



The Confluence

Summer 2015

Newsletter of the Washington-British Columbia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Inside this issue:

- President Elect's Report on AGM 2015 and AGM 2016 **2**
- New Chapter ExCom Members **2**
- Student Subunit Updates **3**
- Student Writings **4**
- The Book Nook **5**
- Education Corner **9**
- A review of the Science Comm. Symposia held at the 2015 Chapter AGM **10**

Annual AFS Conference in Portland, Oregon on August 16-20, 2015

The Oregon Chapter and Western Division of the American Fisheries Society cordially invite you to attend the **145th Annual Meeting of the Parent Society** to be convened at the Oregon Convention Center in **Portland, Oregon** from **August 16 to 20, 2015**.



There will be a diverse program offered, unconstrained by a single theme, which will allow you to learn how freshwater and marine resources are managed, conserved, and restored globally. To top it off, Portland is a terrific city to explore, eat great food, drink even better beer, and just have a great time with your new and old AFS colleagues and friends. The city's motto, "Keep Portland Weird", says it all.

Register and find more info. about the conference at: <http://2015.fisheries.org/registration/>.



Hotel reservation info. is detailed here: <http://2015.fisheries.org/registration/accommodations/>.

NEW this year: Alaska Airlines is offering a 5% discount on airfare to Portland! You will need to use this Meeting Fare Code: **ECMW266** and this Meeting Name: **American Fisheries Society Meeting** when you book your travel. Click here for more info: <http://2015.fisheries.org/alaska-airlines-offers-5-discount-on-airfare-to-portland/>.



There's something for everyone at this year's conference, as can be seen by the numbers: over 400 symposia, 1900 papers, 400 contributed papers, and 400 posters. Check it out at: <http://2015.fisheries.org/program/>.

Of course, there will also be a huge selection of workshops, continuing education opportunities, special meetings, networking events, and a great Trade Show. These include the Spawning Run & Carcass Crawl and Student/Mentor Lunch & Career Fair.



STUDENTS: Once you've registered for the conference, please take the Student/Mentor survey to let the Student/Mentor Lunch organizers know that you are participating and what kind of mentors you'd like to talk to. Here is the link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/>

Report on AGM 2015 & AGM 2016 - by Mark LaRiviere



**WA-BC Chapter
President Elect
Mark LaRiviere**

**WA-BC Chapter
Executive
Committee**

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Mark LaRiviere

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Vacant

AFS-UW President –

Merrill Rudd

AFS-UBC President –

Katrina V. Cook

Dear WA-BC members,

2015 Annual General Meeting: The WA-BC Chapter's Annual General Meeting, held earlier this year in Richmond, BC, was a great success. There were 124 attendees and almost 20% of these were students.

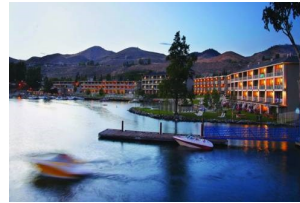
There was gorgeous weather all week and only a few minor, last-minute meeting adjustments were necessary – an additional screen & projector were procured, AV equipment for video streaming was required, and additional coffee to sweep away those pre-morning meeting cobwebs was provided.

Although the hotel was older, the upside was that the room rate was cheap (\$99 Canadian = ~\$75 US) and the customer service at this venue was outstanding.

The evening socials were well attended and we had more than 50 people at the banquet on Wednesday night. The DJ we hired did a great job and, with only a little coaxing, he was able to fill up the dance floor that night. The silent auction was very successful and we raised over \$1,100 that has been used to cover some of the students' expenditures.

What we lacked in number of symposia, we made up for in the quality of the presentations and the strong attendance at each session. The support and attendance of our Canadian members was outstanding!

Thanks to all the hard-working Chapter members who contributed!



2016 Annual General Meeting: The next Chapter AGM will be held at Campbell's Resort in Lake Chelan, Washington (pictured above) on March 28-31, 2016.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend this meeting. The strategic location in the upper Columbia River basin will no doubt attract both Canadian and Washington members and the focus of this AGM could potentially be the restoration issues associated with anadromous fish production in the upper Columbia River basin. [Editors note: This is a fabulous site for our meeting – great wineries and breweries, a fascinating

history of stream modification (i.e. Lake Chelan and a tunnel to the Columbia), fisheries history (Kokanee et al.), fire suppression legacy and current issues, 5k runs and other outdoor sports, and on and on. Don't miss it.]

2018 Western Division Annual General Meeting: The WA-BC Chapter Executive Committee is exploring the possibility of hosting the 2018 Western Division meeting in Seattle. Typically, the meeting is held sometime between late-March through early-May. It has been a while since the Western Division meeting was hosted by the WA-BC Chapter and our experience hosting the 2011 Parent Society Conference showed us that Seattle is a desirable meeting location. We'll send out more info. to our members as we research this opportunity and establish an exploratory committee.

- Mark LaRiviere,
President Elect
WA-BC Chapter of AFS

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New WA-BC Chapter ExCom Members

The votes are in for your new WA-BC Chapter Executive Committee members – and more than twice as many of you voted this year! We're looking forward to our new ExCom members starting their terms in August during the National AFS Conference in Portland.

Vice-President:
Tamara Knudson
(pictured at right)

Secretary:
Erin Rechisky

Treasurer:
Martina Beck

Communications
Director:
Brittney Jenewein

Communications
Committee Member:
Katie Pierson



Student Subunits: Reports and Activities



UW President's Report

by Merrill Rudd
mbrudd@uw.edu

AFS-UW website:
<https://afsuw.wordpress.com/>



This spring quarter, the AFS-UW Student Subunit held a career development seminar, featuring Dr. Jodie Toft, Senior Marine Ecologist at the Nature Conservancy (TNC) here in Seattle, Washington and School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences (SAFS) alumna. The seminar was well attended by graduate students and post docs from two UW departments/programs, SAFS and Quantitative Ecology and Resource Management.

Dr. Toft gave a brief presentation about the projects she works on and the types of people who work at TNC. We all learned a lot about the science and philanthropy that makes an NGO like TNC run successfully. For the rest of the hour the graduate students asked Dr. Toft questions about the work-life balance, job security, and cultural climate of working at TNC. Dr. Toft was also helpful in describing the differences in

responsibilities and projects between academia, government, NGO, and consulting.

This career development seminar was highly complementary to our event in the winter quarter, where we heard from Dr. Noble Hendrix, a quantitative ecologist consultant with his own firm, QEDA Consulting LLC. It was really enriching and helpful to hear about the differences between these types of jobs, and I think a lot of the students who have attended these seminars have a better idea of the career options that may best fit their personality types and the types of work they wish to pursue.

AFS-UW also co-sponsored the SAFS Spring Picnic, which was a giant success. Our participation in the event planning helped us get oyster (Taylor Shellfish) and Mexican food (Agua Verde) donations to feed the students, faculty, friends, and family of our greater SAFS community.

The other fisheries student group in our department, FINS, held a Dunk Booth fundraiser to raise money for student travel grants. These grants are supplementary to the travel award opportunities from AFS, which helps a greater number of our students attend AFS and other aquatic science and ecology-related conferences.

The Dunk Booth raised over \$4,000 from dunking 11 volunteers, including Ray Hilborn, Andre Punt, and Daniel Schindler, amongst



other faculty, alumni, and students.

Katrina Cook, President of the UBC Student Subunit

BC Student Subunit President's Report
 by Katrina Cook
katrina.vcook@gmail.com

AFS-BC website: <https://bcstudentafs.wordpress.com/>



Since our last update, the Student Subunit of British Columbia has continued its commitment to community service and engaging members from Vancouver universities by hosting events where students gather to chat all things fishy.

In May, once the heavy rain clouds left Vancouver and it started to feel like summer, members of the Student Subunit made the trek down the 500 wooden steps leading to a beach on the UBC

campus where the ExCom hosted a beach party. Pizza and a sunset sparked many lively conversations of upcoming field plans and research successes to date.

Every few months, we host small events such as this to connect members from different universities and labs and to exchange ideas regarding types of events members might like to attend.

This past winter, the Subunit was excited to have the WA-BC Annual General Meeting on our doorstep in Richmond, BC. Members of the Subunit participated by giving talks, assisting with planning, and volunteering. However, most notably, members worked hard to accumulate raffle items for the silent auction at the meeting - from fishing supplies to meetings with career development professionals - and raised over \$1100 to support future student activities within the WA-BC Chapter.

Most recently, the Student Subunit opened a competition for monetary support to attend the national AFS meeting in Portland. After reviewing many excellent applications, travel funds were awarded to Nolan Bett and Montana McLean, both PhD students at UBC that will be presenting their research at the meeting.

Student Writings

Semelparous

- by Natalie Sopinka

one more mile they said
a thunderous clamour – then
beat, beat, flatline



Natalie Sopinka

Student Author and PhD student at University of British Columbia.
<http://natalie-sopinka.wordpress.com/>

Inspiration:
Pacific salmon
(*Oncorhynchus* spp.)

About the author:

Natalie Sopinka is en route to a PhD at the University of British Columbia. She is the author of the "Phish Doc" (www.phishdoc.com) blog, a creative hub where you will find poetry and images that weave together her curiosity of nature and passion for science communication.

Photo Credit:

Jennifer O. Reynolds,
www.flickr.com/photos/fishwhisperer

Facts - Pacific salmon and Canadian rapper Drake have something in common; they both live according to YOLO, or you only live once. I study Pacific salmon and celebrities (though only the former professionally) so I thought this would be an excellent topic to cover.

Pacific salmon are semelparous, which means they only have a single opportunity to reproduce before death.

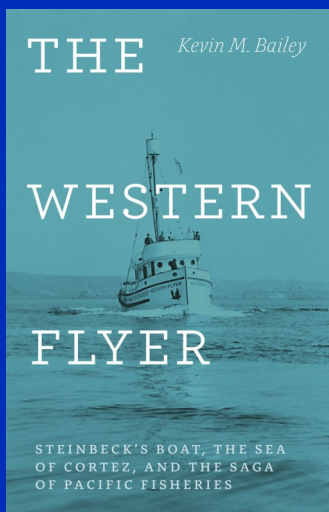
Once in a lifetime adult Pacific salmon migrate from the ocean to spawn in the freshwater rivers they were born in. No matter what, these fish need to get home, acquire a mate and have babies. Doesn't matter if the river you are swimming in is warming, polluted or teeming with ravenous predators and fishing hooks. YOLO. Once the migration starts, senescence kicks in and fish start rapidly "aging" as vital organs shut down. All fish die at the end of the journey. No second chances.

Some salmon die en route to spawning grounds. Some of the salmon that make it to spawning grounds die before doing the deed. Ultimately, no babies means no fitness for you. Without offspring your genetic material does not exist in the next generation, or the generation after that, and so on.

In contrast, Drake is iteroparous and has multiple opportunities to reproduce before death.



**Kevin Bailey,
Author &
Reviewer**



**The Western Flyer: Steinbeck's
Boat, the Sea of Cortez, and the
Saga of Pacific Fisheries**

"Storytelling is one of the most important ways we have to communicate information. It's largely neglected in science. But you can package a lot of science into the telling of a story; people will learn from the narrative without realizing it and resisting."

The Book Nook

The Western Flyer: Steinbeck's Boat, the Sea of Cortez, and the Saga of Pacific Fisheries

Author: Kevin Bailey
Publisher: Chicago Press
Year: 2015

Reviewer: Kevin Bailey provides an account here of what it was like to do research for this book (i.e. this is not a book review, per se). Go to the Facebook page for the Port Townsend Shipwrights Cooperative for information regarding the boat's current condition: <http://www.facebook.com/PortTownsendShipwrightsCoOp>

It's an unsettling experience to see your book emerge from the privacy of the nurturing environment where you've tended it, into public exposure. Now anyone can read it, not just the select few you had chosen, and criticism is public for your neighbors and family to see. Suddenly you have to switch from an introvert composing sentences in your mind, to an extrovert publicizing your product.

In October 2010, I was visiting Salinas, my hometown and the birthplace of Steinbeck. I was thinking about writing a story about the relationship of Ricketts, Steinbeck, and Joseph Campbell. As I read the local newspaper, I came across an article about a fund-raising dinner on behalf of the Western Flyer, the boat John Steinbeck and "Doc" Ricketts had taken to the Sea of Cortez in 1940. The nephew of the old skipper discovered the boat in Puget Sound, where had been tied up for many years. Now it had a new name, the Gemini. A local nonprofit group was trying to buy the boat. I thought, "hmm...that's interesting." I contacted the nonprofit to find the boat's location, but they asked me not to visit because the owner lived on the boat; he was reclusive and they didn't want me to upset the negotiations.

As it happened, a real estate developer saw the same newspaper article. He swept in and bought the boat for \$40,000 out from underneath the nose of the nonprofit. The new owner stated his intention to build a moat in a boutique hotel, dock the Western Flyer in it, and turn the 76-foot long ship into a floating restaurant complete with colored fountains. They would serve meals to tourists on her aft deck. The developer estimated that the new business would bring 15 million dollars of tourist money into the depressed economy of downtown Salinas. This was going to happen just about 400 meters from Steinbeck's grave. The glimmering of a story rolled over in my mind.

A few months later I visited the Western Flyer on a gray January day. The boat was moored in a slough under the Twin Bridges near Anacortes. Rust streaks and blue tarps adorned the hull; dilapidated is the word that comes to mind. She contrasted with the swank new Swinomish tribal casino next door. It was a sad sight to behold. The boat sat at its mooring for two more years and then in September 2012, a plank in the boat's hull ruptured and it sank at its mooring. A slew of agencies swooped in on the wreck. Fines were slapped on the owner left and right.

Two weeks later, a salvage crew refloated the boat. They put straps under her belly and pulled at her with a giant derrick. It was like trying to tug your boots out of a gooey-duck mudflat. When she finally broke free of the bottom and her deck emerged, water, mud and seaweeds poured out her portholes and doors. They pumped the sea out of the Flyer's body and patched over the hole in the planking of her belly that had let the water in. She was a rusting carcass.

The Flyer was moored at the same dock in the slough for several more months. Then in January 2013 the boat sank again. This time it sat on the bottom for nearly six months. The boat was finally lifted to the surface in June, and by now it was a decomposing hulk. The ship was crusted with mud and barnacles, and veiled with a gauze of seaweed. It looked like a ghost ship.

The Western Flyer was towed to Port Townsend and put in drydock. By now, the two sinkings had cost the developer a couple hundred thousand dollars. The damage to the boat was extensive. The cost of restoring the Flyer, was pegged at over 1 million dollars. Meanwhile, there was a steady stream of visitors to the boat. When I visited in August 2013, someone had pinned a picture of John Steinbeck to the boat as

though it was his casket in a wake.

You might ask, as I did, what happened to the boat in the 70 years between 1940 and 2010? That's what the book is about. It was a joy and a privilege to research and write about the Western Flyer, braiding the story of the boat, her people, and the fisheries.

A recent development, happening after my book landed in the printer's press, may bring a happy ending to the Western Flyer's story. A geologist who owns a drilling company bought the Flyer for one million dollars. He plans to invest a further two million in the boat's restoration and use the boat for education. The purchase could be the beginning of a new story for the old boat.

Storytelling is one of the most important ways we have to communicate information. It's largely neglected in science. But you can package a lot of science into the telling of a story; people will learn from the narrative without realizing it and resisting. Right now I'm working on a new book, telling the stories of some small-scale fisheries, their roots in history, their experiences, and problems. In my view, traditional fishing is a way of life that deserves to be valued and preserved as a reminder of who we are on the planet that sustains us.

Beyond the Outer Shores:
The Untold Odyssey of Ed Ricketts, the Pioneering Ecologist
who Inspired John Steinbeck and Joseph Campbell

Author: Eric Enno Tamm
 Book Reviewer: Orlay Johnson
 Publisher: Thunders Mouth Press, New York (U.S. Edition)
 Raincoast, Vancouver (Canadian Edition)
 Year: 2005 (paperback)

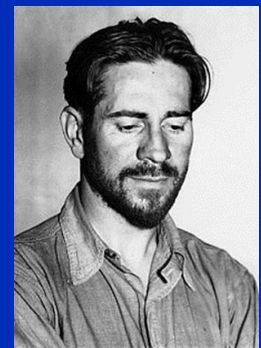
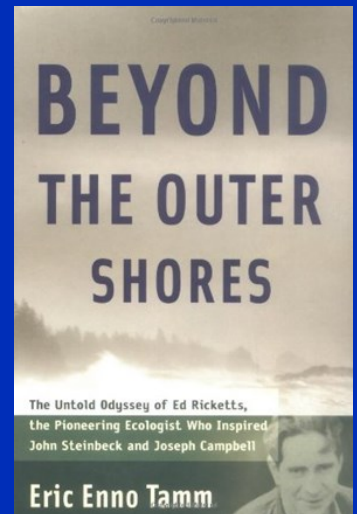
Short Review: The book is a gem and I recommend you buy it and pass it on to your colleagues and friends - with a caveat. The focus is on Ed Ricketts' life after his and John Steinbeck's famous collecting trip to the Sea of Cortez. The title refers to a second book he and John Steinbeck were writing on North Pacific marine life at the time of his death -- but Beyond the Outer Shores covers so much more. This books shows Ricketts was far more "Doc" in Cannery Row. A self-educated biologist, he defied the academic establishment and revolutionized the study of ecology and marine biology on the Pacific coast. For that reason, I believe the book should be read as widely within our field as possible. The caveat is: this book was conceived during dark times and Tamm describes behavior that today would be considered not only unethical, but also illegal. The book may be hard to find, but I think it is worth the hunt.

Full Review: In case you don't know, Ed Ricketts was a marine ecologist immortalized by John Steinbeck as "Doc" in his books, Cannery Row and Sweet Thursday, as well as in a book co-written by Steinbeck and Ricketts, The Log of the Sea of Cortez. Beyond the Outer Shores is a biography of Ricketts' scientific achievements, his family, and his friendships with both Steinbeck and Joseph Campbell, particularly after their return from a collecting trip to the Sea of Cortez.

Why review a book published over 10 years ago? In my mind, the first reason is that the book was published by a rather obscure publisher (Thunder's Mouth Press of New York) and is often difficult to find. It needs as much PR as it can get. Secondly, whenever I read it, I just can't help writing down comments and ideas that Tamm has stirred in my brain. Others who have read it feel the same - I'd suggest you read the book and see what effect it has on you.

Thirdly Edward Ricketts is one of the most eclectic and fascinating people you will ever meet. From my readings, it is not an exaggeration for Tamm to describe him as "the Jerry Garcia of American science—a bearded guru who ignored the social and scientific orthodoxies of his time; a progenitor of the counter-culture; an enigmatic ecologist whose pioneering work was initially rejected by the scientific establishment" (Tamm 2005). Who would not want to read about such a character?

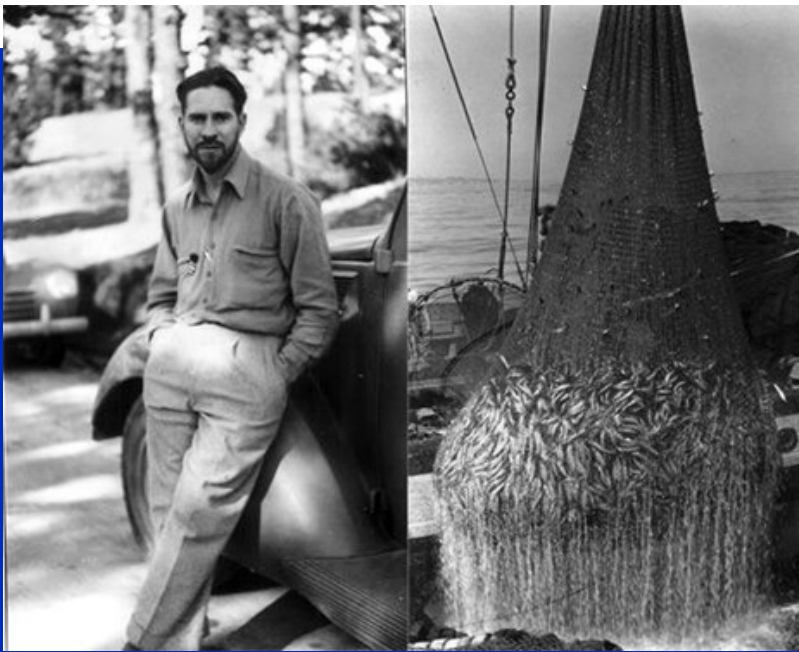
This book also gives us remarkable insight into where Steinbeck and Ricketts were heading with their ecological studies when it was all cut short by Ricketts' car-train accident on May 11th, 1948. He died just days before he and Steinbeck were supposed to leave on the final Alaska leg of a collecting trip to Alaska, a life-long dream of his. Both were planning on using the trip



Ed Ricketts in 1939
 (photo credit: Pat Hathaway/ Bryant Fitch— California Views Historical Photo Collection)

Ed Ricketts in 1936

(photo credit: Pat Hathaway Collection)



A seine haul of Pacific sardines near Monterey, California in 1936

(photo credit: Pat Hathaway Collection)

to finish a world-class ecological account of the animals and plants of the region. Steinbeck, deeply heart-broken by the death of his friend, abandoned the partially completed book and never finished it. Ricketts' notes for the book were not edited and published until 1978 when Joel Hedgpeth (1978) undertook the task.

Tamm's biography gives the reader some indication of their thinking at the time and where the book might have gone had they finished it together. As Tamm points out, the accident occurred just when Ricketts was finally achieving both a large measure of professional success as well as happiness in his new marriage. It is also ironic that he was advocating for a reduction in the sardine fishery, a reduction that was opposed by the fishing companies who had just built a new cannery blocking the view of the unmarked train crossing. Even more devastating to the community was that, only a few months after his death, both Cannery Row and this same sardine fishery collapsed, just as Ricketts had predicted, and would never fully recover.

This book also makes it clear that Ricketts' accomplishments have been obscured both by his fame as "Doc" in Cannery Row and by the denigrations of his accomplishments by the scientific aristocracy of the day. At that time, biologists were usually men from the upper classes with degrees from east coast universities. Ricketts was extremely bright but had left the University of Chicago before fishing his baccalaureate in order to walk across the Southern United States, eventually opening a biological collecting lab in Pacific Grove and Monterey (on Cannery Row), California. He lived in virtual poverty, supported only by selling biological specimens and the money loaned to him by Steinbeck.

The publication of Cannery Row made Ricketts famous but it did not elevate his status in the academic community. In Cannery Row, Doc is not portrayed as a serious "scientist", which Ricketts was, but rather as a "beer-drinking philosopher-scientist who presided over Monterey's population of whores, pimps, gamblers, and sons of bitches." The persona of Doc made Ricketts' research and writings, which were advocating a new and very anti-establishmentarian way of studying and classifying organisms, easier to dismiss.

Steinbeck acknowledged that Cannery Row and later Sweet Thursday were written as comic relief for "a group of soldiers who had said to me, 'Write something funny that isn't about the war. Write something for us to read - we're sick of the war.'" The Doc persona was meant to humanize scientists in a humorous and readable way, not be an accurate representation of Ed Ricketts and his actual scientific work.

Tamm also discusses Ricketts' philosophical writings, such as "Non-Teleological Thinking" and his belief in a biocentric (as opposed to homocentric) world. Ricketts wrote extensively on these issues and considered them as important as his marine biology work. He submitted several long essays to "Atlantic Monthly" and other literary journals and, although he only had one essay published (as part of The Sea of Cortez), his ideas had a major impact on Steinbeck and Campbell's work.

However, this brings up a major caveat for some readers: While Tamm indicates that Ricketts had a strong belief in moral value, by today's standards, his behavior is often unethical, immoral, and at times illegal, including heavy drinking, sexism, womanizing and a variety of other illegal activities. These behaviors can be extremely distasteful to modern readers. To be fair, to what extent Steinbeck exaggerated Doc's behavior in order to make the books more exciting is unknown, but Ricketts' never denied the stories and, as Tamm writes, "Doc's sexual and other adventures may be more Steinbeck's than Ricketts', but there seems to be plenty of bad behavior to go around".



Above: Ed Ricketts along the seashore in Monterey, 1948.

Below: Bust of Ed Ricketts at Cannery Row.

Photo credit (both): <http://www.beyondtheoutershores.com/index.html>



At right: *Pycnogonum rickettsi* (common name: sea spider) is one of twenty marine organisms that bear the species name *rickettsi* or *steinbecki* in honor of the contributions of both men to the field of marine biology.

A minor irritation is that Tamm has an inclination to mention a belief or written passage of Ricketts, Steinbeck, Campbell or others, and then launch into a lengthy sermon on his own perspectives of the subject. Perhaps this is a small quibble but it does wear on the reader and is very distracting.

This is certainly a well-written book about an icon of marine ecology and, besides learning about the forgotten origins of marine science on the Pacific coast, it will encourage you to read more about Ed Ricketts and his friends. Check out [The Sea of Cortez](#) and [Between Pacific Tides](#) (with John Calvin), as well as Steinbeck's [Cannery Row](#), [Sweet Thursday](#), [Grapes of Wrath](#) and, of course, Campbell's [The Masks of God](#). These men were, and still are, giants of the American literary and scientific world.

Biography of the author, Eric Enno Tamm:

Like Ed Ricketts, Tamm seems to be an extraordinary person whose life is almost as exciting as Ricketts'. Tamm was raised in the village of Ucluelet on the "outer shores" of British Columbia where his family has worked as commercial fishermen for four generations. Apparently, Tamm displayed a knack for history and writing early on and went on to earn a Master's degree in journalism from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles and another Master's degree in European Affairs from Lund University in Sweden.

[Beyond The Outer Shores](#) was Tamm's first book, winning the Kiriayama Prize Notable Book in 2005. His second book, [The Horse That Leaps Through Clouds: A Tale of Espionage, the Silk Road and the Rise of Modern China](#) (he obviously likes long involved titles), won the Ottawa Award for Best Non-Fiction Book of the Year in 2010.

Tamm is an award-winning author, journalist, and analyst with more than 15 years' experience in the media and non-profit sector. He currently lives Ottawa, Canada, where he continues to write and works as Team Leader for Thisfish, a seafood traceability startup launched by Ecotrust Canada. He also served as an elected Director on the National Council of the Writer's Union of Canada from 2010 to 2014. You can find more information about Tamm at: <http://www.ericennotamm.org/about/>. You can also find more information about Tamm and about [The Outer Shores](#) at: <http://www.beyondtheoutershores.com/index.html>

References:

Tamm, Eric Enno (2005). Of Myths and Men: Ed Ricketts' death, 50 years ago last week, preceded that of Cannery Row by only a few months. Monterey County Weekly October 12, 2005. <http://www.montereycountyweekly>



At right: *Panoploea rickettsi* (common name: sand flea)



Education Corner



NAME (Northwest Aquatic and Marine Educators) will hold their 40th annual meeting on July 20-24, 2015 at the University of Washington's SAFS (School of Aquatic and Fisheries Science) facility in Seattle, WA. Educators, researchers, students, and resource professionals from Washington, Oregon, Alaska and British Columbia are invited to meet, learn, share, and socialize. The theme of this year's annual meeting is: **One Place, Many Voices: Celebrating our Local Waters**. The NAME meeting is non-traditional in that a major focus is on extended teaching sessions where members can show others what they are actually doing in their programs. There is also a heavy emphasis on field trips, dancing, and ocean/water literacy. There will also be a special session on fisheries science for educators.

Go to <http://pacname.org/conf.shtml> for conference information.

Register online at: <http://northwestaquaticandmarineeducators.memberlodge.org/event-1933554>.

Lodging information and reservations can be found at: http://pacname.org/2015-WA/2015_lodging.shtml.

Contact registration@pacname.org if you have any questions.

Note that the poster proposal deadline is July 3, 2015. Submit your proposal online at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rBsQYMwrVTbVleP5vklXc4JsI89RnmaixWOFNZAVVEc/viewform?c=0&w=1>.

There are several conference strands: (1) Diversity/Connecting Cultures and Communities, (2) Innovative Teaching, Research, and Restoration, and (3) Urban Watersheds. Detailed information on each of these can be found at the conference information web address listed above. There are three presentation formats where you can showcase how you incorporate one or more of these strands into your program: Oral Presentation, Hands-on Workshop, or Poster Presentation. Presenters are encouraged to collaborate with other educators on presentations to present multiple perspectives and/or offer panel discussions on similar programming. Questions? Contact Giovannina Souers at president@pacname.org or (206) 446-0007.



Salmon Watch (pictured above) is an amazing environmental education program that has long been active in Oregon but is now extending its focus to Washington, starting with the Columbia River Gorge area, and they're looking for volunteers to help out with their fieldtrips. It's only a small time commitment and all training is provided in a 1 day session. It's a great way to get involved in a unique, hands-on environmental education program. Here is some more info:

Salmon Watch is an award-winning program serving middle and high school students throughout the Pacific Northwest. Presented by World Salmon Council, Salmon Watch is designed to instill a deeper understanding and appreciation of the value of native wild fish, watershed conservation and environmental stewardship. Through classroom education, instructional field trips and community service projects, Salmon Watch provides a comprehensive experience for thousands of students in the greater Portland metropolitan and Columbia Gorge regions.

WSC is currently recruiting Volunteer Educators to accompany classes on their 2015 Salmon Watch field trips and facilitate an instruction station on Salmon Biology, Macroinvertebrate Identification, Water Quality Monitoring or Riparian Zone Observation. No previous experience or knowledge related to salmon conservation is required! Just fill out the online application here: <http://worldsalmoncouncil.org/volunteer-educator-application-form>. Questions? Contact Alyssa Thornburg, Program Coordinator, at alyssa@worldsalmoncouncil.org. You can also go to: <http://worldsalmoncouncil.org/>.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for sharing your expertise to help educate the next generation to better understand and relate to the natural world on a personal level.



Washington-British Columbia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Chapter Information

Website: <http://wabc-afs.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wabcafs>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wabcafs>

Want to join AFS and the WA-BC Chapter? Go to:
<http://membership.fisheries.org/>

Questions? Suggestions? Contact:
President Matt Klungle at Matthew.Klungle@dfw.wa.gov

Want to write an article or submit any type of fisheries-
relevant information to this newsletter? Contact:
Orlay Johnson at Orlay@comcast.net or
Stephanie Caballero at scaballero@fs.fed.us

The WA-BC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, which includes members in Washington State and British Columbia, is an organization composed of professional biologists interested in the scientific conservation and enhancement of fish populations and their environment.

The mission of the Chapter is to:

- 1) advance the conservation and intelligent management of aquatic resources within a context of sound ecological principles,
- 2) gather and disseminate information pertaining to aquatic science and fisheries management, and
- 3) promote the educational and technical aspects of the fisheries profession.

In pursuit of our mission, we will strive to equitably represent the views of members, develop opportunities for effective leadership and conservation, and generate the resources necessary to carry out our programs.

The next WA-BC Chapter Annual General Meeting will be held at: Campbell's Resort in Lake Chelan, Washington

SAVE THE DATES: March 28-31, 2016

Fishy Tales from Science Communicators in the Pacific Northwest: A summary of the Science Communication Symposium held at the WA-BC Chapter AGM in spring 2015

**Written by Natalie Sopinka
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A timeworn image of a dam on Toronto's Don River appears on the projector screen. Vanessa Minke-Martin's voice fills the room. "The Atlantic Salmon of Lake Ontario were an anomaly, when we think about the archetypal anadromous life cycle." With a single photograph and a handful of words, Minke-Martin, a M.Sc. Student at the University of British Columbia, brought the unique life history and swift extirpation of this Laurentian Great Lakes salmonid to life for the audience. The decline of Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar* can be described with statistics, technical reports, and detailed maps, but addressing WA-BC members, Minke-Martin presented the extirpation with a captivating story. Storytelling when communicating science is gaining traction across disciplines (Dahlstrom 2014).

Minke-Martin chronicled the human impacts on Atlantic Salmon in Ontario. "As cities grew, pollution poisoned

rearing areas and hundreds of mills and dams were built across tributaries, blocking spawning migrations," she said. "In 1898, the last known fish was caught." Eventually, one of these last Atlantic Salmon would be added to the ichthyology collection at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in Toronto. More than a century later, this lone specimen would be used in the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources project to restore Atlantic Salmon to Lake Ontario. The story of the Atlantic Salmon was just one of many that Minke-Martin learned while creating a documentary, *Recollections*, about the history of the ROM's expansive ichthyology collection.

As Ami Kingdon, associate editor at Hakai Magazine (www.hakaimagazine.com) and speaker at the meeting said, "Stories are ancient. The power of a narrative about other human beings is incredible." Storytelling and fishes marry well. Symbolic and enchanting legends are passed generation to generation among First Nations communities. Comrades share tales after fishing trips to the cottage. Why not present your fisheries research as a story? Turn bullet points on opening slides into narratives. Develop the story's plot with methods and results. End your story with

study conclusions, reminding listeners of the narrative that motivated the scientific inquiry.

Presenters from organizations including the International Pacific Halibut Commission, Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society, Pacific Salmon Foundation, Coastal Connection Vancouver, COASTnet, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration highlighted the importance of knowing that one science communication tool does not fit all. Different audiences and publics will use different platforms—media, social media, or face-to-face talks—to get information. Understanding these platforms is important for optimizing communication efforts. Integrating storytelling and narratives into communication platforms can extend the reach and influence of the message. As Kingdon concluded, "People care about stories."

Want to develop your storymaking and storytelling skills? Be sure to read "Connection: Hollywood Storytelling Meets Critical Thinking" by Randy Olson, Dorie Barton, and Brian Palermo, and download the accompanying smartphone app, Connection Storymaker.