

# **TRIP REPORT**

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## **West Coast Vancouver Island Aquatic Management Board Meeting**

Port Alberni, September 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003

Carmen Ross  
World Fisheries Trust

The West Coast Vancouver Island Aquatic Management Board (WCVI AMB) board meeting held in Port Alberni on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> afforded the opportunity to re-establish connections with the board (many were formerly active in the Regional Aquatic Management Society), to network with board members, staff and guests, to make known WFT's work, and to create opportunities to involve the WCVI AMB in the CIDA project. Attendees of the meeting are listed below. The WCVI AMB is a good example of a participatory community-driven initiative dedicated to the protection and management of aquatic resources in Canada. It could provide valuable and rare first-hand experience and perspectives that may help to guide similar initiatives in the São Francisco River.

Josie Osborne of the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council (NTC) presented the West Coast Vancouver Island 2003-2005 Experimental Gooseneck Barnacle Fishery Plan. The plan is based on a study conducted by WCVI Aquatic Management Society (the working body of the WCVI AMB), the NTC and the West Coast Goose Barnacle Harvesters Association. The study used local and indigenous harvesters knowledge of the fisheries history, harvest methods, safety and harvesting logistics, harvest sites, species recovery, harvest rates and much more. The plan provides a great example of how local knowledge can be used in a scientifically defensible manner to develop new and emerging fisheries and how local communities can initiate and guide the development of livelihood alternatives that will benefit the community. Josie has agreed to act as an information source and is prepared to present the project to a group of Brazilian community representatives if requested.

A discussion on the second day focussed on the access and benefits framework being developed by the board to maintain and enhance coastal communities' ability to access and receive benefits from local aquatic resources. The strategic plan being developed by the board will address the issue by defining why access is important and who has a right to it, assessing the current status of community access in the WCVI area, examining the main trends and issues impacting access, determining what opportunities exist in the community and what mechanisms exist to promote them and, finally, to identify which coastal opportunities are appropriate for which community mechanisms. I mentioned David Greer and Brian Harvey's soon-to-be- published international revision of access and ownership of aquatic genetic resources (Wealth in the Water) and offered the authors as a resource, given their extensive research and knowledge of the issue. Brian has communicated further with Andrew on this matter and sent him some relevant sections of the text. I promised to send a copy of the book to the board as soon as it is published.

Mention was made of the 5<sup>th</sup> Clayoquot Science Symposium to be held by the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust on November 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. Discussion at the meeting will include Coastal Zone Management, tourism, community development and access and benefits. It may be interesting to attend this meeting to further interact with people working in the region. The WCVI AMB is to coordinate their next board meeting to coincide with these discussions so that board members can attend and participate.

The minutes of this and other WCVI AMB meetings are available on their website at <http://www.westcoastaquatic.ca/Resources.htm#a>.

## **ATTENDEES**

**Executive Director:** Andrew Day

### **Government Board Members:**

Ron Kadawaki - Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Peter Leitz - Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Tom Pater - Comox Strathcona Regional District Rep

### **Non-government Board Members:**

Errol Sam - commercial fisherman (Ahousaht First Nation)

Maureen Sager - Alberni Environmental Coalition

Marilyn Murphy - South Coast Sport Fishing Advisory Board Chairperson

Odd Grydeland - B.C. Salmon Farmer's Association

Garnet Jones - Pacific Salmon Commission

### **Staff & Guests:**

Suvanna Simpson – WCVI AMB Administration

Caron Olive – Ecotrust (Information Specialist)

Evelyn Pinkerton & Anita Bedo – Simon Fraser University

Don Hall & Josie Osborne (Gooseneck Barnacle test fishery study) – NTC

Brian Harvey & Carmen Ross – World Fisheries Trust

Kelly Frances & Kevin Conley – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Alana Heith – Provincial Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fish

Tanuja Barker & Alvin Barker – Australia

Liz Foster – University of Tasmania