

TRIP REPORT

POLICING/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL VISIT

Canada, October 23rd – November 1st, 2003

Hugo Godinho
PUC University

Translation: Cathy Carolsfeld

Summary of Activities Realized in Canada

October 23-November 1 2003

Project “Peixes, Pessoas e Agua”: Brazil-Canada

1. Main purpose of the visit

To become acquainted with Canadian Institutes that are partners in the Project “Peixes, Pessoas e Agua”, of which PUC Minas, through Professor Hugo P. Godinho, is one of the Brazilian partners.

2. Activities

Thursday, October 23

Technical visit to the Vancouver Aquarium, Vancouver, BC - Activities included: discussion about caring for fish in the aquarium, water quality and research into artificial propagation of fishes.

Technical visit with Dr. Karl English

Friday, October 24

Technical visit to Archipelago Marine Research Ltd., Victoria, BC - Activities included: discussions about methodology developed by this company in the area of fisheries monitoring.

Saturday, October 25

Technical visit to the Fish Hatchery on the Goldstream River, Victoria, BC - Activities included: Demonstration of the capture of salmon on the Goldstream River, transportation back to the station, tagging of fish and selection of reproductive stock.

Monday, October 27

Meeting with Alex Grzybowski, of Pacific Resolutions, Victoria, BC, an expert in facilitation and conflict resolution.

1^a Working meeting for the project [“Peixes, Pessoas e Agua”] - defining activities for 2003-2004.

Tuesday, October 28

Technical visit to the [Federal] Government institution, “Fisheries and Oceans Canada”, Victoria, BC - Activities included: discussion about the challenges of sustainable fisheries management.

Technical visit to M. Miles and Associates, Ltd. - Activities included: discussion about fish habitat restoration.

Wednesday, October 29

2nd. Working meeting for the project “Peixes, Pessoas e Água” - continuation of ideas developed at the 1st meeting.

Meeting with Mr. Chris Dragseth, ex-Fisheries Enforcement Officer for Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Thursday, October 30

Group discussion with Drs. Hartman and Northcotte in Nanaimo, BC, regarding fisheries restoration processes.

Technical visit to the Qualicum Fish Hatchery, Qualicum, BC - Activities included: discussion about the objectives and function of the station.

Friday, October 31

Technical visit to fishing sites on the Fraser River, Vancouver, BC - Activities included: observations of commercial fishermen's catches and discussion with Fisheries Officers concerning enforcement.

Saturday, November 1

Technical visit to the Community Restoration Centre, Victoria, BC. [Burnside Gorge Community Association] - Activities included: discussions about community involvement in restoration of aquatic environments [and] a field trip.

Sunday, November 2 – return to Brazil

3. Comments

The trip to Canada was very worthwhile. The part of the trip dealt with in this report refers to the activities related to the project “Peixes, Pessoas e Água”. It was a rich and gratifying experience, during which I had the opportunity to see, participate in and discuss general and specific topics related to fisheries and their sustained use, with highly qualified, Canadian experts. These included numerous and intense activities. They can be itemised under the following themes:

- 1) fisheries: sustainable management, monitoring fish catches, fisheries enforcement and restoration, artificial fish culture and restoration of fish habitats.
- 2) community participation in the restoration/rehabilitation of aquatic environments.
- 3) conflict resolution and facilitation.

It was evident that all of these themes, in which Canada is distinguished in both individual and institutional competence, are of direct interest and application for similar Brazilian questions. I would like to reaffirm, as a professor with experience in fisheries conservation, some topics that attracted my attention and that have influenced my professional activities. [Although somewhat off topic, I would also like to mention the Canadian professionals with whom I had the opportunity to participate in useful discussions. Amongst these, I cite Drs. Grzybowski, Northcotte and English. Drs. Northcotte and English are professionals with vast experience and interaction with Brazilian institutions.

I must mention that it was during this trip that I had the opportunity to hear and discuss, for the first time, topics related to conflict resolution and facilitation. The importance of conflict resolution between the different participants in Brazilian river fisheries was well demonstrated and will certainly have an important role [in Brazil].

The technical visits to fish hatcheries gave us a chance to enlarge our view of artificial fish culture. Even though there are huge differences between Canadian and Brazilian species, the common aspects of their physiology and reproduction allow for comparisons to be drawn between mass production technologies for alevines, for [purposes of] restocking. I think that the practice of capturing salmon for collecting seed stock could, under certain conditions, be adapted to our conditions.

Finally, the visit to the Fisheries [Enforcement] Office on the Fraser estuary was very opportune and elucidating. To get to know their methods and see them in action was very important for the whole Brazilian group.

I would like to see continuity with some of the contacts made, especially with Drs. English and Northcote. It would be interesting to expand discussions and activities relative to community participation in restoration of aquatic environments. With regard to fishing, I believe that activities getting back to mass culture and restocking of fish merit special attention. In this sense, including Dr. Donaldson in the project seems like a very interesting [approach] to me.

4. Acknowledgements

To CIDA, for providing indispensable financial resources for the program and the technical-scientific group at WFT for the professionalism and competence demonstrated yet again.

Hugo P. Godinho

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