"The Confluence"

Spring 2013

Newsletter of the Washington-British Columbia (WA-BC) Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Inside this Issue

Have a newsletter article you'd like to see included in this publication? Or some ideas for future article topics? The email them to one of our editors! We'd love to hear from you!

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The President's Line
Wrap-up of the 2013 WA-BC Chapter AGM
- by John Morgan

Location of this year's AGM: Campbell's Resort on the shores of Lake Chelan, WA

The WA-BC Chapter of AFS annual general meeting (AGM) was held March 25-28, 2013 at Campbell's Resort on Lake Chelan, WA under the steady leadership of the program chair, Brian Missildine, President-Elect. The locale, weather, and people were amazing and resulted in a very successful meeting and our first AGM east of the Cascades in some time.

The conference delegates were welcomed to Chelan by Doug England (County Commissioner) and Randy Friedlander (Colville Confederated Tribes). The plenary session kicked off the technical program with Dr. Todd Pearsons (Grant County PUD) giving a dynamic presentation on the musings of a middle-aged fisheries biologist and Dr. David Welch (Kintama Research) giving an insightful talk on salmon in hot water, using the Columbia River as a backdrop. Don Gunderson was unable to make the plenary session, but we look forward to hearing his talk on the Rockfish's Warning at a future Chapter AGM. The remaining technical sessions covered 40 oral and 10 poster presentations, and included an excellent symposium on "Hatchery Challenges and Solutions in the Columbia Watershed", organized by Shannon Lowry (Grant County PUD). The meeting concluded with an electrofishing workshop put on by Lisa Harlan from Smith-Root, Inc.

AFS students were once again well-represented at the meeting, giving talks, presenting their posters, helping out with registration and talks, and running a very successful silent auction. More details on the student

activities at the meeting, including award winners, can be found in a separate report in this newsletter.

The annual Chapter Awards were announced at the business lunch and the recipients were: Jessica Rohde (Haig-Brown Award), George Pess (Certificate of Achievement), Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (Conservation Organization of the Year), Orlay Johnson (Meritorious Service), Don Gunderson (Worthy Coelacanth Award), Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (Volunteer Organization), and Brian Missildine (The Fish Gaffe). Congratulation to all of the award winners!

In addition to the technical program, there were also plenty of opportunities to socialize at the welcome and trade show socials, the banquet and dance, the student/mentor mixer, and the local pubs. A special "shout out" goes to the local band, Mugsy's Groove, for playing at the banquet, and to AFS members, Josh Murauskas and Todd Pearsons, for demonstrating their skills on the guitar and juice harp. The spawning run also continued its annual tradition with an early morning run/walk along the local river, thanks to Jim Shannon and the other dedicated runners.

Finally, thanks to all that attended and to the volunteers that helped make the meeting a success. We hope you enjoyed your time in Chelan and invite you to join us at the next Chapter meeting in 2014 where we will be heading back somewhere along the I-5. Stay tuned for more details in the early fall!

Tight Lines, John Morgan

Up and Coming Events

Check out the national AFS website - *Events* page - for all AFS-related meetings and classes: http://fisheries.org/calendar

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September 8-12, 2013 – National AFS Conference in beautiful downtown Little Rock, Arkansas

http://afs2013.com/

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and our 2013 AFS President, John Boreman, cordially invite you to attend the next Annual Meeting in Arkansas: "The Natural State". The meeting will be held September 8-12, 2013 at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

September 24-25, 2013 – Smith-Root electrofishing class

The always electrifying *Introduction to Electrofishing* classes, taught by fisheries biologists from Smith-Root, Inc., have been ongoing this spring but there is still ***one*** fall class available on September 24-25 at their headquarters in Vancouver, Washington. This 2-day course includes classroom teaching and hands-on training in the field with backpack electrofishers. For more information, go to **www.smith-root.com** or call (360) 573-0202.

July 14-18, 2013

NAME - Northwest Aquatic & Marine Educators Conference

This year's theme: *Sky 2 Sea!*

More info available at: <http://www.pacname.org/conf.shtml>

Crescent Beach, BC • Camp Alexandra

Registration begins: June 1, 2013

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WA-BC AFS Officer Reports

Your WA-BC Officers at the 2012 ExCom Retreat

See the WA-BC Chapter webpage
for officers and contact information:
http://wabc-afs.org/about-us/officers/

President John Morgan
President-Elect Brian Missildine
Vice-President Matthew Klungle
Past-President Mark Celedonia
Treasurer Emily Pizzichemi
Secretary Lisa Harlan
Communications Officers Orlay Johnson & Stephanie Caballero
Student Sub-Unit Representative-Elect: Martina Beck
UW-AFS Student President Jessie Hale
BC-AFS Student President Natalie Sopinka
Past-Past President Mark Pedersen

President Elect Brian Missildine

Hi, Chapter members. I want to thank all of you who attended our AGM at Campbell's Resort. I thoroughly enjoyed the venue

and the company. This year's AGM was a bit smaller than most, mainly due to sequestration, but overall I heard a lot of positive comments. For the most part, I have been recovering from the AGM - it is a lot of work but very rewarding at the end. I have primarily been wrapping up the budget for the AGM and helping our VP look for locations to hold our 2014 AGM. I also attended the Salmon Recovery Conference with a few of our Chapter members as well. There is a lot of great work going on in the recovery/restoration arena. A couple of things I want to focus on over the next couple months are: the continuation in the development of a new Chapter website; updating our Chapter's trade show booth; and the development of a brochure for our tradeshow booth.

Field season is upon us, so be safe.

Brian

Secretary Lisa Harlan has been keeping us up-to-date with ExCom meeting minutes and she helped out with the Chapter trade show booth at the Salmon Recovery Conference in Vancouver, WA. All this in addition to starting a new job with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in Vancouver, WA!

Communications Team –
Stephanie Caballero, Communications Director
Orlay Johnson, Newsletter Editor

We, along with Brian Missildine, attended the 2013 Salmon Recovery Conference in Vancouver, Washington last month. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board holds this conference every two years with the aim of building better salmon recovery projects and sharing "lessons learned". The next conference will be in spring 2015 at the same venue. We staffed the WA-BC Chapter booth during the conference but we were still able to attend many of the talks.

The excellent keynote speakers included:

- Phil Rockefeller, Northwest Power and Conservation Council – *A Federal Perspective on Salmon Recovery*
- Will Stelle, NOAA Fisheries - *Salmon Recovery: Sustaining Momentum in the Face of Change*
- Robyn Thorson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Phil Anderson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Lynda Mapes, Seattle Times - *Elwha: The Grand Experiment* (see Book Nook below)

Additionally, there were talks by hundreds of researchers and managers working on salmon recovery across the state of Washington. Best of all, you can view most of speakers' PowerPoint presentations at this website:

http://www.rco.wa.gov/SalmonConfAgenda.shtml

WA-BC Chapter Student Subunits: Reports and Activities

WA-BC Chapter Student Subunits at the 2013 AGM

- by John Morgan, WA-BC Chapter President

The 2013 Chapter AGM was a great success, thanks in large part to the students that gave dynamic presentations, ran the silent auction, and helped out with registration and audio-visuals. Special thanks to Jenn Herdmann (Central Washington University), Tara Blackman (Oregon State University), and Polly Gibson (University of Washington) for keeping the registration table and talks running smoothly. Below is a summary of some of the student activities at the meeting.

Awards for Best Talk and Poster

There were a total of 11 talks and posters by students at the AGM. All were interesting and informative, and a few were recognized for their achievements.

Natalie Sopinka (University of British Columbia) was awarded Best AFS Student Oral Presentation for her talk titled "Intergenerational effects of stress in Fraser River Sockeye". Below is a photo of Dr. Morgan presenting Natalie with her award.

Brett Favaro (Simon Fraser University) and Martina Beck (University of Victoria) received Honorable Mentions. Alecia Stewart-Malone (Smith-Root) was awarded Best AFS Student Poster Presentation for her poster titled "The effect of UV-C on larval survival of the quagga mussel ".

Student Travel Scholarships

The following AFS students received travel scholarships (ranging from $250-$450) to help with travel, registration, and accommodation costs at the meeting: Jessica Randall (UW), Brett Favaro (SFU), Natalie Sopinka (UBC), and Martina Beck (University of Victoria).

Silent Auction

The University of Washington and BC Universities Student Subunits held a very successful silent auction during the Banquet. Approximately $1800 was raised, with the proceeds going towards student travel scholarships and the student activities fund. Thanks to the students for organizing this event and kudos to Natalie and Martina for setting it up and running it. The generosity of the donors and bidders on the auction items is also greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to all of the award winners and thanks to all of the AFS students that attended. We hope that you enjoyed the meeting and we look forward to seeing you at future AFS meetings, either as students or as colleagues!

Report submitted by John Morgan
President, WA-BC Chapter of the AFS

British Columbia Student Subunit (AFS-BC)

By Natalie M. Sopinka, President

Our mission, as the British Columbia Student Subunit of the Washington-British Columbia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS), is to unite undergraduate and graduate students in fisheries research at universities and colleges in British Columbia.

The BC Student Subunit was thrilled to have three of its members attend the recent AGM in Lake Chelan. Martina Beck (Subunit VP), Brett Favaro and Natalie Sopinka (Subunit President) each gave an oral presentation. Martina spoke about her MSc research on non-native smallmouth bass in British Columbia. Brett shared his experiences with the media, public and politicians following his publication on the Canadian Fisheries Act. Natalie presented her PhD research on the effects of parental stress on Fraser River sockeye salmon. The BC Subunit members are looking forward to next year's meeting!

On May 10th, the BC Subunit held its first ever Trivia Night at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Students from UBC and Simon Fraser University put their knowledge of fish, celebrities, sports, movies and politics to the test. MC for the evening was Communications Officer Graham Raby. The event was a success and included three rounds of trivia. Do you know which rockfish species is the longest lived? There is only one truly freshwater cod species in British Columbia, do you know the name? Team AFS, The Bad Buoys and The Quizologists were the groups that took away prizes for first, second and third place, respectively. The event was made possible with the generous support of the WA-BC Chapter and UW Student Subunit, Backroad Mapbooks, UBC's Faculty of Forestry, and Starbucks. Photos of the event can be viewed at https://www.facebook.com/afsbcstudents.

Planning now begins for the BC Subunit's 2nd annual beach BBQ at Jericho Beach in Vancouver, BC.

First ever Trivia Night held on May 10th at the University of British Columbia!

Officers of the UBC Student Subunit

President: Natalie Sopinka (UBC) -- AFS-BC Student Subunit
Vice-President: Martina Beck (UVic) -- mbeck@uvic.ca
President-Elect: Sean Naman (UBC) -- Naman@zoology.ubc.ca
Secretary/Treasurer: Shannan May-McNally (UBC) shannan.mcnally@gmail.com
Communications Officer – Graham Raby (Carleton University) grahamraby@yahoo.com
Faculty Sponsor – Dr. Sean Cox (Simon Fraser University)

University of Washington Student Subunit (AFS-UW)

President: Jessica Hale (jrh33@u.washington.edu)

Our next career development seminar will be held at the end of May (exact date TBD) with Kim Sawyer, a UW Fisheries alum and scientist at the Alaska Fisheries Center, who is working on stomach analysis. I heard Kim speak at Ocean Career Day last year and connected with her then. She does not have an advanced degree, so I thought it would be interesting to have someone speak who has their Bachelor's only.

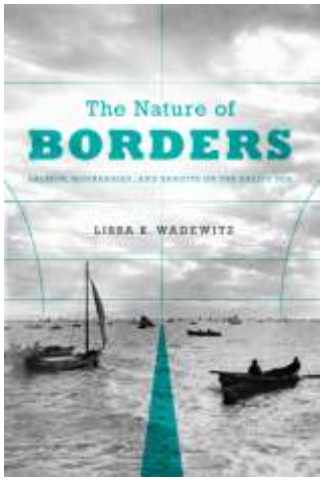
The spring picnic is coming up and we will be auctioning off some items for funds. In other news, in a recent meeting, the AFSUW ExComm discussed our upcoming elections. No current ExComm members will be running next year, so we will have a complete turn over. We do have some great nominations so far, and I am confident that we will have a great group. We are planning a meeting in early June to pass the baton, so to speak, to the new ExComm.

Webpage: http://afsuw.wordpress.com/

See the AFS-UW website for officer email addresses and other links
President: Jessica Hale
Vice President: Rachel Hovel
Secretary: Laura Twardochleb
Treasurer: Tim Walsworth
Communications director: Shannon Hennessey

THE BOOK NOOK

This edition's Book Nook contains two reviews: The Nature of Borders: Salmon, Boundaries, and Bandits on the Salish Seas, reviewed by Fred Utter, and Elwha: A River Reborn, reviewed by Orlay Johnson. Plus, we included a bonus essay, written by Kevin Bailey, on his reasons for writing his newly released book, Billion Dollar Fish: The Untold Story of Alaska Pollock.



The Nature of Borders: Salmon, Boundaries, and Bandits on the Salish Sea

University of Washington Press (2012)

Author: Lissa Wadewitz, Assistant Professor of History and Environmental Studies at Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon

Review by Dr. Fred Utter

This provocative book clarified the reality of the collective region recently designated as the Salish Sea (Mapes 2009, Fig. 1) when the author quickly establishes that biogeography, as well as pre-European history, preclude separate considerations of the component sub-basins of Puget Sound, Strait of Juan de Fuca and Georgia Strait. With a focus on fisheries of salmon, the story develops kaleidoscopically with an initial tracing of the gradual reduction of biological and sociological equilibria of the Salish Sea through the political division imposed by the Canadian-United States border. A poignant and familiar narrative describing losses of Native properties and rights is followed by subsequent tragic-comic revelations revealing the border's role in the effective abuses of regulation, taxation, conservation and ownership by fishers and processors with many culprits and few – if any – heroes. The details through the World War I era gave me new and deeper understandings of a locality whose background – being a native Seattleite - I thought I knew well. It turned out that my previous

conceptions were at best incomplete. I was rewarded through a compelling exposition that filled some of these gaps.

The author first explores the dynamics of salmon fisheries developed over thousands of years along the Pacific Coast of North America prior to the arrival of Europeans. Beyond nutrition, salmon were a major part of the economic, social and spiritual backbone of these societies. The salmon-dependent communities varied linguistically and spatially; hierarchies, including slavery, developed within them, tensions and sometimes wars arose among them, and salmon were central to these dynamics. Prime harvest locations were prized and often heritable rights to fish them were prestigious. Fishing methods – reef nets, seines, weirs, and spears - varied according to location along with skills developed in their construction and use. Through such complexities, a sustainable salmon fishery evolved within the Salish Sea.

Figure 1. The Salish Sea and its component sub-basins

The native boundaries gradually destabilized following the arrival of Europeans during the late 18th Century. Salmon became an important commodity for early European marine traders in restocking their diminished supplies. A mutual benefit arose based on native harvest skills and commercial markets beyond subsistence needs for traders. A balance persisted through the mid-19th century despite

ravages, ill will, and superstitions arising from diseases, estimated from 30% upwards locally to 75% or higher. Locations and manner of harvests remained in native hands with white men ultimately conceding – first their reluctance and eventually their inability – to achieve Native efficiency and effectiveness. Nevertheless, this interdependency underlay imminent and irreversible changes.

The formation of Washington Territory and subsequent reservation-forming treaties precipitated drastic alterations of native fishing borders during the 1850s. Despite language permitting Indian fishing rights "in their usual and accustomed places", treaties encouraged unfamiliar farming rather than the traditional fishing. The resultant food shortages generated hostilities, such as the 1855-1856 Indian War, and were exacerbated by inadequate treaty-mandated government support. Initially, more benign but similar dynamics occurred in Canada in the face of a swelling white population, ultimately leading to a blatant disregard of treaties by the 1890s. By the ultimate settling of the U.S.-Canadian border in 1872, extensive porosity existed between these borders as well as among off and on-reservation boundaries within both countries.

The remainder of the book – over 100 pages – deals with the salmon-related dynamics of this porosity. Despite their by now vanished harvest control, during the remainder of the 19th century, Natives remained involved in the emerging canning industry as well as participating in the catch where they freely negotiated the best prices on either side of the international border. However, as the 20th century approached, Native fisheries increasingly yielded to white fisheries, notably with the displacement of productive reef fisheries by fish traps established by canners along productive Native fishing locations on both sides of the border. By this time, a complex ethnicity including Chinese, Japanese, East Indian and Hawaiian workers flavored all harvest and processing activities beyond Native and white cultures.

Once established, the fish traps held center stage in the border drama. These expensive, complex and highly efficient devices served as warehouses for live fish destined for the canneries. Being large and remote, they were challenging to monitor – particularly by a single watchman. Those located in the U.S. intercepted the early Fraser River

sockeye runs, making them particularly vulnerable to thievery and subsequent transport to Canadian processors. Surrounded by Canada, the isolated U.S. fragment of Point Roberts (Figure 2) was a natural center for these activities which – coupled with limited budgets for arrests and prosecutions, created an underground wealth and - like a Shakespearian comedy – interesting reading over much of the book. Intermittent amusement from these extended antics was redirected towards awareness of the rampant waste from harvest through processing that occurred over the decades of this chaotic fishery. The devastating 1913 Fraser River rockslide accentuated the long-term decline of Salish Sea salmon.

The presentation is weakest at the two extremes. As a salmon biologist, I was quick to note the erroneous claims in the introduction that kokanee were a species and that rainbow trout were restricted to freshwater. In contrast with the iterative and multifaceted portrayals that enriched understandings of border dynamics through the World War I era, the fragmented descriptions of subsequent events were disappointing. Given the considerable biological and economic implications of hatcheries and netpen rearing, a chapter describing the pros and cons of Salish Sea salmon culture – addressed only peripherally – would add considerable value to a second edition; a recent discussion of interactions of hatchery and wild salmon in the Salish Sea (Rand et al. 2012) could catalyze such an effort. Another chapter could more deeply examine the goals and achievements of current diplomatic efforts towards harvest parity and sustainability, given the described failure of earlier efforts and the implications that this trend is persisting. And what about fish traps? Despite being the focal issue of much of the book, the topic vanished from the text after World War I; I had to go to Wikipedia to find that - through Initiative 77, traps became illegal in Washington in 1934. Despite these distractions, I recommend the book for its historical depth and unique coverage of a transitional era through World War I.

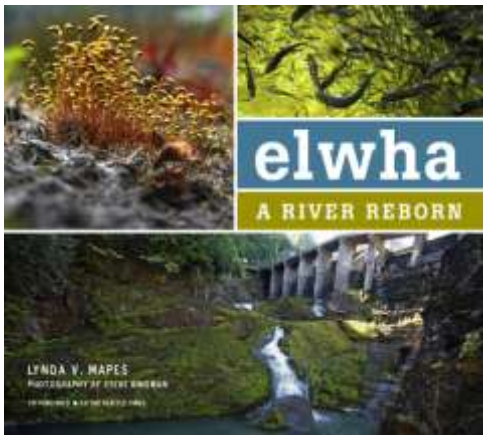
FRED UTTER

References

Mapes, L.V. 2009. State board adds Salish Sea to region's watery lexicon. Seattle Times. October 31, 2009.

Rand, P.S. and 12 co-authors. 2012. Ecological interactions between wild and hatchery salmonids and key recommendations for research and management actions in selected regions of the North Pacific. Environmental Biology of Fish 94:343-358.

Figure 2. Point Roberts U.S.A. and its unique location relative to adjacent Canadian lands.



Elwha: A River Reborn

Author: Lynda V. Mapes
Photographs: Steve Ringman
Co-publishers: Mountaineers Books
The Seattle Times
176 pp. ($29.95)

Review by Orlay Johnson

Several books on dams, dam removal, and restoring river ecosystems have been recently reviewed in *The Confluence*, including Recovering A Lost River by Steven Hawley and Finding the River by Jeff Crane. However, this book by Lynda Mapes and Steve Ringman takes the issue to a whole new level. It is a coffee table book but it is out in paperback, it is written in the newspaper reporting style of personal interviews, it has absolutely magnificent photos, and it contains a multitude of *Seattle Times* diagrams to explain various hard-to-visualize concepts. This is a coffee table book that is actually written and produced to be read.

If you live within hailing distance of western Washington's Olympic Peninsula, you have probably heard of Lynda Mapes and her work on the Elwha River (see Figure 1). Mapes (no 'l", she is not the tree) is an environmental staff reporter for the Seattle Times and has written numerous articles on the Elwha River and its dams. She also is an excellent speaker who has given numerous public talks on this subject, including at the Seattle Aquarium and, most recently, at Seattle's Mountaineers Program Center. Adding to the excellent writing are the photos by Steve Ringman, a staff photographer for the Seattle Times. An interesting coincidence is that Ringman, a Washington native who early in his career worked for the San Francisco Chronicle (and did the now-well-known first major photographic study of people with AIDS) returned to Seattle in 1992, the same year Mapes moved to the city of Maryland. A glimpse of their personalities can be seen in the self-portrait Steve took on page 172 of the book.

The book itself is only 174 pages, but contains a detailed history of the river, its damming, the removal of the dams (up to 2012), the animals and plants in the river ecosystem, the embryonic start of the river's

restoration, and the battles over what that restoration should mean. While Ringman's photos are excellent, he also includes excellent historical photos throughout the book. Two examples include: (1) a photograph of Robert F. Kennedy and Justice William O. Douglas on a hike in the Elwha Valley (where are those kinds of leaders today?) photographed by Paul Thomas in 1964, and (2) a photograph of frozen, 50-lb. Chinook salmon (where are those size fish today?) killed by disease in the lower river and being stacked in a freezer, taken by the renowned photographer Natalie Fobs in 1987.

An important point to emphasize is that the book is not a dry history, nor is it primarily the personal story of the authors' journeys on the river, but rather an account of interviews and photographs of those involved in the story (hey, these are Seattle Times reporters). To be honest, it seems to work very well and does indeed make the book feel like a very personal account of these dam removals.

Many biologists are acknowledged in this book and, in fact, make up about half of those listed in the acknowledgements page, and many of these are members of our very own AFS and WA-BC Chapter. I would list them all but you can read their names and see their photos in the book. However, there are four I have personally worked with and I will at least give them plugs: Sarah Morley, George Pess, John McMillan, and Mike McHenry have given a good portion of their lives to this effort and presumably will continue to do so for many years to come (stay tuned for Elwha Reborn, Part 2).

The book is divided into 8 chapters, with an excellent preface and epilogue which could stand alone. As a biologist, I most enjoyed Chapters 5 and 7, "The House of Tyee" (on the fish, their loss, and plans for their restoration) and "Barnum's Menagerie" (on non-fish wildlife). Keep in mind that neither of the authors are biologists and there are a few items that grate a bit, but I'd hate to think of the errors I'd include in the chapter on the machinery of the dams. These are fun chapters and the photos are amazing, especially the ones on pages 145 and 146 showing the otter traps (look at the photo with Kim Sager-Fradkin and imagine sticking your head into the trap to hang the bait).

Figure 1. The author (right)

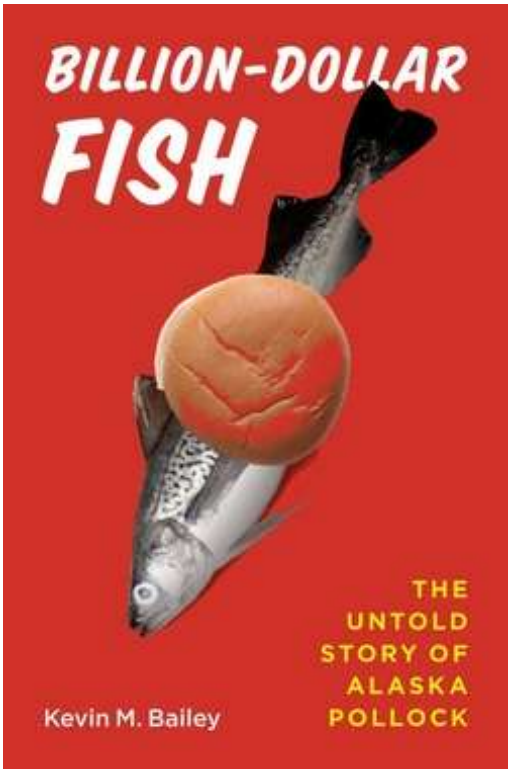
Finally, this is indeed a work-in-progress. On page 75, there is a diagram showing how big the sediment load (24 million cubic yards) that estimated in 2009 truly was -- e.g. 8 full Safeco Fields.

In the epilogue, however, the authors describe how, in November 2012, it was realized that there were 34 million cubic yards of sediment rather than the initially estimated 24 million cubic yards. This has resulted in the entire demolition and restoration grinding to a stop until water treatment plants, etc. can be reconfigured to handle this increased sediment load. Stay tuned for more info.

Book Nook - PREVIEW

Published May 15, 2013 by Chicago Press

KEVIN BAILEY, retired NOAA biologist and UW Affiliate Faculty, has just written a new book. In our next edition, we will review it for you but, for now, we include a biological brief by Kevin about his rationale for writing this book. Take a read and then head out to your local bookstore and grab a copy - around $25 with tax.



Billion-Dollar Fish: Why, When and How?

- by Kevin Bailey

It was my first time at-sea. I'd been scooped from the sand in Santa Barbara and was on my way to the frigid Bering Sea. We were 2 days out of Yokohama when our little mail carrier was hit by a massive storm. The boat was built as a tuna clipper

built before WWII when the average height of Japanese men was 5'2". It was now servicing the Japanese fishing fleet in the North Pacific. The waves were cresting at 30 feet, shivering the timbers when the prop left the water. I was sure I was going to die. I had to duck as I careened down the hallway to the lav. The head was a hole in the deck with 2 handles strategically placed on the wall in front. Its proper use in an ocean swell required an intuitive knowledge of moving trajectories. This can't be taught in school. It's like sitting on a bouncing horse shooting an arrow at a moving buffalo. Not everyone can do it, as was obvious from the condition of the bathroom floor. This was not a good place to be seasick. I beat a hasty retreat outside to the railing.

This was one of the stories I told to a group of observers in 2008. As one of the first US observers on foreign fishing vessels, I'd been invited to give a seminar at AFSC commemorating the program. When I prepared my talk, I found the journals I kept in 1974. I had written them to stave off boredom. A callow youth, I brought only 3 books out with me for what was to be a 3-week cruise, or so they said. Transport on the little tuna boat to the Bering took two weeks. I devoured *War and Peace* in a 48-hour marathon. Then I began on Darwin's *Origin of Species*. To tell the truth, I might not have read it cover-to-cover otherwise. After that I was left with Alfred North Whitehead's *An Introduction to Mathematics*. This was my "go to" sleeping pill. I still have my copy; the book naturally falls open to a dog-eared page 5. By the time I arrived back in Seattle, 4 ½ months had passed. My girlfriend was long gone. The milk in the fridge had gone bad. The cruise was a transformational experience.

Some months after my observer talk, I was invited to present another seminar. This time, I decided to revisit a phase of my research career that had an unsatisfying end. Back in 1981, I had started a trophic interactions lab at the old NW&AFSC. We sent observers out to collect pollock stomachs in the North Pacific. Reports came back from the middle of the Bering Sea, where we didn't expect the Japanese fishery. Nobody knew what was going on. Finally in 1986 Bob Francis and I were able to get a cruise together to find out more. We arrived in the "Donut Hole" surrounded by 60 multinational factory trawlers. But just as we got the program started, funding got yanked. A few years later the Donut Hole population collapsed. I was transferred to another group working on pollock in the GOA. Coincidentally, this program was

starting just as the pollock there was slipping downward.

At this point I decided that I had a story to tell. The prospective book was looking more like a memoir, and I didn't want that. I realized that even though I'd worked in the Bering Sea for 35 years, I needed more background information, so I started to interview people in the fishing community. This was great fun, but I saw that the narrative got twisted and revised over time. Everyone is the protagonist of their own story, when in fact there are different facets to the truth. People see things from their particular angle. After many years of replay, the record can get distorted. I interviewed about 50 people, but I also relied on newspaper articles and reports close to when events transpired.

Most popular books on fisheries are written by journalists or writers with MFA degrees. For example, Kurlansky's Cod, Greenberg's Four Fish, and Clover's End of the Line. All entertaining reads. As a biologist, I had been an observer on the sidelines of the fishing industry and management. I like to think this gave me some objectivity and expertise. The book braids the history of the fishery, natural history of pollock, fishermen's stories, and the meandering course of management actions. It took me a year to write, and then the editing and production phases took about a year and a half.

I figure that everyone has a book in them based on their life experience and expertise. If you are lucky, your story is interesting to others. But you can't really call yourself a writer until you have written a second book. Earlier this year I started writing a book on the *Western Flyer*. If the name is familiar, it's because the *Western Flyer* is the sardine seiner that John Steinbeck and Ed Rickets took to the Sea of Cortez in 1940; the voyage resulted in a book of that name. After the sardines collapsed in '48, the boat moved north and fished for Pacific Ocean perch, an unfortunate choice. After the demise of the "rosies" in the mid-60's, the boat moved north again to the Aleutian Islands where it fished for king crab. When the crabs were gone, the *Flyer* became a salmon tender now named *Gemini*. The boat's wake tells the history of west coast fisheries, which I braid with the stories of the people who rode her. At the moment the Flyer is resting on the bottom of the Swinomish Channel near Anacortes, and that sad episode is part of the story.

By the way, my next experience on a Japanese ship was 30 years after my first. This time when I went to the head, it was a different encounter. The toilet had a panel of colored buttons with Japanese characters on it. I was puzzled. I pressed one bright button, and a wand from the back rim began its journey out into the center space as if on a mission. It poked out beckoningly. Being naturally curious and lacking horse sense, I bent down in wonder for a closer look, thinking "What the hell is this?" After a momentary pause and a slight quiver, the serpent-like thing squirted me in the face.

Kevin Bailey recently retired as a senior scientist at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center. He is an Affiliate Professor at the University of Washington and the founder of Man & Sea (www.manandsea.org).

Student Writing Section

This edition, our student writer is Sara Kenning.

Sara is a senior undergraduate at Seattle Pacific University who will be receiving her B.A. in English Literature and Classics this June. She works as a Sustainability Assistant at SPU, and she also manages the blog, *SustainableSPU*, where she writes weekly articles about the many facets of sustainability while throwing in as many pop culture references as she can get away with. Sara has lived within a few miles of the Puget Sound almost all her life and spends her free time studying, playing violin, and playing with her two dogs, Emmy and Toby.

Check out her website at:
<http://sustainabilityatspu.wordpress.com/author/kennings2013/>

Beach Child

- by Sara Kenning

Some of my earliest memories are of salmon fishing during the warm summer mornings. My dad would pull me out of bed at about 4 a.m., and I would help him get his 35 ft. boat into the Puget Sound before crawling into the cabin to nestle in blankets and the smell of salt and diesel. Dad would drive the boat to one of his regular spots, and set up a pole for each of us as the sun rose above the blue water. He would reel the salmon in, and I would scoop them up in a wide net.

Though these trips felt long and tedious as a child, through them I grew to love the water and its wildlife.

We did a lot of fishing in my youth. I grew up as a child of the beach. My parents owned a cabin on the west side of Whidbey Island, where the sand was full of rocks and shells. During the nicer months, we would journey to that beach every weekend to enjoy its bounty.

My parents raised me on long coastal walks there after dinner. My sister and I would scamper along the driftwood, pretending that the sand was lava that would burn our feet. On that beach, I learned to swim in the cold waters of the Puget Sound. I loved it so much that my mother imposed a "No Swimming in Nice Clothes" rule. Not that it stopped me for long. I was too eager to explore the tides and what life they sheltered.

We never bought seafood. When your front yard hides all sorts of fish, you catch them yourself. My dad taught me to identify fish species from an early age. I can still recognize the black maw of a Chinook salmon from the white mouth of a Chum, and know which tasted better. We caught other fish too: spiky rockfish and flat flounder that we would keep, ugly dogfish that we threw back, and Dungeness crabs that would crawl into our traps with the occasional high-reaching starfish. In the afternoons, we'd wait for low tide and dig the soupy sand for clams and geoducks. They would give away their positions by spitting water through the sand, into the air. And if all else failed, mussels wallpapered the concrete pillars of a nearby ruined dock-- anything fresh to bring home for our dinner.

Every once in a while, we were lucky enough to see a whale from our beach. Solitary Gray and Humpback whales were the most common, migrating up north to their feeding grounds. But our best whale sighting was in during one of our fishing trips in 1995, when we came across an entire pod of Orcas. Or rather, they came across us. The pod swam around our fishing boat, completely surrounding us as if our vessel was another member of their clan. One whale swam so close to us that his black dorsal fin broke the water's surface a few feet away from the boat. I reached over the side to touch his rubbery skin, but he was too quick and my arm was too short. High pitched squeaks and songs reverberated in the cold morning air--noises that I would later imagine hearing during sleepless night. It was thrilling. Even at five years old, small but knowledgeable of their nickname "Killer Whales," I felt more excitement and awe than fear. But in my childish joy, I didn't realize that I was experiencing an once-in-a-lifetime memory.

Unfortunately, such sightings have grown rare. It's been years since I've seen a whale of any sort in the Sound. The degradation of the waters, even during my short two decades of life, has been steep to witness.

However, there has also been an increase in awareness. Many salmon populations have been placed on the endangered species list, and preservation efforts have never been higher. The Salmon Recovery Plan in particular is making great strides to keep our native fish populations secure. This, above all, means protecting the waters, since habitat degradation is a meaner killer than Orcas.

The Puget Sound shaped part of my character and my future. Now I feel the call to repay the favor. I fight for my Puget Sound, by conserving as much water as possible and ensuring that my excess runoff is disposed of cleanly. I fish within my means, never taking more than I can eat. And I support the efforts to keep our fish populations strong.

Luckily, with the huge anticipated run of Pink Salmon this summer (6.2 million fish, the State Fish and Wildlife sector forecast), and a strong return of the Chinook in autumn, I look forward to another peaceful summer on the Sound.

Education Corner

Northwest Aquatic and Marine Educators (NAME) Conference
July 14-18, 2013
Theme: Sky 2 Sea!
Location: Crescent Beach, BC • Camp Alexandra
Registration begins: June 1, 2013
More info at website: http://www.pacname.org/conf.shtml

NAME Conference Themes

Transforming Knowledge into Action

How do we inspire students to take that next step? How do we transform a lesson into action? What tools do students need to become the next aquatic stewards? Share tools, stories, and resources of how you are transforming knowledge into action!

Exploring the Watershed to the Deep-Sea

What we do on land eventually influences the ocean; how are the watershed and deep-sea connected? Share new scientific findings and resources to help bring the earth's water system into the classroom.

New Waves in Aquatic Education

What is working and why? Share your ideas, curricula, materials, and favorite resources. Introduce participants to new methods you are using with your audiences.

Upcoming Articles

Details of the WA-BC Chapter's *Jeff Cederholm Memorial Endowment Fund* for undergraduate and graduate students

Review of Billion Dollar Fish: The Untold Story of Alaska Pollock

Summer camps in the Pacific Northwest run by various agencies and organizations

More information about the 2013 AFS Annual Meeting in Little Rock

Other interviews, reviews, reports, and maybe even a cartoon or two!

WASHINGTON -BRITISH COLUMBIA CHAPTER