

FALL-WINTER 2010

Volume 10 Number 2

# FLY LINES



cover photos: David Lambroughton © 2010



OFFICIAL eJOURNAL OF THE BC FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

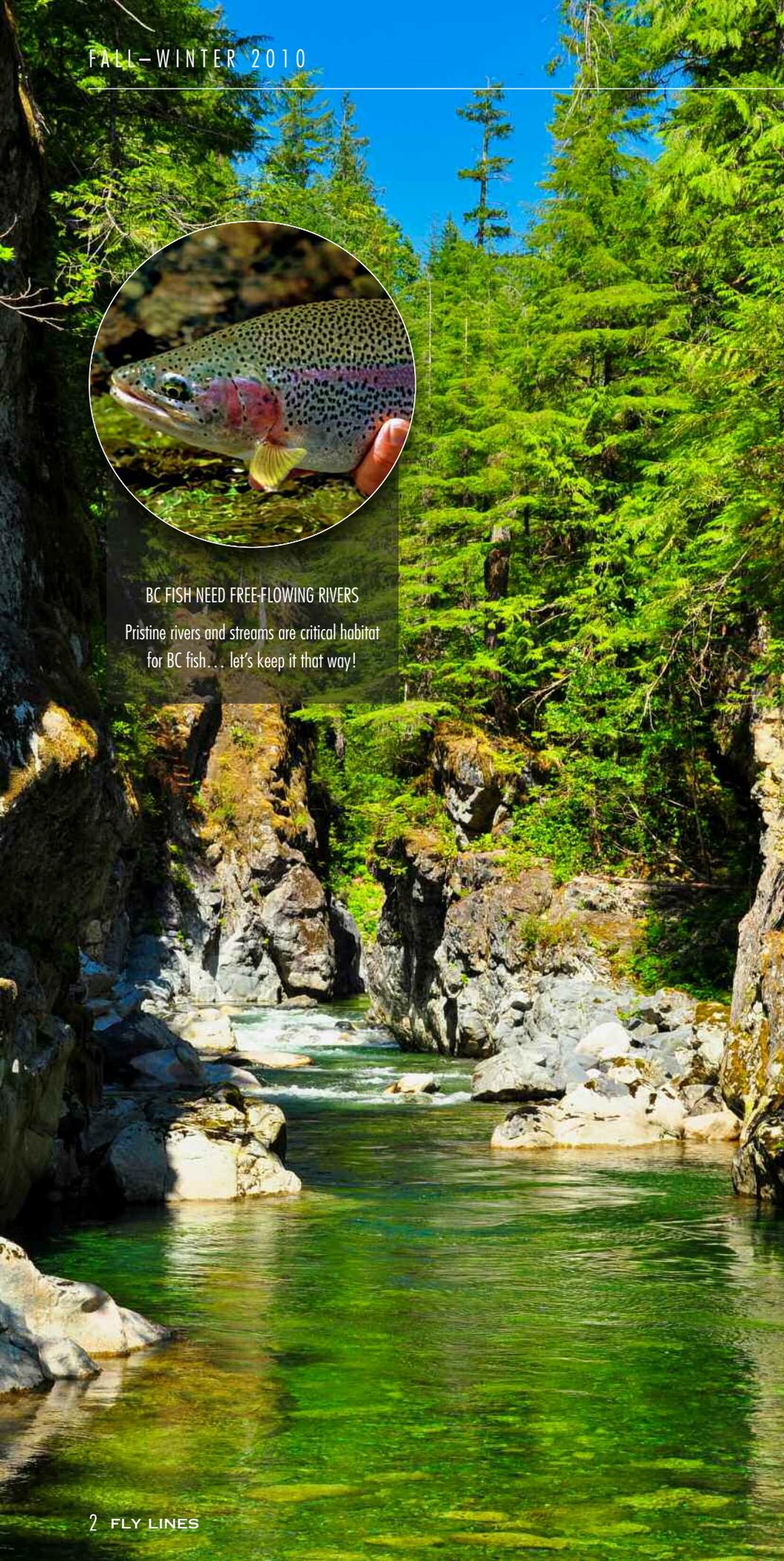
# FLY LINES

Official eJournal of...  
BC Federation of Fly Fishers



### BC FISH NEED FREE-FLOWING RIVERS

Pristine rivers and streams are critical habitat for BC fish... let's keep it that way!



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**ON THE COVER**

**BC Steelhead...** the fish that Fly Fishing Dreams are made of!



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Expanded to include more articles and new sections on our art + sport.



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FFSBC 'Fishing Buddies' Program, DIVAs on the Fly and launch of the BCFFF Club Creel.



[www.BCFFF.bc.ca](http://www.BCFFF.bc.ca)



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A mad dash for 'blue gold' via run of river hydropower projects is raising the ire of those in the know.

### 10 Salmon Farms :: the SAGA Continues

Raising Atlantic salmon in ocean net-cages remains a serious concern. With bust-then-boom returns of Fraser sockeye, science-based management is a 'must do'.

### 13 Steelhead Recovery + Protection in BC

BC Conservation Foundation is enriching streams in BC via its Steelhead Recovery Program. Time to take a stand against run of river to protect Kokish River steelhead.

### 30 DIVAs on the Fly

Fly fishing is making a difference to the quality of life for breast cancer survivors by bringing 'living' back to life.

The BC Federation of Fly Fishers (BCFFF) is a registered, non-profit society whose main objective is to promote the conservation of the fishing environment in British Columbia. By networking with similarly minded clubs, organizations, businesses and individuals, the BCFFF provides a voice that reflects its members' and the public's concern for the future of BC's natural resources.

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## Editorial Lines

**SUSTAINABILITY** IS AN 'S' WORD we are increasingly focused on for a variety of reasons... *the long term continuance of an ever-expanding global community with mounting pressures on finite resources... ongoing urban development to accommodate a trend for the contemporary work force that prefers living closer to work or in an urban centre... a significant shift in demographics as aging boomers leave long-time employment to pursue life at a more leisurely pace... and, your Federation seeking to attract young anglers who are not only passionate about fly fishing and the environment, but also willing to engage, at some point in the future, when the veteran dedicated volunteers need to step down.*

**ECONOMIC TIMES** being what they have been for the past few years, all levels of government are exploring innovative ways to meet challenging times and the needs of those they serve... be it local, regional, provincial and country-wide. While many are becoming more conservation-minded, the sheer numbers means increasing demands on already-strained systems and infrastructure.

**ALTERNATE AND GREENER SOLUTIONS** to meet energy needs without impacting on sensitive environments, wildlife, fisheries and ecosystems is something the general populace is placing greater importance on. But at **what cost?** Some are pursuing green energy in name only... perhaps 'green' refers to rewards being paid to corporations intent on reaping financial gain ...and putting this ahead of preserving critical habitats that are essential for *'all things wild'* to survive. The impacts of run of river **must be explored fully** so we all understand the outcome of harnessing our rivers. With 'privatization' of power generation, some have also seen fit to restrict access to rivers that flow through Crown land... *'our' land.*

**THE PROCESS OF NATURAL SELECTION** has always demonstrated an uncanny ability for 'wild' to adapt to changing environs, but with the pace and depth of change we are imposing on the world today, we are seeing once strong, never questioned stocks – the Fraser River sockeye – experiencing major ups and downs. With the push to feed the masses and profit from factory-produced or genetically engineered stock of lesser diversity and strength, are we taking on a role best left to Nature?

**THE LEGACY OF YOUR FEDERATION**, supported by dedicated fly fishers who share the vision of its founding members, continues to evolve as the voice of fly fishers in our province, and an advocate for BC fish and their environs. Attracting able and willing individuals to pick up where our veterans leave off is **key... to our sustainability... to our future as an empowered organization that will be there when it comes time to raise a collective voice.**

To close... *many thanks* to all who contributed to this issue of Fly Lines!



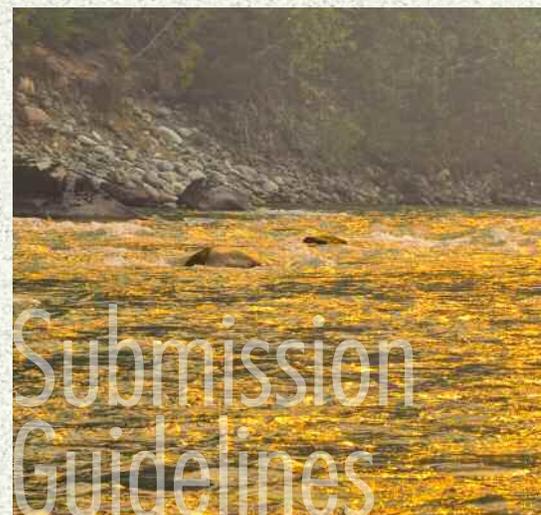
Tight lines...

**Richard Mayer**

Editor, Fly Lines

BC Federation of Fly Fishers

## FLY LINES SUBMISSION GUIDELINES



### Photographs

All photos submitted for publication in FLY LINES shall be full colour **300 ppi** resolution in RGB mode, saved in **.jpg** format at the highest quality; 5% minimum and 95% maximum tints, and optimized for digital colour printing. Images used on a web site will **not** be accepted. Any photos submitted to be used on the BCFFF web site will be adjusted in resolution and resized by the FLY LINES production team.

Subject matter of photos must be relevant to the editorial feature or article being submitted. Any photos not meeting the BCFFF quality standards will **not** be considered for publishing. Queries on photo requirements should be emailed to the **Editor**.

### Copy for Editorial Features + Articles

Copy for features and articles shall be submitted as WORD documents, saved in **.doc** or **.docx** formats. Copy may also be submitted as 'rich text', saved in **.rtf** format.

Guide for word count... **one page articles** with 2 (to 3) photos should be 400 – 450 words for the main article; 100 – 125 for the author's bio; 50 – 60 words for pattern dressings (if included as part of the article); **two page articles** with 4 (to 5) photos should be 800 – 850 words for the main article; 100 – 125 for the author's bio; 150 – 200 words for a sidebar with photo. Queries on copy requirements or larger articles should be emailed to the **Editor**.

## President's Report



*Shimmering waters...  
drifting flies for steelhead  
on a BC river.*

**FLY FISHING**  
*Dreams*

**F**OR ME, Fall through Winter is steelhead time. There is nothing I enjoy more than moving through a run with a dry line and a top water fly. My dream... *warm weather, perfect water and aggressive fish*. My nightmare... all of this is subject to politics. The survival of steelhead and steelheading is left to the whims of politicians who show little or no interest in the conservation of our wild fish or critical habitat.

IN THIS EDITION OF FLY LINES you'll find an underlying concept of sustainability. You'll see that anadromous fish are facing the negative and detrimental effects from run of river projects, aquaculture and the lack of investment by both provincial and federal governments. For the most part, these factors are all politically motivated. We are raising a collective voice to protect fish and preserve critical habitats, and... our dream.

DAVID LAMBROUGHTON has contributed awesome images of fly fishing in British Columbia, to be featured in this edition and future editions of Fly Lines. Among other things, David is best known for his annual calendar... **Fly Fishing Dreams**. His images are 'picture perfect', capturing the essence of our experience of being 'out there'. Thanks to David for sharing his dreams with the BCFFF. For those of us who are fortunate to have 'been there', to these pristine locations, his images invoke fishing experiences we all dream about... leading us to revisit past experiences... to dream about the future... these dreams forming the basis of our collective vision.

**If YOUR VISION is to:**

- Ensure all run of river projects pass the full scrutiny of an open, transparent and real environmental assessment before approval...
- Ensure all industrial, commercial and residential development projects pass the full scrutiny of an open, transparent and real environmental assessment before approval...
- Ensure methane gas exploration in the Skeena/Bulkley area ceases...
- Ensure gravel extraction in the Fraser River watershed ceases until a full and open environmental assessment is undertaken...
- See real coordination between DFO and appropriate provincial Ministries...
- See monies invested to examine and make recommendations on ocean survival issues...
- Oppose the renaming of farmed fish to 'organic'...
- See that aquaculture should no longer be conducted in open ocean feedlots, and...
- See staffing in the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations be brought back to levels where research, project development, environmental assessments and data collection are a realistic expectation of a Ministry charged with a fiduciary duty to wildlife, habitat and conservation...

**Then we need YOUR support!**

THIS VISION STATES THE POSITIVE OF THE BCFFF DREAM... the negative would be the nightmare we find ourselves in now. If you sincerely care about BC fish, critical habitat and the sustainability of our wild stocks of anadromous fish, then you too aspire to our dream.



**Dan Cahill**  
President  
BC Federation of Fly Fishers



# issues



## Raising a Voice on Behalf of Fish and the Environment

This issue of Fly Lines includes articles on run of river power generation, salmon farming, certification of sustainable fisheries and reports from the Freshwater Fishing Regulations Advisory Committee.

An update from Northwest Steelhead and Salmon Conservation Society, Inc., will provide additional information from this recently formed conservation organization based in Washington, USA.

Members in the BCFFF and other readers of Fly Lines are encouraged to contact the Executive or Directors, to bring any issues of concern to our attention.



Typical Run of River Installation

left... *Run of river projects as envisioned and how some projects have ended up.*

*Furry Creek (top) with water flowing over a low elevation dam at some point in the season when water levels permit releasing excess over the spillway.*

*Ashlu River (bottom) in mid-March 2010 shows virtually no water flowing over or past the dam... all of the water was diverted to generate so-called 'green energy'.*

# The Ruin of OUR Rivers

Craig Orr, PhD  
 Executive Director  
 Watershed Watch Salmon Society

**I**N CASE YOU MISSED IT, BC is smack in the throes of another 'gold rush'. This time though, the prize is another colour, with potential profits from this particular dash for 'blue gold' threatening to far outstrip those eked out by hard rock scabblers more than a century ago.

We're talking of course, about the staking and mining of hundreds of BC's rivers for seasonal power generation and export... so-called 'run of river' projects being built or proposed across British Columbia have been a particularly contentious issue for anglers and public alike.

The reasons are many. Just ask **Tom Rankin**, who founded **Save Our Rivers** after witnessing the idyllic Ashlu River transformed into a colossal megaproject by cramming more than 90% of the river into a 7 km long pipe.

Damming rivers is nothing new. Some 80,000 rivers in the USA alone have been dammed, with dozens more dams spanning major rivers in BC. Yet, the recent push for clean power – and corporate profit – has forever altered BC's landscape.

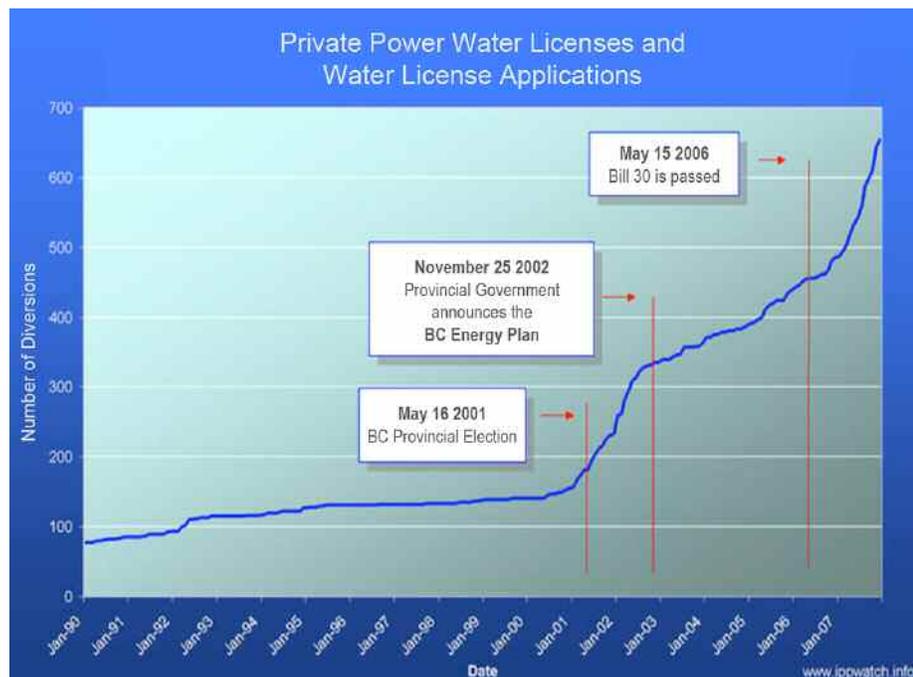
While rivers offer power with fewer greenhouse gases, it would be a huge stretch to call these diversion projects 'green'. Individually and especially collectively, river hydro projects come with major impacts that groups like Watershed Watch have been attempting to expose and limit.

Big surprise – all projects require buildings, roads, power lines, dams and often kilometers of penstock (diversion reach piping). Diverting most of the water from a river has serious drawbacks for fish and other aquatic organisms. Concerns escalate as projects balloon in size and cluster on prime rivers. Dozens of claims are staked in river-rich areas of the coast, the Kootenays and now, northwestern BC.



*Craig Orr is a long-time advocate for fisheries and water in British Columbia. The diversion of water and destruction of habitat critical to fish, wildlife and people are just part of his run of river portfolio at WWSS.*

*While always 'on the watch' for BC fish, Craig does get time to wet a line... awesome 'bow!*



*Watching out for BC's Wild Salmon*

For more information on the Watershed Watch Salmon Society and its efforts, please visit...

[www.watershed-watch.org](http://www.watershed-watch.org)

*Graph illustrates dramatic increase in water license applications since the BC Government introduced run of river as a 'green energy'.*

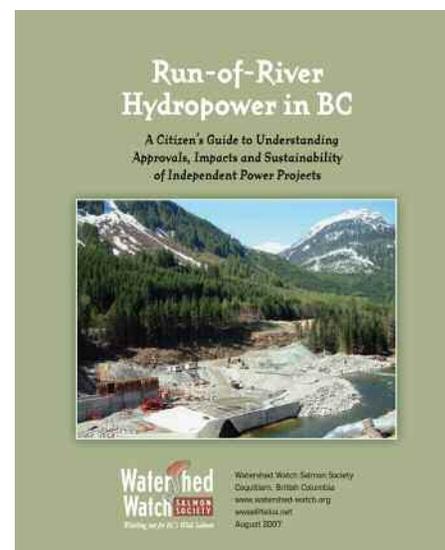


left... fly-over of the Bute Inlet run of river shows the magnitude of this proposed installation.



click play to watch Bute Inlet fly-over as a 640 x 480 movie

below... a Citizen's Guide to understanding run of river hydropower as published by WWSS.



A single project proposed by **Plutonic Power** and **General Electric** hopes to divert the water from 17 rivers in the Bute Inlet area into 16 powerhouses. This megaproject would produce as much power as a single nuclear reactor, but with a much larger 'footprint impact' to the local environment. Hundreds of kilometers of new roads and transmission lines would be built, not to mention some 140+ stream crossings. Experts – and common sense – tell us such infrastructure poses a substantial risk to the area's hydrology, sensitive habitats – such as 'spray zones', fish, bears, frogs, salamanders and birds, such as the threatened marbled murrelet.

Island-based super guide **Randy Killoran** is especially concerned that such a project would decimate world class fisheries in the Southgate and Homathco Rivers. Killoran's 2009 report '**An Overview of the Bute Inlet Sport Fisheries for Trout, Char and Salmon Originating from the Homathko and Southgate Rivers and the Tributary Streams of Bute Inlet**' provides a chilling overview of the fish and angling opportunities at risk from development in Bute Inlet. Killoran, like many of us, also questions why private interests are allowed to trump the long-term public benefit offered by the Bute's watersheds.

We know anglers can make a difference. Dozens took up the cause to successfully thwart an ill-advised attempt to divert the upper Pitt River and its tributaries.

Yet anglers stubbornly remain – with fly fishers perhaps leading the pack – overly contemplative by nature. It's stressful protesting unwise development and other insults to our rivers and environment. Much easier to let our actions be driven by personal cost and gain than shared responsibility. Yet... if we still hope to turn the tide, we need to get a lot more active.

## Get involved...

so we may all continue to enjoy things of inordinate value for a long time to come!

## PowerPlay

WATCH the groundbreaking documentary series on the theft of bc's rivers and public power



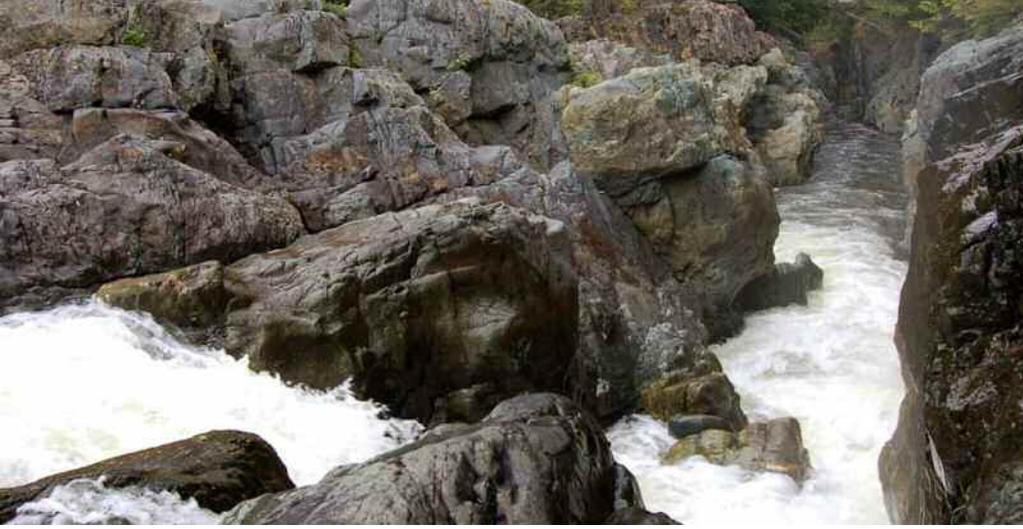
## Do your bit!

*Ask your local politician if he or she supports such projects, or, at the minimum, an open and democratic process to decide which rivers should be dammed, and which should be left to our children's children.*

## Web Links

- Private Power Watch
- WWSS Green Power
- WWSS Publications





*The Kokish River on Vancouver Island is a river destined to be harnessed in the name of 'green power'.*

## Run of River :: A BCFFF Perspective

**BCFFF** IS VERY CONCERNED about Run of River (RoR) hydroelectric power development in British Columbia. Over the next few months, we will be developing a formal 'position' on RoR that we can use in dealing with projects that come to our attention. The very broad issues with RoR can be broken down into impacts on ecosystems and recreation, and questions surrounding the economics of electrical power production. The latter is extremely complex and best left to others to debate. We will stick with the former concerns that are associated with ecosystems and, most specifically, with how RoRs can affect fish and associated recreational angling. More specifically our concerns run along these lines...

- **The myth of 'green' power production** – while these projects may generate sustainable energy, their 'greenness' pales when considering the larger ecological impacts from weirs, roads, power lines and other infrastructure. A number of these projects will result in the 'industrialization' of entire river valleys.
- **The impacts on recreation** – public access to areas formerly unfettered for access may be at risk. RoR developers will undoubtedly take steps to limit access for protection of their infrastructure. **No trespassing** signs will appear where none existed before. Wild land aesthetics, important to many outdoor recreational pursuits, can be damaged and so can fish habitat, which will ultimately affect angling prospects.
- **The inability to adequately assess impacts from RoRs** – masses of impact material is produced by company contractors. Government environmental departments are in no shape to digest and comment effectively on these reports.

If you would like to provide comments that will assist the BCFFF with developing a formal position on Run of River projects, please email... [info@bcfff.bc.ca](mailto:info@bcfff.bc.ca)

## What's Wrong With the BC Energy Plan?



*"First of all, it is not a British Columbian energy plan at all, but rather a plan to privatize BC's watersheds and power production, erode our public utility – BC Hydro – and export electricity to the US market. It is a globalization plan, with BC cast in the role of a resource colony."*

Rex Weyler on BC's Energy Policy. For more, read **REXpert Opinions** on the BC Citizens for Public Power blog.

## South of the Border

The Northwest Steelhead and Salmon Conservation Society (NWSSCS) is active on several fronts regarding the need for wise, science-based, basin-wide land use practices to protect and restore the incredibly valuable Pacific salmon runs.

On this front, the NWSSCS is collaborating with the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority, Chehalis Basin Partnership, Chehalis Tribe, Chehalis River basin jurisdictions, numerous Chehalis River basin conservation organizations, Washington state legislators, the Attorney General and Governor's staff, and Chehalis River basin residents and business owners.

NWSSCS modified a thoughtful, much-appreciated release by Alexandra Morton to address similar issues in the Chehalis River basin...

- The 2010 (Fraser River) sockeye return fed whales, eagles and a \$500 million commercial fishery as the fish moved down the coast. These fish also transported 45 million kilograms of ocean nutrients deep into the interior of BC.
- In the Chehalis River basin, people **and** fish can prosper together... if we work intelligently with fish, our forests, the marine and freshwater environments.
- Life cycles of Chehalis River basin salmon and trout span America's west coast from the headwaters, through our towns to the coast itself. If we consider these essential and gauge our behavior in terms of impact on wild salmon and trout, we would instantly have to consider affects up and downstream of this living corridor. This shift in vision would create a social and ecological maturity with enormous possibility.

*continued on page 11*



Jean-Michele Cousteau and Dr. Morton watching a school of juvenile sockeye.

Alexandra on BC Sockeye...

Sockeye that migrate north out of the Fraser River along eastern Vancouver Island have become impossible to predict in a boom and bust cycle. But the Harrison Fraser sockeye migrating to the south via Juan de Fuca Strait are thriving. As a result, scientists now think we are losing our sockeye in the waterways of eastern Vancouver Island, but they don't know why. Is this because the key variable is industrial, not biological?

Feedlots break the natural laws that keep disease in check. My research on salmon feedlots found they can turn sea lice off by emptying the pens and using drugs, and that this reduced impact of sea lice on juvenile wild salmon. This unnatural on-off affect would be the same for disease. In a leaked government memo the Globe & Mail learned that DFO considers an emerging disease as a leading theory as to what happened to the 2009 sockeye. What is this disease, why hasn't it been mentioned publicly?

I think we will find that the approximately 70 feedlots along eastern Vancouver Island are the 'gatekeepers' to our Fraser sockeye.

## Salmon Farms :: the SAGA Continues

Dr. Alexandra Morton, RPBio

We are gathering digitally to protect WILD salmon

**F**IVE THOUSAND YEARS AGO the Broughton Archipelago generously supported thousands of people. Its natural contours create the perfect conditions for clams, salmon, herring and seaweeds. As long as their culture protected the fish, the people thrived building communities, a society, Nations.

Today, twenty-seven industrial salmon feedlots dominate Broughton taking orders from people on the other side of the planet. Good, bad or indifferent, they have no idea what impact their commercial activity is having on the people who call Broughton home.

For reasons we may never know, while Campbell's now-shattered government professes to support using the ocean for feedlots, they would not renew the land tenure agreements that gave the industry legal access to anchor over the seafloor. As a result, salmon feedlots in Broughton are now operating on expired tenures.

I applied for the seafloor under three salmon feedlots, one each in the Broughton territories of the Gwawaenuk, Tsawataineuk and Kwicksutaineuk to grow wild fish by returning these locations to their natural condition. I informed the Chiefs of my intent... no one would own these fish. If these tenures belonged to the Norwegian companies, Crown Lands would have informed me, but they did not. My applications are being processed and I await their decision. If the BC liberals could not accept the liability of renewing these tenures, how can we have confidence in anything they tell us about the industry?

There are many ways to protect life on earth and one of them is to peacefully and powerfully gather and insist that the laws of the land be honoured. Legally the Broughton Archipelago is fish feedlot-free and we are informing government of this.

We can reach out to the people in the industry and help them without giving up what is vital to the future of this coast. Norway is protecting their wild salmon by creating salmon farm-free zones. *Why would we do less?* This is not a petition, it is a peaceful, powerful, massive digital gathering to stand and tell government, according to their own laws, Broughton is **salmon feedlot-free** and we expect them to honour this by removing the equipment. You can sign the statement below by clicking on this **web link** and share this story with all the wild salmon people you know.

Alexandra Morton | November 24th 2010

*“Out of respect for the law of this land, the Broughton First Nations and future generations, we recognize that the land tenures under the salmon feedlots in Broughton belong to the people of British Columbia. The municipal government sits outside the archipelago and so do not live with the impact of industrial feedlots. Therefore, we take this initiative without them. We the undersigned affirm that the region known as the Broughton Archipelago (between and including Kingcome and Knight Inlets and west through Drury Inlet) is salmon feedlot-free. We call on the leaderless Province of British Columbia to honour this reality that they created and remove feedlot equipment from Broughton so that wild fish can thrive in these waters to the benefit of all.”*



## Organic Label for BC Farmed Fish?

by: Liam Moriarty, KPLU

CANADA has proposed standards for certifying farmed salmon as 'organic'. The aquaculture industry says it's a natural extension of the existing organic labeling for chicken, beef and other meat. But critics say net-cage salmon farms are anything but green.

Shoppers pay a premium for meat labeled 'organic' because they believe it's easier on the planet, plus it's been certified to have been raised without pesticides, antibiotics or other chemicals.

Under the draft standards being considered in Canada, farmed salmon could be treated with those chemicals and still be sold as organic.

But **Catherine Stewart**, with the Vancouver-based **Living Oceans Society**, says the objections go deeper than that.

*"Even if you tinker with the production methods on the farm," she says, "the continued use of net-cages has major environmental consequences that we feel doesn't fit with the whole ethos of organic production."*

Stewart points to studies that have implicated salmon farms in water pollution, parasite outbreaks and other problems that may be contributing to the decline of wild salmon.

Industry groups say they'd only support strict organic standards that would maintain consumer confidence in the organic label. Canadian authorities are taking comments on the draft proposal until the end of this month (August 2010).

[www.kplu.org](http://www.kplu.org)

KPLU © 2010

*KPLU is the pre-eminent public radio station in the Puget Sound, with a mission to inform, entertain and educate the public to increase knowledge of the world, appreciation of the arts and understanding of the human condition.*

## Certification of 'Sustainable Sockeye'

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S sockeye fishery – including the troubled Fraser River run which is currently the focus of a judicial inquiry – is about to get international certification as a sustainable fishery.

But the decision, posted earlier in 2010 by the British-based **Marine Stewardship Council**, has led to harsh criticism in BC with environmental groups saying the eco-labelling program has lost its credibility.

**Bruce Hill**, co-ordinator of **The Headwaters Initiative**, a group working to preserve BC rivers, said sockeye stocks in both the Fraser and Skeena are in decline and it would be 'absurd' to certify those fisheries as sustainable.

*"If they continue with what they are doing and certify the Skeena and the Fraser, it's nothing more than eco-fraud and green washing,"* said Mr. Hill.

Mr. Hill said the MSC program has become more of a marketing tool than a way to promote sustainable fisheries and he said environmental groups should look at finding alternative certification systems to support.

**Jeffrey Young**, Aquatic Biologist at the **David Suzuki Foundation**, said certification shouldn't be granted until after both the judicial review, and an upcoming sockeye study by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, are completed.

*"The Fraser fishery continues to threaten endangered sockeye and there isn't really an overall rebuilding plan... we think certification should at least be withheld until the results of the judicial inquiry are provided and COSEWIC... completes its review,"* he said.

To read the complete article as published in **The Globe and Mail**, please visit...

**Sustainable Sockeye Eco-Fraud**

by: Mark Hume

## South of the Border, *continued*

NWSSCS continues to endorse efforts north of the border to reform and/or eliminate the Atlantic salmon feedlots from British Columbia's marine waters as they are totally destructive to the local marine habitat and to marine species – salmon, steelhead and others – that utilize the impacted habitat.

NWSSCS has relayed this message to **Janette Brimmer**, an attorney for EarthJustice, to get her take on the possible next steps that can be effectively taken to correct the significant health and habitat issues introduced by BC's salmon feedlots.

NWSSCS goes on to note its surprise that west coast commercial salmon fishermen and fish processors are allowing salmon feedlots to continue to operate as they adversely impact the opportunity to export Canada's salmon and other food fish to foreign markets.

**Jim Wilcox**, Secretary/Treasurer for NWSSCS, noted in an email to Alexandra Morton, *"I don't know how else we can contribute to this important effort other than to continue networking with colleagues on both sides of our common border."* He concluded with, *"Certainly a letter to President Obama is justified given the salmon feedlots adversely impact the health of Pacific Ocean salmonids throughout their entire west coast range."*

For more information on NWSSCS and its efforts, please visit...

[NWSSCS.blogspot.com](http://NWSSCS.blogspot.com)



# bc fisheries



## The BCFFF on Fisheries

The BC Federation of Fly Fishers has been working on fisheries conservation and quality angling issues on behalf of British Columbians since the Federation's inception in 1973.

The BCFFF's main objective is to promote the conservation of the fishing environment in BC. By networking with similarly-minded clubs, organizations, businesses and individuals, the Federation provides a voice that reflects its members' and the public's concern for the future of our province's natural resources.

We believe that concern for the future of our province's environment is not just the exclusive domain of fly fishers or other recreation groups, but should be the concern of all citizens.

It is with this broader population in mind that we strive to protect and promote our natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations to respect and enjoy.



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*top... Andrew Redmont toting two of many burlap sacks destined for enriching one of the streams on the Lower Mainland.*

*bottom... Perry Wilson with a steelhead on the Kokish River.*



Volunteers depositing burlap sacks with stream-enriching nutrients on Silverhope Creek.

## Enhancing BC Fisheries

### Steelhead benefit from stream fertilization program

by: Carlo Ng

*Director, The Steelhead Society of BC*



**I**T'S EARLY JUNE and a human chain of volunteers is hard at work moving hundreds of 10 kg burlap sacks to the edge of the Coquihalla River. The river is not in flood, ideal for receiving a boost of enrichment. The burlap sacks are filled with Crystal Green®, an agricultural fertilizer that is recovered from wastewater. The sacks of fertilizer are strategically placed in the current where they will release phosphorous and nitrogen nutrients into the water over the next several weeks.

The stream fertilization program is an annual project conducted by the **Steelhead Recovery Program** of the **British Columbia Conservation Foundation (BCCF)**. The supplement of nitrogen and phosphorous can increase the productivity of a freshwater ecosystem and is one of the most cost-effective steelhead recovery tools available. This increase of productivity stimulates stream life and allows for a higher carrying capacity of young steelhead. This can result in a higher number of smolts leaving freshwater for the ocean. More smolts produced from fertilized streams can help to reverse the current declining numbers of steelhead in the Georgia basin. Steelhead – a prized sport fish for anglers – is on the brink of disaster in many Georgia basin streams. The steelhead declines can be attributed to poor ocean conditions and impacts to freshwater rearing habitat.

The fertilizer is typically applied in late spring when stream run-off is finished, which allows the fertilizer to be effective for the entire growing season. The nutrients are released into the water, which feeds algae. Algae growth is monitored and compared between the stream sections that are above and below the fertilized sites. This is done by placing periphyton plates on the stream bottom. These plates act like a sponge for algae to grow on. **Dave Harper**, a fish habitat technician for the Steelhead Recovery Program, says, *"The bugs love the brown algae."* The aquatic insect

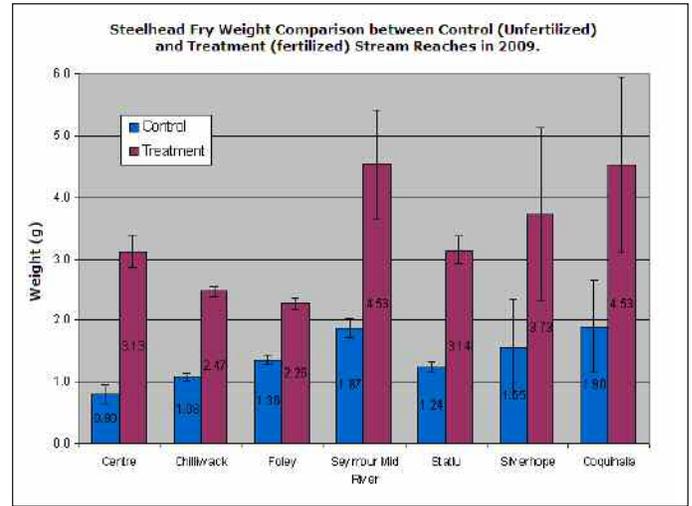
## BCCF Steelhead Recovery Program

The BCCF Steelhead Recovery Program relies on the generous donations of crown corporations, private companies and non-profit organizations for the funding of the stream fertilization program. The majority of the funding comes from applications submitted to the following contributors...

- BC Hydro – Bridge Coastal Fish & Wildlife Restoration Program (now called Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program)
- Campbell River Salmon Foundation
- Friends of the Marble River Society
- Georgia Basin Living Rivers – Vancouver Island/Lower Mainland
- Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
- Pacific Salmon Foundation
- Royal Bank of Canada – Blue Water Project
- Western Forest Products – Forest Investment Account

The Steelhead Recovery Program receives additional funding, facility use and volunteer assistance from the following organizations...

- BC Federation of Fly Fishers
- BC Ministry of Environment (now BC Ministry of Natural Resource Operations)
- Chilliwack Fish & Game Protective Association
- Chilliwack River Action Committee
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program
- Fraser Valley Conservancy
- Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC
- Kingfishers Rod and Gun Club
- Nanaimo River Hatchery
- Northern Vancouver Island Salmonid Enhancement Association
- Seymour Salmonid Society
- Steelhead Society of BC



above... comparison showing results of stream fertilization.  
 left... Dave Harper, a fish habitat technician with BCCF, placing stream-enriching sacks in Silverhope Creek.



Enhanced algae growth from stream fertilization increases productivity of freshwater ecosystem.

population typically increases in the areas treated with fertilizer. More readily available food increases the juvenile salmonid populations. Through fish sampling, it is evident that parr and smolts from areas affected by fertilization are bigger in size than ones from areas that are not fertilized.

Stream fertilization has its roots in BC as an experiment by the Watershed Restoration Program of Forest Renewal BC back in the 1980s on the Keogh River on Vancouver Island. The BCCF became involved with stream fertilization in 2002 by experimenting with various types of fertilizer in laboratory troughs and man-made channels. This research, over years, has developed the program into an efficient and effective strategy. In 2010, 23 streams on Vancouver Island and 7 streams in the Lower Mainland are in the fertilization program.

Vancouver Island Streams

- Ash River
- Benson River
- Chemainus River
- Cluxewe River
- Consort Creek
- Davie River
- Eve River
- Grilse Creek
- Harris Creek
- Hemmingsen Creek
- Lanterman Creek
- Link River
- Maquilla Creek
- Memekay River
- Nimpkish River
- North Fork River
- Renfrew Creek
- Salmon River
- South Fork River
- Tsitika River
- Upper River
- White River
- Wolf Creek

Lower Mainland Streams

- Center Creek
- Chilliwack River
- Coquihalla River
- Foley Creek
- Seymour River
- Statlu Creek
- Yola Creek



The Steelhead Society of BC is committed to enhancing our steelhead stocks and critical habitat.



**Carlo Ng**  
 Director  
 The Steelhead Society of BC



BC Steelhead... a legacy worth nurturing

To learn more about the British Columbia Conservation Foundation and the BCCF Steelhead Recovery Program...

[www.bccf.com/steelhead](http://www.bccf.com/steelhead)



*Perry Wilson is the BCFFF 2nd Vice President and resides in Port McNeill on Vancouver Island. He is the owner / operator of Northland Fly Specialty.*

For more info on the Kokish River steelhead situation...

**Perry Wilson**

t: 250.956.2879

e: pwilson@northlandfly.com

About Northland Fly Specialty

NORTHLAND FLY is a specialty shop located in Port McNeill, BC, on the north end of Vancouver Island. We deal exclusively in tackle manufactured by R.B. Meiser Fly Rods of Medford, Oregon. Our philosophies align perfectly as both place huge emphasis on two-handed casting and new evolving techniques of tackle and fly.

We are in the heart of some of the best wild salmon and steelhead fishing... *the scenery is spectacular... the rivers pristine.* Our rivers contain *resident rainbows, cutthroat, steelhead and all species of wild Pacific Salmon* so the fishing season encompasses the entire year.

For more on Northland Fly Specialty visit...

[www.northlandfly.com](http://www.northlandfly.com)

left... *Kokish River RoR project – long term average flow rates both pre- and post-construction, showing steelhead in-river dates and spawning.*

*Perry Wilson with a classic Kokish River summer-run steelhead.*

# Kokish River Steelhead

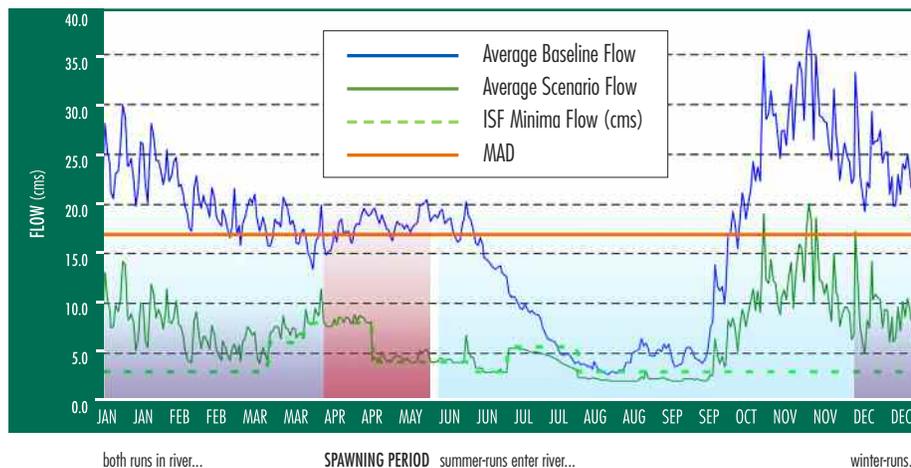
Impact of Kokish Run of River – RoR – Hydroelectric Project will be SIGNIFICANT

by: Perry Wilson

*2nd Vice President, BC Federation of Fly Fishers*

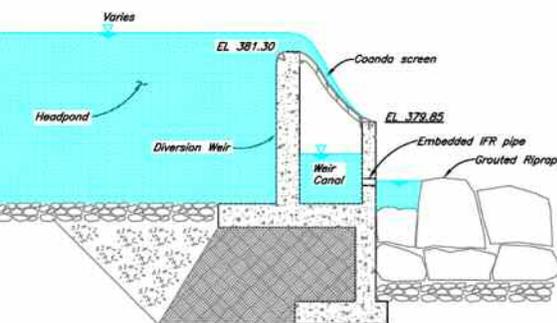
WITH MORE THAN 500 applications now in place for RoR projects in BC, the **Kokish River** on northeastern Vancouver Island is now under attack. It is at risk of losing the few remaining steelhead in that system.

Kwagis Power, a limited partnership of Brookfield Renewable Power and the ‘Namgis First Nation, is proposing to develop a RoR hydroelectric project on the Kokish River. The proposed project will generate up to 45 megawatts of so-called ‘clean’ renewable energy into BC’s power grid, enough electricity to power 15,000 homes. This project will, if accepted, divert over 60% of the river’s water through a 3 meter pipe for over 9 km of the 11 km river’s length. It will drop water levels from an average of 17 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 7 cfs. To alter any river’s flow to this degree will have a detrimental effect on all species that inhabit that river... *this will be irreversible!*





The low-elevation weir will be a definite barrier to migrating steelhead.



Cross-section of proposed low-elevation weir.

Ask yourself these questions...

Would we accept this without complaint on the Thompson River or the Dean River? What about on the headwaters of the Bulkley River?

If your answer is NO, then it is time for YOU to 'speak up' and be one of the advocates for BC steelhead!



A Kokish River steelhead up close.

Only a few jobs will be created during the construction phase, with operations being run by remote control from another town, thus leaving only the 'Namgis and Brookfield to profit from this project at the cost of yet another BC steelhead run.

This all seems very ironic having attended the Vancouver Island Fresh Water Fishing Regulations Advisory Committee meetings and the Steelhead Summit at BCIT, as well as representing the BCFFF as 2nd Vice President. Everyone appears to be concerned about the health of our remaining steelhead runs. Why then are we even thinking about RoR projects on any BC steelhead stream?

As anglers and advocates for BC steelhead, are we ready to take on the challenges of RoR projects such as this? Most clubs or volunteers do not have the time or the funds to access many of these rivers... very few BC angling clubs even have a position on RoR. Clubs and anglers have fought for years to improve steelhead returns in our province, whether it be by donating time for working in-stream to improve habitat, fundraising or something as simple as supporting the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation with the purchase of a fresh water licence. The Kokish River has been lucky enough to be supported by the HCTF for spawning gravel placement by helicopter. This gravel site also happens to be where the proposed RoR weir site would be located if this project is accepted.

Proponents hire contract biologists who would have you believe 'all will be well'. They write hundreds of pages, which take days or even weeks to read, to make heads or tails of what is going to happen. They propose long term monitoring will be in place, that considerations given will be sufficient in regards to mortalities. They also try to convince you that lower water levels along with higher water temperatures should not have an adverse effect on steelhead health; that in-stream construction during the peak of the run is a minor risk even though other projects have been denied on the same river for similar potential impacts. This is not good enough!

As many of us know, the Ministry responsible for freshwater fisheries has been cutting back, and funds for steelhead support and projects are at an all time low... frustration levels are at an all time high... yet projects like the Kokish RoR continue on rivers that host steelhead runs.

Point is... are we ready? Even though we – anglers – have been losing ground for the past two decades, there is always room to do more for something we care about!



*Quality waters and the angling experience associated with such waters are intrinsically connected.*

## FFRAC Reports

### Provincial

THIS UPDATE reports on the provincial FFRAC meeting that was held on October 15th 2010 in Abbotsford. It follows a report that you will find in the Spring–Summer 2010 issue of Fly Lines.

Since the last meeting in February, the Ministry of Environment has gone through considerable organizational change and folks there are in the process of trying to see some light through this chaos! The rhyme and reason behind such a huge change – *for those on the inside* – is incredibly difficult to interpret. On the outside, it's impossible for the public to see the sense in these changes and it causes concern for how our fisheries will be managed.

Getting back to the recent meeting, it was lightly attended although representatives of the major non-government organizations were present – BCWF, BCFDE, BCFFE, SFI, FWFS. The main agenda items involved several presentations. Shane Ford with MOE, Victoria, told us about the 'Fish and Wildlife Regulations Transformation' project that he is responsible for. It may change the business of FFRAC by incorporating the long serving Quality Waters System (QWS) committee. A three year regulations synopsis may be developed in order to allow the remaining MOE regional and Victoria staff and

stakeholders to have more time away from the onerous regulations process. Shane will develop a regional issues tracking sheet that he feels will be key to this project.

Paddy Hirshfield, MOE in Smithers, reported on the Skeena Quality Waters System. His PowerPoint presentation provided a very detailed overview of this process that has been going for a number of years. Paddy is also responsible for developing a provincial steelhead management plan. Toward this, he has submitted a proposal to fund this plan process from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation at \$200,000 plus. A proposal had already been made in 2009, but was rejected. This new proposal incorporates changes to reflect the concerns that HCTF had. He asked if organizations on FFRAC would be willing to provide letters of support for the management plan proposal. The BCFFF provided a letter.

When the draft minutes for this meeting are ratified they can be made available to anyone that is interested in more detail.

An email request sent to the BCFFF at [info@bcfff.bc.ca](mailto:info@bcfff.bc.ca) will accomplish this.

**Peter Caverhill**  
BCFFF Representative  
Provincial FFRAC

### Vancouver Island

THE SEPTEMBER 2010 meeting of the Vancouver Island FFRAC was well attended by both Ministry of Environment staff and angling representatives. The committee considered several freshwater fishing regulations proposals for the Region #1. Thoughtful discussion by the group resulted in support being given to several proposals, while a few proposals were declined committee support. The best interest of fish appears to be the main drive of the group, followed by an interest in improving angling regulations. The committee members looked at information from a fact perspective to determine whether or not to support submitted proposals.

While there are a number of constituent groups represented on the committee, the specific philosophies or interests of each group seem to take a back seat to careful consideration of evidence regarding each proposal. Some of the decisions by the committee may not be to the liking of all, but the decisions of support were reasoned and aligned with best practices.

The recent action of the committee illustrates group members are able to work together despite some differences as long as science and concern for fish are used as the tools for decisions. In some cases where the science was not clear, the group asked for further information before making a decision.

The Fisheries Branch has worked hard to support and offer critical information that allowed the committee to work constructively.

**Pat Micek**  
BCFFF Representative  
Vancouver Island FFRAC

# art of the angle



Our Art + Sport... is a passion!

Fly fishing in all its permutations has the uncanny ability to transform the 'ordinary' into the 'extraordinary'.

Whether your particular brand of passion for the art and sport of fly fishing is pursuing a particular species of fish on preferred water, the single-versus double-handed rod, trout or salmonid, or tying and using classic versus contemporary fly patterns, it all comes down to the one thing we have in common... a love of fly fishing and all that goes with it.

Enjoy 'CLASSIC STEELHEADING', in which **Dan Lougheed** pays tribute to a 'Lady' and his brand of passion!

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## Fishable Classics

There are masters amongst our ranks who have a penchant for not only tying the classics, but fishing them as well. **Chris Wesson** is known to many for his mastery at tying the classics... he also chooses 'Fishable Classics' as his preferred passion!



Green Highlander

a 'fishable classic' by **Chris Wesson**

## Classic Steelheading

**O**NE OF MY FAVOURITE fly patterns that comes to us from the across the Atlantic Ocean is the **Lady Caroline**. This drab pattern has proven itself over and over under a wide variety of situations and seasons. With this fly I have taken both winter- and summer-run steelhead; it can be tied as a sparse low water version for summer drought conditions or as a large full version for winter-run fish.

A few years back on one of Vancouver Island's northern rivers during an overcast April day this fly surprised me. My fishing partner and I were on a large run and had each covered the water with large bright patterns. We were packing up to continue our drift when I decided that the run was fishing so well that I simply had to give it one more shot. After much deliberation while peering into my over-stuffed fly box I chose a Lady Caroline tied on a #1.5 Alec Jackson spey hook. I didn't have high expectations, but I was really enjoying fishing superb water with a long rod and traditional fly. Halfway down the run my fly was intercepted by a very bright 32" doe that put up a very spirited fight.

This fly is a great choice for floating line tactics under summer or fall conditions. I really enjoy fishing greased line and this fly performs well when fished this way. Very few of today's steelheaders understand the greased line technique, let alone employ it while fishing. The key to this presentation style is fishing the fly broadside to the fish. Many think that if they are fishing a floating line they are grease lining, but that is not the case.

This fly has a long and proud history that dates back over 100 years. It was composed of materials that were available at the time in the UK. Today it is tough to find legal heron which forms the hackle of the original, however, Blue Eared Pheasant is a great substitute. The long mobile hackle has great movement in the water which creates the illusion of life. The olive brown hue of the fly is representative of many forms of life found in the stream.

I believe classic flies that have proven themselves, such as the Lady Caroline, should occupy a place of honour in every steelheader's fly box. If given a fair shot this fly will fool difficult steelhead anywhere. So the next time you find yourself sitting at the vice, wondering what to tie... *consider giving this elegant Lady a chance.*



### About the Author

**Dan Lougheed** is a Naval Officer from Victoria BC who spends time exploring the steelhead rivers of the Pacific Northwest. He started fly fishing for steelhead 23 years ago for transplanted steelhead on Southern Ontario's Beaver River. He was posted to Esquimalt in 2001 which has allowed him to compare the fish of the Great Lakes to those of the Pacific.

Dan is a member of the **Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association** and assisted his club with the **HBFFA Fly Fishing Symposium II** that was hosted in Victoria in November 2010.

If you are in need of a new custom built fly rod or fly fishing instruction, don't hesitate to contact him... [steelie85@hotmail.com](mailto:steelie85@hotmail.com)

### Lady Caroline

- **Hook** – any traditional up eyed hook such as the TMC 7999 or AJ Spey Hook sizes 6 – 3/0
- **Thread** – black 8/0 or 6/0
- **Tail** – fibers from a Golden Pheasant breast feather
- **Rib** – gold and silver tinsels
- **Body Dubbing** – olive and brown wool blended together
- **Hackle** – Great Blue Heron substitute such as Blue Eared Pheasant
- **Collar** – Golden Pheasant breast
- **Wing** – Bronze Mallard



### About the Author

Ron Grantham was born in Vancouver, BC and began fishing in his mid-twenties. He is a Past President of the **Dogwood Fly Fishers** and the **Totem Flyfishers**, a past Director of the **BC Federation of Fly Fishers** and **The Steelhead Society of BC**, and has co-organized two **Corbett Lake Bamboo Rodmakers Gatherings**.

During a six-year stint as newsletter editor for the Totem Flyfishers, he produced a 160 page book on the first twenty-five years of that club. Residing in Port Moody, he currently serves as the Totem's Gillie.

Ron worked for more than thirty years for BC Gas, a public natural gas utility, and retired in 1999 as a supply coordinator. Besides bamboo rodmaking and fishing, his interests include reading, photography, computers, and cycling and hiking for health.

*below... 6/7 wt 12' Ron Grantham cane spey rod*

## Bamboo, Deer Hair & Steelhead

by Ron Grantham

**S**EPTEMBER IN BC is a magical time and place for steelhead fly fishing. Skating small deer hair flies for summer-run steelhead is only one method of fly fishing, but what a method it is! When a steelhead takes a skating fly, the bite may be as humble as a small dimple on the surface of a glassy pool or it may be a giant eruption, a head-over-tail leap. Immediately you'll find your pulse rate quickening while a ten- or twenty-pound steelhead dances across the surface and cartwheels in the air. The moment the fish takes the fly, even if you're only mildly observant, three of your five senses instantly come into play... you will see and hear the rowdy splash and feel the heavy pull as the line starts ripping through the water.

While a fish on is always good, perhaps even more exciting is the 'swirl and miss'. After several hours of fruitless casting, with your thoughts miles away, there's a sudden unexpected swirl at the fly. At that adrenalin-charged moment there is only you, the fly and the fish on your mind. Then more casts and hopefully the fish will come back for a second, third or fourth grab at the fly. These are 'photographs' in the mind that you'll have with you for a lifetime.

Wading sparkling rivers in search of summer-run steelhead using a hand-made bamboo fly rod, floating line and skating deer hair fly is my passion. I started using bamboo rods almost forty years ago. I love the smooth action, the slow, powerful casting and, of course, the pleasing look of varnished bamboo.

The actual hands-on making of bamboo rods began in 1998 when long-time friend and master bamboo rod maker John Bokstrom of Maple Ridge, BC, made the decision to step down from active rodmaking and he suggested that I give it a try. I was already well acquainted with woodworking tools and as I was already planning on taking early retirement, making my own bamboo rods seemed to be the ideal hobby. Since opportunity rarely knocks twice, I grabbed at the chance. We quickly negotiated a price for his lathe, planing forms, planes, binders, heat-treating oven, silk thread, guides of many sizes, numerous other tools – many of which were handmade – and a good supply of Tonkin bamboo. Also included, free of charge, was his rodmaking wisdom of more than twenty years – all I had to do was ask.

Immediately I was a rank amateur in rodmaking and very soon I found that it takes a good deal of time and patience to produce a presentable, usable bamboo rod. Slowly my skills developed and the rods became better with each attempt. Now you'll find me on steelhead rivers with my own twelve-foot bamboo spey rods. Nothing could be finer than that!



My spey rod tapers are all my own design. I've tried progressive and parabolic tapers, and now use tapers based on the Scottish double-handers of half a century ago. At first I used my own handmade locking brass ferrules, but have since gone completely to spliced joints for the big rods. The splices are 25:1 tapers, which overlap each other and are held together with tape – electrician's tape being excellent



*Applying glue to cane strips*

for the purpose. The joints are much lighter, transparent as far as rod action goes, and stand up much better to the torsion exerted by prolonged spey casting. The fifty to eighty hours and hundreds of steps required for hand-making a bamboo rod is but a journey. The destination – a finished rod – is eventually reached and the satisfaction of doing it slowly, by hand, is incredible. The smell, the feel of bamboo, the manipulation of each strip makes it a marvelous pastime. Sure, sometimes mistakes are made, but they can usually be fixed.

The deer hair flies I use are my own design called the **Grantham Sedge**. The idea of using a front-extended body for skating flies came to me in 1993 on the Thompson River in British Columbia while fly fishing for those magnificent summer-run steelhead. Riffle-hitched flies and flies with forward-slanting wings work well enough for a while, but I wanted a fly that was attached securely and directly to the leader, and one that would skate high on the water without pulling under. My sedge pattern is the result of many trial-and-error shapes and sizes, from a mouse to a sedge, but all dressed with deer hair and with a forward extension to make the fly skate better.

When used with a floating line this unsinkable fly will stay on the surface as long as it is moving. In principle, it acts like a kite where the line is attached to a point back of the leading edge. The fly will skate in line with the leader so directional changes can be made by tossing upstream or downstream mends in the line.



### Grantham Sedge

- **Hook** – 6, 8 or 10 Mustad 7957B, 7948A or 94840 down-eye, bronzed, forged, regular length or equivalent
- **Thread** – dark brown (optional: any colour)
- **Extension** – 0.063" nylon mono-filament as used on lawn edgers
- **Body** – brown dubbing (optional: any colour)
- **Wing** – natural deer hair (optional: any colour), length of body

### How it Fishes + Tips

- Fly was designed with no tail so the body will sink slightly and cause the forward extension to ride higher on the surface.
- No hackle which could cause fly to ride on its side and prevent solid hookups.
- If using floatant with the deer hair, apply it **at home** before you go fishing... the floatant will be better absorbed and fly will stay dry much longer.
- Tie fly on with a turtle or clinch knot... don't riffle-hitch it.



*Ron with Bulkley summer-run steelhead taken on a Grantham Sedge.*

## BCFFF Librarius

Introducing a new section... *'relating to books'* ...as a tribute to **Van Egan**, an author of angling literature.

1926



2010

below... *Van playing a Nymphish fish.*

## On Losing a Good Friend

by Art Lingren

**V**AN EGAN, a gentle modest man, ardent fly fisher and writer passed away on Thursday July 8th 2010 in Campbell River. He was one of my closest angling chums for the past three decades. But before those details, a short history of Wisconsin-born Van Egan.

Egan was a four-year-old when he was introduced to the 'gentle art' of angling by his grandfather – John Walton – on the Chippewa River. Love of fishing took hold in boyhood and after years of service in the US Navy during the later stages of World War II, his love of sport prompted him to become a fly fisher and fly tyer. However, it was love of adventure and fishing that drew him to British Columbia in 1947. On that trip he took his first-ever steelhead on the Coquihalla River and had a lasting love affair with that fish ever since.

Van was a reader of good angling literature and back in the later 1940s he specifically enjoyed Haig-Brown's writings. *A River Never Sleeps* (1946) and *The Western Angler* (1947) drew him back to the west coast again in 1954 where he met Haig-Brown for the first time. Van, while fishing the Campbell's Sandy Pool with a double-handed rod and a Silver Lady, noticed someone watching him from the Elk Falls logging bridge. After a while Van heard a voice behind him asking him if he lost this. Van turned around to find Haig-Brown holding a Van Egan-tied Silver Lady. Van knew he had lost a fly, but was surprised anyone could find a single fly along the bank of such a large pool. With pleasantries exchanged, Haig-Brown invited Van to dinner and a game of croquet. This chance meeting on the Campbell River with Haig-Brown started a long-time friendship.

The allure of fly fishing for summer-run steelhead on Vancouver Island drew Van back again in 1955 and on the Stamp River while pursuing his first love – fishing, he met a fisher woman Maxine Sutherland. Maxine and Van were married in Campbell River one month after they met, with Haig-Brown attending as best man. British Columbia and Campbell River became home.

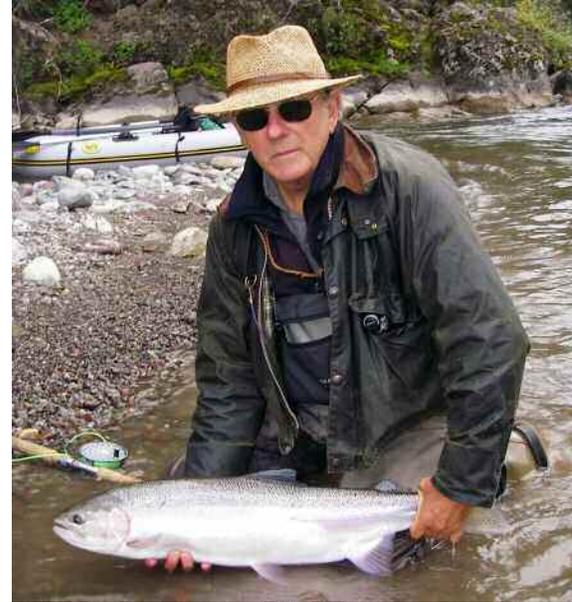
A concerned environmentalist most of his life, Egan was a member of many conservation-based organizations over the years and cherished being a member of the Totem Flyfishers, British Columbia's oldest fly fishing club. Because Van wasn't able to attend regular Totem meetings – a stipulation of regular membership – the club instituted a special 'Friends of the Club' category so he could be a member. He was one of the founders of the **Haig-Brown Kingfisher Creek Society**. After Haig-Brown died in 1976, this Society and the Haig-Brown family were instrumental in preserving the Haig-Brown house and lands, and returning coho salmon to Kingfisher Creek which now runs through the property.



Van was also skilled with the pen and has had numerous articles published in magazines and is the author of six published books. He wrote, 'Tyee: The Story of the Tyee Club of British Columbia' after looking into the history of this long-established club for a chapter in another book he was writing. Tyee is a masterful tribute to the Tyee Club and documents well the fishing techniques and history of the club's salmon fishing. Both he and Maxine have received Tyee Club awards... Van for a 59-pounder and Maxine for 47 1/2- and 48-pounders. Tyee was published in 1988 and it was followed by 'Waterside Reflections' in 1996, 'Rivers on My Mind' in 1998, 'Rivers of Return' in 2003, 'Rivers of Salt' in 2004, and 'Shadows of the Western Angler: Remembering Roderick Haig-Brown' on the 100th Anniversary of the birth of one of the world's greatest conservationists and anglers in 2008. One more book 'The Roderick Haig-Brown Fishing Tackle Collection' is a fine-press book limited to less than 100 copies and is in its final stages of publishing.

All of Van's books had a special limited edition with copy number one going to the author. Because of our friendship, on all Van's book in which he controlled distribution, he made sure I got copy number two. The one book done by Amato Publications, copy two went to the publisher, but I got copy number three.

I live in Vancouver and Van in Campbell River, but even that 125 mile road distance and nearly two hour ferry ride across Georgia Strait didn't deter us from fishing together... often. He joined me on numerous trips to the Dean River and, over the years, we fished many of the north island streams and some other mainland rivers as well.



*Art Lingren with a BC steelhead on one of his many trips to a favoured water.*

### About Art Lingren

Through most of his adult life, **Art Lingren** has been actively involved in the fishing community and has travelled to many places in BC to fly fish for steelhead, trout, char and salmon. In 1995, he was awarded the BCFFF's Angul Award, which is given to British Columbian fly fishers who show an appreciation for the "ancestry of our fly fishing heritage and the excellence surrounding its development as both an Art and a Science".

In 1999 the Federation of Fly Fishers, an international Montana-based organization, chose Art as the 6th recipient of their prestigious Roderick Haig-Brown Award. In 2007 he was the recipient of the Washington Fly Fishing Club's Letcher Lambuth Angling Craftsman Award.

Art has had an ever-lasting love affair with fly fishing and fly tying. Flowing from that affair, he has penned 11 books on British Columbia fly fishing and fly tying, three that were self published, and is a contributor to 10 others. As well he has written about fly fishing in a number of magazines.



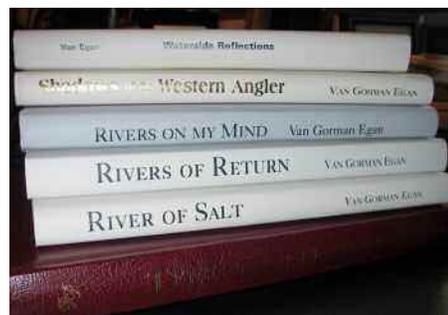
*Van with Dean River steelhead.*



*Maxine – the love of Van Egan’s life – with a nice trout on Wowo Lake, circa 1960.*



*Art with Van Egan on the Campbell River resting a favoured run.*



*Books written by Van Egan.*

*On Losing a Good Friend, continued*

The Dean was a special place to both of us and we have fond memories of those trips together. On a mid-1980s trip, Van and I were fishing the Fir Run. About mid-pool a long log protruded out of the water and angled downstream. Van, using a single-hand outfit, hooked a steelhead above the log and the fish quickly headed to the other side and down river. Van’s line fouled on the log and he couldn’t free it. I was behind him and came down to see if I could help. It was just after I started using two-handed rods so I waded out as far as I could and sent out a good cast that managed to go over Van’s line downstream of the log where my hook caught his line. Van let line out while I pulled the hooked line towards me. We got hold of it, cut it, Van retrieved his backing and then we re-attached the line. Van was pleased to get his line back, but he was doubly pleased because, even after all the fiddling, his steelhead found a resting spot and waited... Van landed that fish.

Van made his last Dean trip in 1994 and was in the last group with me, Pete Broomhall and Rob Brown. The trip was nearing its end and Van decided he didn’t want to go across the river to fish the Camp Run. He said – if he fished – he would try the short piece of water in front of our camp. I can’t recall if Pete, Rob and I caught any fish on the other side that night, but I know Van had a good night. We wanted details when we returned and Van said that he has fished steelhead for nearly 50 years and that night he landed a 43 inch monster, his largest steelhead ever. It was good to be there when a friend gets a life-time fish.

Sometime in the 1990s, Van and I fished with Chris Bennett up Kingcome Inlet way. We were to fish the Wakeman River, weather permitting, and on our second day we drifted the lower Wakeman. About halfway down the drift, Van had walked downstream and I had finished with my piece of water, and we were drifting down to get Van. He walked over to the river’s edge and before he knew it, the loose gravel bank gave way and he was into icy-cold water on the deeper cut bank side of the river, with no place easy for him to get back to shore and crawl out. Fortunately, I managed to grab hold of the scruff on his neck as he went down and drag him over the side of the boat. How I did that I don’t know. We got him to shore, wrung out his clothes and shared some clothes that were dry. We drifted as quickly as we could down to the estuary to the logging camp caretaker’s place where he dried Van’s clothes in a dryer and stoked up the fire to help Van recover from his hypothermic experience.

We were close friends before this, but the bond between friends becomes stronger when you save that friend. Good friends share common interests – Van and I each had a passion for fly fishing, fly tying, fly fishing books, conservation and the preservation of the natural world. Too, my admiration for Haig-Brown, drew us together in the early 1980s and since that time Van shared so many stories about Rod with me that I felt as if Haig-Brown was my friend as well.

Fishing isn’t all about catching fish and I recall one trip to Nimpkish River where we found terrible conditions – howling wind and cold – so Van took me around to places on the Nimpkish River and Woss Lake that Haig-Brown worked at and fished back in his early days in British Columbia. That was a no-fish day, but one of my most memorable with Van because of the Haig-Brown stories he shared with me. Van and I did fish together on many rivers over the years. That and all our common interests bonded us, but it was writing that cemented that bond. Van never got into computer technology. His preferred method of communicating with friends was

through letters. Yesterday July 12th 2010, I sent Sandy – Van’s daughter – a card and on the front was the saying... “*letters are visits from friends when they are apart.*” Because of the distance Van and I didn’t see each other that often, but we wrote frequent letters.

A couple of days ago I went through my files, collecting our correspondence from early 1983 to the last letter on June 2nd 2010 – there are hundreds of pages of correspondence. For the past few years due to health problems, Van hasn’t been able to fish, but he kept connected to me and other fishing chums through letters. As well Totem Flyfishers Peter Broomhall, Charlie Brumwell and sometimes Ron Schiefke or Bob Hooton joined us on day trips to Campbell River for lunch with Van. Neil Cameron, publisher of the Campbell River Courier-Islander and Van’s good friend, visited him regularly to make sure he was doing okay and encouraged him to write pieces for the paper. It was Neil who prompted Van to write ‘**Shadows of the Western Angler: Remembering Roderick Haig-Brown**’ on the 100th Anniversary of Haig-Brown’s birth... copies of the trade edition are still available through the Courier-Islander.

I grieve for Van, but he told Sandy just before he died that he had a good life, was content and ready to go. He touched the lives of many people especially fly fishers and Haig-Brown enthusiasts. I close with the thoughts of one well-known Washington State steelhead fly fisher – **Bill McMillan** – who had a chance meeting with Van on the Campbell River many years ago.

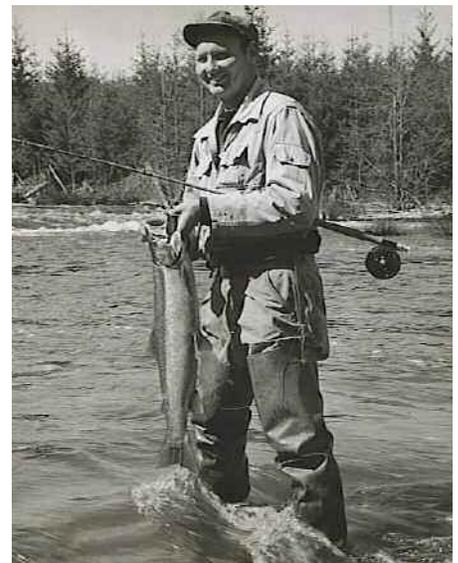


photo: Lee Straught – circa 1950s

Bill McMillan writes...

*“Thank you very much for notifying me about the loss of Van. What a fine man he was. I am not much for socializing with people. But the richest social memory I have had as an adult occurred back in 1986 when I met Van on the Campbell as he was watching my son fish at the Island Pool. I was subsequently invited to his house for the evening where Maxine and Van joyfully competed to be the better host in our mutual celebrations of love for Haig-Brown. It was an evening I will never forget. The next morning Van and I fished together. I never saw him again, although we did correspond with a letter or two in recent years. Nevertheless, that one evening was enough to permanently imbed both he and Maxine deep in my heart. Hard to explain how a few brief hours with them would amount to so much.”*

Van Egan  
2340 Campbell River Road  
Campbell River, B.C. V9W 4N7  
2 October 2007

Dear Art,

Glad to know that your fishing in the Skeena country was better than on the Dean. A friend here, who goes to the Dean every year, found it much the same as you did. That 38-ich steelhead from the Kispiox, taken on a waked fly must have been a thrill.

I don't know if I mentioned it before but I've been looking again, for the zillionth time, at the photo you took of a Jock Scott fly and used on a card. It's a beautiful photo, especially with the black background, and the fly so perfectly tied.

Valerie and Jeff did stop by one day. I put Jeff onto a Haig-Brown paper with a statement about the basic three types of angler -- meat fishermen, those who go fishing because they know of it but are not too serious about it, and those who make it a way-of-life (like us, I believe). so I put him onto Peter Broomhall who I'm sure had a good time. It was good to see them both.

The river is quite high now. Hydro began today it's shooting past the house in a rush to get to the dam. It's spilling a fair amount as they are bringing down the dam preparatory to doing some work on it to make it a little chance for anyone to fish the river.

Because July and August were so wet the river was high and quite cold. As a result it drew salmon

Arthur James Lingren

October 29, 2007

Van Egan  
2340 Campbell River Rd.  
Campbell River, BC  
V9W 4N7

Dear Van,

The Thompson River opened last Friday so I thought I would try the river Wednesday though Friday. I made an earlier trip expecting an announcement to be made the day I left town but that didn't happen so went over to Lac Le Jeune to fish

# BCFFF Galleria

Fly fishing offers 'once in a lifetime' experiences that may — or may not — be repeated. Just being 'out there', on the water pursuing our passion, brings rewards that cannot be anticipated... **enjoy ...I did!**

Kevin Mayer

Vedder River Moonrise | circa 2000



## FALL :: Time to Give Thanks...

Fall brings a bounty of fish returning to natal rivers, seeking the gravel beds from which they emerged... to replenish the future with a fresh reserve of liquid silver. A Thanksgiving coho caught and released on the Vedder River.

*feature + inset photos: Kevin Mayer © 2000*

# New for 2010–11

*A digital tribute to our art and sport through images that speak to the 'Seasons of Fly Fishing'*



[click here for submission requirements for the BCFFF Galleria in Fly Lines](#)

*seasonal photos: Richard Mayer © 2010*

# bcfff news



## BCFFF News + Updates

The BCFFF is active on several fronts on initiatives of importance to the Federation's member clubs and the direct members.

This issue of Fly Lines includes articles on FFSBC's Fishing Buddies Program; DIVAs on the Fly, a program for women recovering from breast cancer that is supported by the BCFFF as a title sponsor; Club Creel – a new section – for newsbytes from member clubs; and, an update on BCFFF forms and general information of interest to member clubs and direct members.

For current and archived news that is not included in Fly Lines, members are encouraged to visit the BCFFF web site... [www.BCFFF.bc.ca](http://www.BCFFF.bc.ca)

Dan Cahill  
President

'FISHING BUDDIES'? Makes sense for sure! It's a great way to hook folks on the wonders of angling. Hopefully, some will become advocates and work for the future of the fisheries resource in BC. BCFFF really likes what this program is trying to do!

Pete Caverhill  
Director

top... *FFSBC's Fishing Buddies Program is all about those who can helping those who would like to... learn to fish!*

bottom... *Wayne Pealo shares casting knowledge with DIVAs at 2010 Retreat.*





Dean and Nat... fishing buddies ...with a pair of beautiful rainbows on Sheridan Lake!

## FFSBC Fishing Buddies Program

**F**LY FISHERS CARE about fishing. Members of the BC Federation of Fly Fishers really care about fishing... so much so they came together as a group nearly 40 years ago to get involved in fisheries conservation, advocate on behalf of the sport and pass their collective love of fishing onto future generations. The staff of the **Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC** knows you are passionate about building the legacy of fishing in our province and we have developed a new program that will help foster the love of fishing for generations.

This past summer we launched our new **Fishing Buddies Program**. It's based on a simple premise that every angler is also a teacher or mentor and that given a gentle nudge, people who have been fishing for years will jump at the chance to pass their love of fishing onto future generations.

**The program is simple...** we encourage anglers to go to our web site and promise to introduce at least one new person to the sport each year. The FFSBC provides support and sends fishing buddies our newsletter, information on recent stocking activities, and tips and tricks that might be helpful for teaching young or aspiring anglers. We know you are into fly fishing because it's your passion, yet understand it takes time to get it all together. It's likely many young anglers won't be able to fling a fly with a fly rod on their first time out, but the idea is to **get them started**. Hopefully they will progress and become passionate about fly fishing and all that goes with it... *just like you are!*

The program has been a resounding success. Over the past six months, more than 900 anglers have taken the pledge and most have introduced more than four anglers to the sport. We sweetened the deal and entered every person who took the pledge in our summer contest. Four lucky anglers won prizes including a week's RV rental, a white-water rafting adventure and guided fishing trips with renowned anglers such as Brian Chan and D.C. Reid.

We want to build on our success and convince even more people to take the pledge. This is a **call to action** and we encourage every member of the BC Federation of Fly Fishers to visit our web site and become a fishing buddy. You've done your part to ensure that future generations can enjoy world-class fishing opportunities... *now we want YOU to teach them how!*



Spin fishing or fly, **Fishing Buddies** is to get them fishing... start 'em young!



click play to watch **Fishing Buddies** video on YouTube

*As an angler myself, I look forward to members of the BCFFF lending a helping hand by signing up for the FFSBC Fishing Buddies Program.*

**Bryan Ludwig**  
VP Sportfish Division  
Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC



**Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC**

For more information on the FFSBC **Fishing Buddies Program** visit...

[www.gofishbc.com/fishingbuddies](http://www.gofishbc.com/fishingbuddies)

# Divas on the fly



DIVAS ON THE FLY is supported by the BC Federation of Fly Fishers, Island Waters Fly Fishing Association, Vancouver Island University, Roche Pharmaceutical, Superfly, Trout Unlimited Canada, Robinsons Outdoor Store, Gone Fishin', Ellison Lake Trout Ranch, Coastal Community Credit Union, Amundson Outdoors Ltd., and Wholesale Sports Outdoor Outfitters.

for more info, visit...

[www.divasonthefly.ca](http://www.divasonthefly.ca)

Or contact...

**Wayne Pealo**

t: 250.753.4550 | e: [pealo@shaw.ca](mailto:pealo@shaw.ca)



Wayne practising at 2010 DIVAs Retreat.

**Wayne Pealo** is a Director in the **Island Waters Fly Fishing Association** on Vancouver Island. He is also a Past President of the Cowichan Fly Fishers and a past Director in the **BC Federation of Fly Fishers**. He resides in Nanaimo and is one of the co-founders of the DIVAS ON THE FLY Project. He enjoys fly fishing rivers and travelling abroad in search of new fishing adventures.



*DIVAs with program volunteers are finding this program to be of very high value and a lot of fun!*

## DIVAs on the Fly Beyond Traditional Breast Cancer Treatment

**A**S THE FLY ROD propels the line onto the waters of the flat calm Ellison Lake, anticipation takes hold of the Divas. Only short months ago, fly fishing was the last thing on the minds of the breast cancer thrivers! Their focus was on today and surviving the challenges they would face over the coming months from treatment for their life-threatening disease. Chemotherapy, radiation and, for some, surgery were fresh on their minds. Nowhere were there any thoughts of a beautiful sunny day, on a quiet lake, in search of the elusive rainbow trout the Divas had been learning to pursue over the weekend.

**Divas on the Fly** is a leisure program which uses fly fishing to enhance the quality of life of breast cancer survivors. Nineteen ladies have attended the weekend retreats at Tamagawa Center in Cedar to learn the sport of fly fishing. Fly fishing as a leisure activity for breast cancer has many potential benefits. Enhancing the health and well being of survivors is of paramount importance to the breast cancer community. Furthermore, *“leisure activities become a focus for survivors after treatment and provide an opportunity to improve quality of life.”*

There’s been a lot of research on the merits of dragon boating, but very little on other leisure activities. Unlike dragon boating, fly fishing is an individual leisure activity with a strong social component that may benefit the holistic healing process for breast cancer survivors. Fly fishing provides an individual with the opportunity to connect with nature. *“It gives you something to hang on to every day, whether you are tying flies or just walking to a lake in search of the elusive Piscator!”*

*“The program is part of a research project in which researchers are looking at the impact of leisure activities such as fly fishing on the quality of life of breast cancer survivors,”* explained Wayne Pealo, a Director in the Island Waters Fly Fishers. Mortality rates of women diagnosed with breast cancer have declined since the 1990s, however, the Canadian Cancer Society estimates that 22,400 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer (2008) and 5,300 will die of the disease.



A DIVA fly casting on a Vancouver Island stillwater.

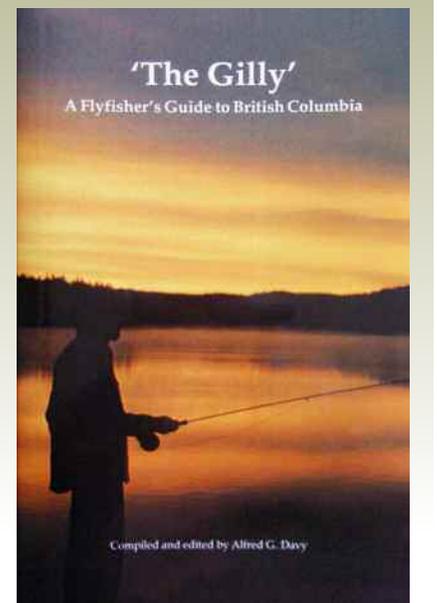


Another DIVA under the watchful eye of a program mentor.

Recent participants have indicated... *“they were much more apt to defend their leisure time. They believed it might lengthen their lifespan, but if not, it had better be fun! It is an irony.”*

In 2004, ‘CASTING FOR RECOVERY’ held 30 retreats in the USA and Canada. *“However, despite the attention that these programs have received from the media and the community of breast cancer survivors, no research has targeted the affect that these programs may have on breast cancer survivors,”* said Pealo. The Divas on the Fly project hopes to change that!

*“I entertain the idea of going fly fishing for a morning by myself or with a friend/husband because I like the fact that I will be outside, connected to nature, relaxing and learning something new. I feel this experience has brought ‘living’ back to my life!”*, stated a 2010 Divas participant. *“Spending time with such great men and women volunteers, sharing the love for the sport of fly fishing was fun, intriguing and removed so many stigmas that I had about being a breast cancer survivor.”*



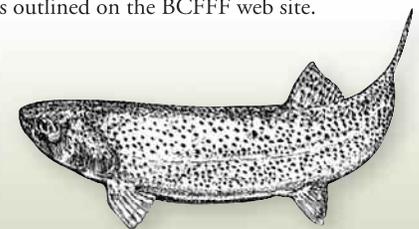
The Gilly... a BC best seller.

## BCFFF Gilly Fund

The BCFFF Gilly Fund came into being in 1985 with the publication of the ‘The Gilly’. This book was conceived as a fundraising venture by the BCFFF. As a ‘BC best seller’ for non-fiction, revenues from book sales have supported many worthwhile conservation projects over the past two and a half decades.

Member clubs of the BCFFF can access the Gilly Fund to assist with projects.

Without restricting the BCFFF Gilly Fund Committee’s ability to apply judgment to individual projects, applications must meet the general principles for approval of funding for conservation related projects. **Project criteria** is outlined on the BCFFF web site.



the BCFFF is dedicated to the fishing environments of British Columbia through...

**Conservation Enhancement Education**

# BCFFF Club Creel



## Announcing a NEW section being added to Fly Lines!

Exclusively for Member Clubs of the BCFFF... to share newsbytes of your club's activities on the water and/or 'round about town.

This is YOUR opportunity to keep Member Clubs and Direct Members informed of what is going on.

For current newsbytes, please visit...

[www.BCFFF.bc.ca](http://www.BCFFF.bc.ca)

below... memorial fishout for Gil Sage on the Skagit River, near Sumallo Grove, BC.  
Photo courtesy of Craig Orr.



## Open Letter of THANKS

The following letter was received from **Gwen and Ian Chapman**, winners of the **Cathedral Lakes Lodge Trip**, via BCFFF GRANDE RAFFLE 2009...

*"Ian and I just returned from an amazing weekend at Cathedral Lakes Lodge. We were fortunate to have won this getaway in last year's BCFFF Grande Raffle. You sold us the winning ticket!"*

*"The entire weekend was an incredible experience! We knew we were in for an adventure when our trip commenced with an 'Indiana Jones' ride in a open-air Unimog up a very winding and often precarious road to the resort.*

*"The hiking was breathtaking... literally and figuratively! We knew we were on top of the world when we were joined by 22 mountain goats curiously interested in what we were doing in their backyard.*

*"The staff of the resort were very helpful and treated us like guests in their home. The accommodations were appropriately rustic, yet comfortable and the food excellent! An added bonus to the weekend was the very productive cutthroat fishing on Quiniscoe Lake.*

*"This was a trip we will remember for a long time. Cathedral Lakes Lodge is a jewel in a spectacular crown of snow-kissed mountains, emerald green lakes and meadows of wildflowers.*

*"Our sincere thanks go to BC Federation of Fly Fishers and Cathedral Lakes Lodge for making this all possible."*

Gwen & Ian Chapman  
Kelowna, BC



## BCFFF Information + Collectibles

With a new season on the very near horizon, members are reminded of info posted on the **BCFFF web site**... *Membership Application and/or Renewal forms, CGL and Accident Insurance summary sheet, Ethical Angling brochure, Quality Angling and Quality Angling Waters in British Columbia position paper and more!*



click on form thumbnails to download!

## BCFFF Collectibles :: End of Season Sale!

The BCFFF has **new** fishing caps (145), embroidered vest patches (135), embossed brass lapel pins (73), domed decals (48) and window decals (6 small and 1 large).

We are replenishing inventory for items that are in short supply, eg: tee shirts and decals, and encourage members to visit the BCFFF web site and download an order / reservation form.



BULK ORDERS ONLY on BCFFF caps!



[www.BCFFF.bc.ca](http://www.BCFFF.bc.ca)

## A Christmas Note...

The BCFFF received a Christmas letter from **Bill and Lori Jollymore** ('Feasting & Fishing' prize donors). Here is what they wrote...

*Our 'Fishing & Feasting' weekend for the BCFFF was won this year by Emmett Armstrong, a ten year old from Vancouver Island. We had him, and his dad – Randy – here for three days in July. It rained and the wind whipped up whitecaps on the lake for the whole time they were here. We thoroughly enjoyed their visit and invited them back next summer with the hopes that the weather will cooperate so that he can use his new fly fishing equipment.*

The BCFFF thanks Bill and Lori!

## Note of THANKS...

**Gary Cutler**, of the **KAMLOOPS FLY FISHERS**, made a very generous donation of \$750 to the BCFFF from the sale of fly fishing books from his extensive library.

The BCFFF thanks you Gary!





TRIBUTE TO ...  
**Jim Stewart : 1925 – 2010**



IT'S NOT SURPRISING the Totem Flyfishers hold **Jim Stewart** in high esteem as he was instrumental in creating and shaping BC's oldest fly fishing club. As Vancouver reporter Mark Hume suggested, it's "possibly [BC's] most distinguished" fly fishing club. Jim and three others created the club 42 years ago and his commitment to it never wavered.

Jim took his first steps toward creating a fly fishing club when he was too young to know the risks of 'apprenticing' with a fishing-addicted uncle. He was born and lived in Scotland. After the war, he completed his 'apprenticeship' under a Colonel Grant, who allowed Jim to fish the River Forth – fly only – for trout, sea trout and salmon.

Jim was hooked on fishing long before he and his brother John arrived in Toronto in 1957. The brothers were in Vancouver one month later and, before another five months had passed, Jim had started on what became a 40-year career as factory millwright for Aero Garments, and his wife Helen had rejoined him. The next decade must have been challenging. Aero Garment workers and management obviously respected him, in part, because he had learned to speak Aero's dominant language – Cantonese – and also because they recognized Jim was a genuinely friendly human being.

The Province newspaper's obituary on Jim Stewart identified the very qualities which made him widely liked and respected in the angling community. Jim was a "lively, energetic and wonderful man who made [his family] laugh every day." The Totem Topics 25th Anniversary Edition, published in 1993, says "Jim played a large part in the formation [and functioning] of the Totems [and] his infectious laughter and never-ending stream of jokes... brightened many dull moments at both fishing outings and meetings."

Jim served the club every year of the club's first six years – twice each as President and Past President, and once each as Secretary, Totem Topics Editor and Director. He was a team player and was determined BC's first fly fishing club would get off to a good start. His leadership qualities were obvious... at its 25th Anniversary celebration, the club expressed its indebtedness to Jim by elevating his status to Honorary Life Member.

The Totems' first Honorary Member was none other than BC's acclaimed author, judge and angler Roderick Haig-Brown, who advised the club to focus on fellowship and leave activism to others. To help achieve that goal, Jim and the other founding members adopted a dinner meeting model used successfully by a Washington State fly fishing club – the meetings begin, informally, with a 'wet fly' hour, progressing to dinner, business and entertainment sessions. Members have ample time to socialize. Haig-Brown's advice hasn't prevented the club from earning a reputation for being environmentally aware because many Totems served as advocates with the Steelhead Society.

From its inception, the club attracted fly fishers from across the social spectrum, many of whom were, or became, fly inventors, fly tyers, split-cane rodmakers, photographers, biologists and writers. Renowned Vancouver Sun Outdoor Editor Lee Straight was one of the first luminaries to join. Others soon followed – Honorable Henry Bell Irving, Judge John Davies, and writer and broadcaster Ben Metcalf among them. Jim's good-natured enthusiasm for the club was a constant. The club's mix, chemistry, viewpoint, interconnectedness and insights would doubtless have been very different without Jim.

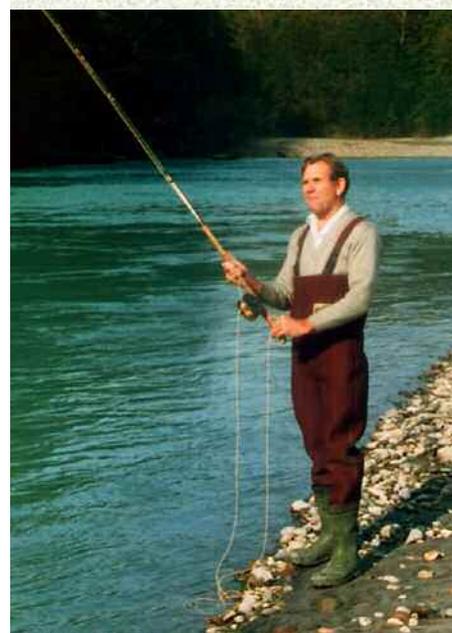
**Peter Broomhall**  
*adapted from an earlier tribute*



*Jim Stewart (l) being congratulated by President Nev Gosling on being made a Totem Flyfisher Honorary Life Member, October '93.*



*Club founders Jim Stewart (l) and Bill Brown cutting Totem Flyfishers' 25th Anniversary cake, October '93.*



*right... Jim Stewart working a double-hander during a fishout.*