.

First Nations Careers in Stewardship and Fisheries – Planning, Grade 10. Following one First Nations group as an example, the lessons combine science and traditional knowledge to examine potential stewardship and fisheries careers for First Nations students.

Herrings and Hemlocks

by Jonn Matsen

As winter turns to spring, land plants produce leaves to capture the sun's power and, with water, nutrients and minerals from the soil, restart growth and reproduction.

In the sea, diatom algae
begin the same cycle,
except that nutrients
and minerals
can be harder
to find. The
previous year's
growth may
have used
up any near

the surface. This is why the spring plankton bloom in Georgia Strait begins at the mouths of rivers such as the Squamish. The water pushing out of the river valley into the ocean works like a pump, drawing deep, nutrient-laden waters up from the depths. This allows hundreds of diatom species to sprout their green magic, often weeks ahead of the rest of Georgia Strait.

The lush green growth brings the grazers. Barnacles, mussels, clams, snails, crabs, starfish and a variety of shrimp-like organisms release their eggs into the ocean to feast on this plenty. One of these, a fat copepod called *Neocalanus plumchrus*, is a favourite food for herring hatchlings.

Back in the 1960s, herring in the millions spawned in Mamquam Blind Channel, just east of the Squamish River mouth. Herring sperm is activated best at a salinity of 12 to 20 parts per thousand

(which is about 50/50 salt water and fresh water) and herring eggs need protection from waves. These two requirements were likely met in the channel, but industrial development polluted and disturbed the area.

The industrial development is now gone, and it might be possible to restore herring production to the area. However, herring like to attach their eggs onto kelp or eelgrass, which no longer exist in the channel in any quantity. That leaves creosote pilings for them to spawn on but studies have shown that creosote is quite toxic to larva development.

Edith Tobe is attempting to replant eelgrass. In the meantime, inspired by traditional First Nations methods, the Squamish Streamkeepers have put hemlock trees into the water as substitutes.

If herring take to spawning on the hemlocks, their eggs should hatch out in time to feast for a full 100 days on their favourite *Neocalanus plumchrus*, thus giving them a big head start on returning to their numbers of the past.

A great way to fundraise

Wildlife Habitat Canada will donate a Conservation Edition Print (valued at \$195) for auction by your stewardship organization. They ask that your organization purchase a Wildlife Habitat Canada Conservation Stamp for \$8.50, cover shipping costs, and that you frame the print with the stamp. Your organization keeps the funds raised by these prints by Canadian artists.

This opportunity is for any and all conservation organizations.

For details, visit

www.whc.org/ConservationStamp-LimitedEditionPrintProgram.htm



Project Highlight

The Environmental Farm Plan **Fish and farmers co-exist**

By Niels Holbek

The BC Agriculture Council's Environmental Farm Plan project (EFP) works to help agricultural operations find the balance between production and the environment.

EFP advisor Pete Spencer has been protecting the environment for many years. "When I came to British Columbia from Ontario as a young man, everything looked so pristine and clean that I wanted to help keep it that way."

From the start, Spencer put the approach into practice, using environmentally sensitive land clearing methods for his own ranching operations. He ran a

Pete Spencer (right) and Frank Poirier at the cattle bridge across Brash Creek.

cow/calf operation in Vanderhoof for 30 years, while serving with the BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) in various roles. He became the BCCA Director for Fort Fraser region, chaired the environmental stewardship committee and was a peer advisor for the area.

When he retired and moved to Kelowna, it was natural to continue in the environmental arena. Today, and he calls this retirement, he runs a five-acre Christmas tree operation and a conifer nursery in the Mission Creek area. He is also a very active EFP advisor and coordinates the BC Cattlemen's EFP Delivery Group. "It just sort of happened that way," he says. "When we moved to Kelowna, my wife Cyndi urged me to stay involved with the environmental challenges facing ranchers.

"I was lucky enough to be offered the opportunity to work for the BCCA to help lay the groundwork for the EFP program. Becoming a planning advisor was another logical step for me. Now I get to help producers evaluate their environmental performance and help them deal with any issues."

> So far Spencer has done 26 environmental farm plans and he gets excited when you ask him about specific ranches.

"Brash Creek Ranch is a prime example of the EFP program in action," he says. "Frank Poirier and his family raise Red and Black Angus near Enderby. The Poiriers have addressed the action items identified in their environmental farm plan.

Specifically, they have replaced a bridge over Brash Creek and have almost finished erecting riparian fencing parallel to the creek. Further improvements to operations along the creek are scheduled."

Another is Valleyview Ranch, in the Malakwa area, where a new bridge has been built over Senn Creek. "This is a very valuable salmon-rearing stream according to DFO," Spencer says.

At both sites, equipment and cattle will no longer have to cross through the water, risking pollution of the stream. This is good for the cattle and even better for the fish.

"Ducks Unlimited were also involved at both sites," Spencer says. "They bring an extra 10 per cent incentive funding to the table and that often makes the difference whether people can afford to do the project or not. It makes it so much more appealing."

The EFP Planning Advisor has been able to build a relationship of trust and cooperation with the ranchers. "Our area DFO habitat field technician, Bob Harding, has been very, very good. He brings a fair and balanced outlook on things and also has access to funding sources. For example, DFO paid a significant part of the bridge and fencing costs on the Milton farm. In the end it is all a team effort and the environment comes out the big winner."

Spencer has a message for those farmers and ranchers who are still considering whether to do an environmental farm plan. "Some people are a bit intimidated. I want to assure them that there is nothing to fear. The EFP uses a carrot rather than a stick approach. It's built on reward and benefits.

"Some people think it's just more paperwork, and yes, there is some... but as planning advisors we are there to make the job as simple as possible. I tell my rancher clients that they will reap the benefits for generations to come."

For information, please contact Niels Holbek, Environmental Farm Plan Coordinator, BC Agricultural Council, Tel: 1-877-334-6547 nholbek@telus.net





www.bchydro.com/pwcp/natureline.html

Natureline is the newsletter of the Peace/Williston Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program. It is published by BC Hydro with input from DFO and the BC Ministry of Environment. The Winter 2006 issue includes articles about whitefish, kokanee, Arctic grayling, and bull trout.

www.waterbucket.ca

Intended for water industry stakeholders, this website has been developed as part of the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia. It is maintained by the BC Water and Waste Association, and provides links and information about sustainable and integrated approaches to water management throughout the province.

www3.telus.net/public/adamah/cen/cenindex

Conservation & Ecology News posts articles and links of concern or interest to the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound eco-region. Examples are a newspaper article about the proposed \$1 billion Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan, and notice of a B.C. Federation of Drift Fishers public symposium on hatchery benefits and impacts.

www.thegreenpages.ca

This site works to organize the growing volume of web-based environmental information for its visitors.

It includes a directory of Canadian environmental websites, environmental news from across Canada, opportunities for student organisations and community groups to share information, and an archive with a search engine.

Parks Canada Poster Contest

Are you a student in Grade 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8? Use your artistic skills to let us know why the ocean is important to you!

> Contact us for guidelines: straitofgeorgianmca@pc.gc.ca

> > or visit:

http://www.pc.gc.ca/apprendre-learn/prof/ itm1-con/bc/pacific2005_e.asp

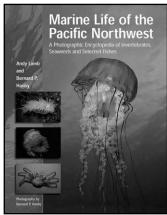
> Winners will be announced on World Oceans Day, June 8, 2006.



Marine Life of the Pacific Northwest: A Photographic Encyclopedia of Saltwater Invertebrates, Seaweeds and Selected Fishes

by Andy Lamb & Bernard Hanby, photos by Bernard Hanby. Harbour Publishing.

Coffee-table book or essential reference? This book is both. The 1,600 colour photographs of over 1,200 species speak volumes for the value of our ocean heritage. As if that were not enough, it is superbly organized, with a guickreference guide at the start, colour-coding, a full index of common and scientific names, and a glossary.



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Suite 200, 401 Burrard Street Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6C 3S4

> Editorial Director: Carrie Mishima Design and layout: Jennifer McKim Stone Information Coordinator: Joanne Day

Phone: 604-666-6614 Fax: 604-666-0417

E-mail: DayJ@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

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