

Featured Career Biographies

#1: Karen Anspacher-Meyer - Executive Director, Green Fire Productions

In 2014 I was invited to film a documentary in the Great Bear Sea that would tell the story of marine stewardship and marine planning in the region. I love working in the Great Bear Sea. It's a beautiful place, and I have great admiration and respect for the people we have come to know in the Great Bear Sea. The collaboration around marine stewardship underway in the Great Bear Sea is one of the best examples in the world.

After high school, I studied at the University of California at San Diego. I wasn't sure what I wanted to major in, but after I took an Introduction to Communications course, I was intrigued to learn more about the field of Communications. I began taking video production and documentary classes, and I was hooked. I focused my studies on documentary and most importantly produced two documentaries and helped fellow students on their projects. I received a Bachelor of Arts in Communications.

In 1989 my husband Ralf and I founded Green Fire Productions to create documentaries on sustainability and natural resource conservation. We decided early on that we wanted to explore conservation success stories in our work in order to encourage others to take similar actions.

Prior to forming Green Fire Productions, I worked with a few video producers in the small town where I lived. I knew I wanted to produce documentaries on sustainability and so Ralf and I decided to volunteer to produce a half hour film for an organization that needed a short film to build awareness about the issue they were working on. It took almost two years to produce the film – we got the equipment time donated, a friend from college edited it for us on her off hours, we got a few small grants – and we produced our first film. From there people saw this first film and wanted something like it for their organization – and so through word of mouth Green Fire has produced dozens of award-winning films on sustainability and conservation success stories over the past 20+ years.

The best part of my job...it's always something new. We work on new issues, with new people and we are continually learning about new things. When we start on a project, we may have little knowledge about the issue or story. We do a lot of research before we start interviewing people, but it's through the interviews that we learn the most and see the story from multiple perspectives.

We never work on just one thing – making documentaries with a small team means you do everything - research, learning your equipment, deciding which cameras, microphones, etc. to use; you need to know about graphic design software, editing software, accounting; you need to be a creative thinker, have people skills, writing skills – you are basically running a business and your product is films. There's rarely a "normal" 8-hour work day!

My advice for young people wanting to work in my area is...get an education in video/ media production. It can be at a university with a 4-year degree or courses at an institute, but you need to know the fundamentals of storytelling and have an opportunity to practice storytelling through video. With some training then go on to find either an internship or entry level job working with people whose work you admire or at a production company where you can continue learning. Being able to observe people with more experience than yourself can be a great learning experience. After this there are many, many avenues you can go. I have always found that informational interviews with people whose work you admire are a great way to get advice on getting a foot in the door and building your career.

Featured Career Biographies

#2: Vernon Brown - Data & Referrals Coordinator Kitasoo Xai'Xais Integrated Resource Stewardship Authority

I'm from the community of Klemtu. My background is Kitasoo and I am from the Great Bear Sea part of the world. Vernon Brown is my English name and I'm in the process of getting my traditional name – my Uncle's chief name. I work with our Research Stewardship Office and I do a lot of service for our people looking at the territorial issues and understanding who comes in, who goes out and what is extracted and what is not extracted. We are making sure we have a good grasp on the monitoring efforts for the people that come around the territory.

I grew up being exposed to the Stewardship Office and learning from my grandmother and grandfather. My grandfather always used to take me out fishing and taught me what to fish for. My grandmother taught me about day-to-day work ethics for example getting up at 6 in the morning, watching her clean fish or set up the smokehouse and smoke the salmon. I witnessed a lot from my grandparents.

I went to high school on Vancouver Island. I had a lot of interest in the territory and a lot of my background has to do with mapping so I went to BC Institute of Technology for mapping. We have been working on a Traditional Ecological Knowledge study and mapping out all these different areas. Mapping is such a great tool for the community and for the Stewardship Office.

I was captivated with the exposure to the territory and just understanding what we have. We have such a huge variety of different things in our territory. It's diverse from fjord lands, down to the sandy beaches. It is important to know what types of animals and what types of marine life that we have in the area. Over the years I learned by going out there (on the water and on the land) and seeing everything that was happening including the natural resources but also the forestry operations, the sport fishing operations, tourism operations and the different industries coming in and out of the territory. We have a Stewardship Board that consists of Chiefs and Elders, and people who are still out there on the grounds right now. We are listening to their issues and their values. We get a lot of our direction from the community, but we also listen to the Elders. I find that really valuable and it helps me grow as a young person.

The best part of my job...is that I'm providing a service to the community. It could be trying to be as informative as I can about the Marine Use Planning processes or the culture side of things. The best part of my job is also the cultural component. I have a huge territory and it feels that there is a lot more that I can learn on the culture side of things. I could learn more from the Chiefs and the Elders that are here for us. It is important to understand the reasons why we have rules, the reasons why there are names for these different places or the stories for these different places. A lot of these

teachings that we get from the Elders and the Chiefs have to do with everything within our territory and every species. Every part of the ocean has a specific lesson within it, but everything all boils down to culture. It does not matter if you are doing marine planning, land use planning, everything is culture. If you do not understand your culture, then you shouldn't be doing some of this work. It is important to think about the direction of the values that the Chiefs and everybody have when we are doing processes like Marine Use Planning.

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#3: Jenn Burt - Doctorate in Resource Management – Marine Ecology Simon Fraser University

Elementary School - Choice Learning Centre

High School - Kitsilano Secondary

Undergraduate Degree - McGill University (Major: Environmental Science, health and the environment)

Masters Degree - The University of British Columbia (Masters of Science in Pacific salmon ecology)

Doctorate Degree - Simon Fraser University (Doctorate in Resource Management - Marine Ecology) ** this is where I am now 😊

The best part of my job...I've got two answers to this! First - scuba diving in the kelp forests and rocky reefs of a remote area in BC is hands down the best part of my job. But I only do that for a small part of my year. The other best part of my job is being paid to learn! I learn so much every week, whether it's from a paper I read, a graph I produce, a seminar that I go to, a meeting that I have with other cool smart people, or a conversation I have with another researcher. I always feel like I'm learning something, and that keeps everything feeling exciting!

My typical "day in the field" ...I wake up at 6:00am, eat breakfast and pack a lunch (make sure I have a really big thermos of tea or hot chocolate), haul all the scuba tanks and gear to the boat, and get suited up to hopefully depart before 8:00am. We drive to a survey site and go over the science and safety protocols with the team. We suit up and jump in. Our dives can be as short as 20min or as long as 1h20min (start to get chilly!). Sometimes I can see 20ft in front of me, sometimes I can barely see my hand as the water is so murky. I might be counting fish, or measuring invertebrates, or measuring kelp, or collecting species to take back to the lab. We might do one dive a day, or we might do as many as four. We eat lunch on the boat, and when we have to go to the bathroom, you just hang off the side of the boat and go. When we get back to the research station, we rinse all the gear and start filling the scuba tanks for the next day. I eat a huge dinner because I'm usually starving, and then we'll spend the evening either entering the data onto a laptop, or measuring pieces of kelp in the lab. I go to bed pretty exhausted, but excited to do it all again the next day.

My typical "day in the office" ...I get to the office around 8 or 9am and usually start the day by checking emails. No two days are ever really the same. Some days I'll read a paper or two that was just published in my area of research, or a paper that I have to read for a class or discussion group. Some days I'll work on my data sheets - it takes a long time to go through all the numbers you entered during fieldwork and clean them up for analysis. Sometimes I might want to make a graph, but I'm not sure how to do it, so I'll search around on the internet or read a book and teach myself how to write the computer

code that will produce what I want. Sometimes I'll have an interesting class to debate ecological theory, or a seminar to learn about someone else's cool research findings, or a meeting to discuss how one of my lab mates should design their experiment, or a meeting to share and discuss results. Some days I have to write - figure out how to interpret my findings and present them to others in a clear and concise way. Most days I do some combination of these activities, and usually it is always busy and interesting or both.

My advice for young people wanting to work in my area is... whenever you have a cool or unique learning opportunity, take it! Whether it's a field course, or a workshop, or a summer program, or some sort of training program, or a cool job, go for it. I have learned WAY more skills that have been important to my career through seizing cool opportunities (the opportunity to learn French, the opportunity to take several field courses, the opportunity to do an undergraduate research project, the opportunity to volunteer at the Aquarium, the opportunity to do co-op work placement, the opportunity to learn how to dive...)

I feel connected to the Great Bear Sea because... I feel like one of the few people that get to see its underwater treasures! The underwater habitats and species of the Great Bear Sea are really amazing and beautiful. I like to share photos and videos (www.jennburt.com) of this underwater world with people because it makes them realize how amazing life is under the surface! I also work directly with some of the Great Bear Sea communities. It's been incredibly enriching to work with the Heiltsuk people and resource managers. I have learned so much about their traditional knowledge, deep worldviews, and approaches to resource management. The community members we interact with are very inspiring and wonderful people.

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#4: Rosie Child - Operations Manager and a Research Technician for the Spirit Bear Research Foundation

Hi There! My name is Rosie Child. After high school I went to university and got a degree in Environmental Studies and Geography. Now I am the Operations Manager and a Research Technician for the Spirit Bear Research Foundation (SBRF). This is a small non-profit run by the Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nation. My job is to help conduct bear research in the spring and fall and organize events, communications, social media, and fundraisers during the rest of the year. We work from a small community called Klemtu, which is on an island about half way between Vancouver and Alaska.

Why do you think marine planning for the Great Bear Sea is important?

When we think about marine planning, making plans for how we use and preserve our marine environment, it's important to consider the animals that live in this environment. We don't have the time or money to study every animal but bears are a good place to start because they are an indicator species. This means that the health of bear populations tells you generally how healthy that entire ecosystem is. You might think, 'how are bears marine animals'? Well, the coastal bears that we study are great swimmers, they live on the mainland and on islands (and swim back and forth), and up to 90% of their diet comes from salmon!

The best part of my job is...getting outside to conduct research every spring. This is when bears are coming out of hibernation and the entire landscape feels like it's waking up. A typical day during this time of year: I travel away from my home for this work so I wake up in the community of Klemtu each morning in a float house on the community dock (the whole house rocks when a boat or float plane docks!) We wake up early to beat the afternoon winds, double check all our field gear as we pack the boat and head out to our field sites. We visit around 7 of our sites each day so a lot of our time is spent travelling by boat, looking for wildlife. At each site we check our remote camera we have set up and download any photographs or videos of animals at our site to a tablet. We also check our sites for bear hair, which is the main data we collect to answer our research questions! When we get home, we hang the hair samples to dry, enter our data, sort through our photos and videos, and replenish our field supplies so we can do it all again the next day!

Featured Career Biographies

#5: Molly Clarkson - Marine Communication and Technical Support Officer

I live and work in Skidegate, Haida Gwaii, for the Council of the Haida Nation's Marine Planning Program. I love that I get to do meaningful work that directly relates to the wellbeing of my home and my community, and all of the delicious foods we are able to harvest in our "backyard."

I did my undergraduate and master's degree at the University of British Columbia in the Geography department. The focus of my master's research was on First Nations engagement in sockeye conservation planning for the Fraser River.

Communities share a lot of values here in this wild, wet and wooly part of the coast. These include respect for our environment and a recognition that we need to strike a balance between the creation of good, meaningful employment opportunities, particularly for a growing youth population, and the protection of our terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Planning gives us a way to think deeply about and apply these values to collaboratively create the kinds of futures that we want to see for our communities and our homelands.

In the future I plan to... learn how to roll my sea kayak (with me inside of it), work with my local cycling association to develop a bike plan for our community, and grow and harvest enough food to feed my friends and family much of the time.

My advice for young people wanting to work in my area is... take the time to discover who you are and the life you want to lead before starting off on a specific career path. Often people don't think about where they want to live or the kind of lifestyle they want to have before they declare a major or start their first professional job or internship, but these personal considerations work out to be very important in the long run. Loving where you live, the community that you create, and the time that you have to pursue your other passions will make working hard at your chosen career much more sustainable over the long term!

Featured Career Biographies

#6: Alejandro Frid - Science Coordinator/Ecologist Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance

I grew up in one of the largest cities in the world, Mexico City. But I was lucky that I had parents that were very interested in nature, and so they always took us out in nature. They were very interested in indigenous cultures in Mexico, and they had a really strong sense of social justice as well. My dad was a scuba diver. He got me to put on my first scuba tank when I was 7 years old. Which is not something anybody else should do but he got away with it back then. So, all that passion from my parents basically trickled down into me, and when I look back at what I do today, it's just an integration of studying nature, and going diving, doing something that relates to social justice, and being involved with indigenous cultures. To get there I spent a lot of time in universities going for various degrees. I worked a lot in strictly scientific research and learning the tools of experiments, the tools of statistics and math, and doing a lot of scientific reading, a lot of scientific writing, and that's something that you can't skip, you have to go through all that training. It's often frustrating and tiring, but like anything worthwhile, if you stick with it, eventually you get to gratifying places, and that's where I am these days. It's a good life if you can put up with all the stumbles along the way. You just have to learn how to get up when you fall down.

I've been connected to the Great Bear Sea for a long time. My wife and I first kayaked from Kitimat out to the outer islands, around Bella Bella. It was back in 1994, when we spent 5 weeks out there, and we had very little food, because we were catching fish and we were picking berries, we were cooking over fires, and it was about 5 weeks of just really connecting with this place. About 20 years later, I had the opportunity to start working with these communities, and they had the same nautical charts that we had used. I would be out working and doing rock fish research and I'd be looking at a nautical chart, and I remembered, "We slept over there in that bay," so I felt like my life went full circle once I started working here. It's just a beautiful place. I've had the opportunity to be underwater a lot, watching large schools of rock fish, watching some of the beautiful older, longer-lived species of rock fish. We've been underwater in herring schools. On land I've seen Spirit Bears, brown bears, and salmon in the streams. All of this is in the context of working with people who live here. It's just an incredibly lucky set of circumstances that I've managed to run into. It's wonderful.

My advice for young people wanting to work in my area is...to first of all spend time outside, and find an interest outside, whether it's trees, the forest, or the ocean. Just fall in love with it, and get passionate about it. Observe it. Learn the natural history of it. If you decide this is your thing, then move on to the other more technical aspects. Always keep them balanced. Even if you end up really liking things like math and computer modeling, you always have to keep it rooted back to what's real. Keep it relevant to the people who use these marine resources, and who live in these places. Just be passionate about it.

Featured Career Biographies

#7: Kira Krumhansl - Postdoctoral Researcher at Simon Fraser University and Hakai Institute

I've been conducting research over the past couple years out of the community of Bella Bella and the Hakai Institute on Calvert Island. I'm lucky to split my time between these two wonderful places, which have both offered me amazing opportunities for learning and growth. While in Bella Bella, I work in close collaboration with members of the Heiltsuk community, which has taught me about their customs, values, and deep knowledge of the natural environment. The Heiltsuk have been kind enough to share food resources with me that have been collected on their lands, and guide me as I explore the underwater world. At the Hakai Institute on Calvert Island, I've had the opportunity to walk beautiful trails that lead through bog forests to hidden beaches, chat with other scientists about the research they are conducting on these wild lands, and kayak to find herring spawn and wolf tracks on the shoreline. My research has involved SCUBA diving in many places throughout the territory, allowing me to build a mental picture of the underwater and coastal landscapes, and gain an appreciation for just how diverse and unique this area of our planet is.

I grew up on the beaches of Massachusetts, on the eastern coast of the United States, where I became acquainted with the intertidal zone – the area between the high and low tide marks. I was so interested in how species were distributed throughout this zone, and how this was driven by a combination of interactions among species and the environmental conditions the organisms experience, that I decided at a young age to become a marine ecologist. I went to high school in New Hampshire, where I was most interested in my courses in biology and ecology. My undergraduate education was at St. Lawrence University, a small liberal arts school in New York State, where I majored in Biology with an emphasis in Ecology and Chemistry. Because St. Lawrence was a small school, there were many great opportunities to become involved in research with faculty members. I undertook a project working on the island of San Salvador, Bahamas, where I helped document the diversity and function of a mangrove lagoon on the island to provide rationale for including this area in the island's developing marine protected area network. This was my first foray into conservation research, and I was hooked! After university, I went onto graduate school in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where I studied the ecology of kelp forests at Dalhousie University. Specifically, I was interested in understanding how climate change and invasive species are impacting the health and function of kelp forest ecosystems. This led me out to the west coast to work with Anne Salomon and the Heiltsuk Integrated Resource Management Department to study kelp harvest on the Central Coast of BC.

The Great Bear Sea is a fascinating place. It represents a major intersection between rich culture, deep human history, industrial interest, and the natural world. Being the focal point of many different stakeholders, marine planning has an important role to play

in balancing many interests. This balance provides insurance that the wild lands and resources will be available for many generations to come.

The best part of my job is...that I get to spend my days exploring the underwater world while SCUBA diving! Wearing a mask, fins, tank, and drysuit allows me to stay underwater for over an hour at a time. When I'm underwater, I take measurements of organisms or simply explore and enjoy the landscape around me. It's not uncommon to be busy at work, only to look up and find a copper rockfish staring curiously at my data sheet from only a few inches away. I like to joke that these fish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, and abalone are my "co-workers", only instead of having meetings in boardrooms; we carefully observe each other amidst clouds of bubbles and swaying kelps. It's a truly immersive experience!

Water and oceans are important because...they support some of the most diverse and productive ecosystems on our planet. Humans benefit immensely from the ocean's resources, and the oceans play a significant role in regulating our global climate. Humanity needs healthy ocean ecosystems, so it's important that we take the time to learn about the oceans around us, and think about how each and every one of our actions might affect the health of the planet.

Featured Career Biographies

#8: Doug Neasloss - Chief Councillor, Kitasoo/Xai'Xais Band Council & Resource Stewardship Director, Kitasoo/Xai'Xais Integrated Resource Stewardship Authority

My name is Doug Neasloss. I am from a small community called Klemtu, which is right on the central coast of British Columbia, and it's home to the Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation. I have a few different titles. I work as a Marine Planning Coordinator and I work as a Resource Stewardship Director, with land and marine stewardship and a whole bunch of other things that come out of that as well like tourism. I also work as the elected Chief of the community, and my background's mostly been in tourism for the last 14 years.

I jumped around a bit for school. I used to live on Vancouver Island in Port Alberni. I spent about 8 years going to school there. I also went to school right here in Klemtu. I finished off high school over in Winnipeg, so for grade 11 and 12 I was over there in Winnipeg.

I think marine planning for the Great Bear Sea is extremely important. It brings sustainability and it introduces traditional ecological knowledge, and it talks about protection of resources for future generations.

I think my job as a Research Stewardship Director can be very complex, and I think stewardship is almost like its own industry. I want people who have passion. People that care about protecting areas, who care about sustainability, who care about the environment, and there's so many different things that can come out of the Stewardship office.

The best part of my job is...just being able to affect decisions that are made and bring sustainability, look at things in a bit more of a holistic approach, and just making sure people are being respectful. My people have always said that what we have here is not ours, we're only holding it for the next generation and we want to make sure that we do things properly and sustainably. Sustainability is a huge word in our office and we make sure that we look at things, and do things in a proper way. I think being able to be involved and have an impact in some of the decisions that are made.

We are trying to work with different groups and agencies that don't have that connection to the areas like we do in our community and that's something that we bring to the table. When we talk about protection of an area because it's sensitive bear habitat, or sensitive cultural habitat, those are places that we hold close to us, and those are really important for us. We want to make sure that those areas are respected, but we also want people to come here and enjoy it, and I think that's a lot of our work. We want to share what we have and use sustainable approaches. I think we will see an outcome where it's a win for everyone. People still get to enjoy it, we protect it for future generations and we bring sustainability. We look at things in a bit more of a holistic approach. That's the best thing

about my job and being able to have a say in some of those things.

My advice to young people looking at getting involved in some of the work in the Great Bear Rainforest is...just do it! I think we need to be involved now, and I think for our generation I think it's our time. I think we have to be involved, and we have to have a say. We can't just sit on the outside looking in and watch people make decisions for our territory. I think all of us have a stewardship responsibility. It doesn't matter if you're First Nations or non-First Nations. I think we all have a responsibility. We're all children of the planet, and I think we have to do our best to make sure that we take care of it. There's no Plan B. This is it.

Featured Career Biographies

#9: Dan Okamoto - Postdoctoral Researcher, Simon Fraser University

On an academic track, at the moment my efforts have been applied towards getting an academic faculty job at a university. So being able to do research, as well as teach undergraduates and graduate students, and pursuing intellectually interesting, and applied research questions.

We count herring! The way we count herring is we go out and we look at how many eggs are laying on the beach, or near the beach. Then we try to figure out how many fish would have been needed to lay all those eggs. The problem is that you don't see all the eggs, and you also don't see all the fish. So, it's very difficult to try to estimate how many fish are actually out there. But also, do the same fish come back year after year after year to the same spots to spawn, or is it fish that were spawning up in Haida Gwaii, and another year could be spawning down here. If you think about it fish are migrating all the time, like if there's a lot of traffic moving back and forth between different places. If you have a large fishery in one location, that has different impacts, depending on how you think fish are moving. So we use some pretty sophisticated mathematical and computer tools to try to run through a host of different kinds of scenarios about how we think about the herring populations. We use those computational tools to try to understand what kind of questions, and what kind of data we need to collect to try to see how we think fish operate in the real world. Then we can start to think about how we impact fish, and how that influences potentially the rest of the ecosystem. So, I'm part of a consortium of lots of different people. Part of my objective is using those computational tools to explore those trade-offs. Also we start to come up with new research directions.

A typical day...I have atypical research days in the sense that some days I'll be sitting at a computer, staring at lots and lots of data and other days I will be doing a lot of computer programming. Then another day will be like today, where we get to be out in the field, getting in the water. So I have a hugely varied typical research days which is exciting, and also frustrating at different times. But it is remarkable to be able to spend time in the field, and also doing analyses that have major impacts on large-scale fisheries.

My advice for young people wanting to work in my area is...if you're interested in Marine Biology, pursue both quantitative skills, so mathematics, and also pursue whatever opportunities you can to get into the field, and see what kind of things you really like. One of the challenges is that nobody gets into Marine Biology to get wealthy. Understand that there's going to be fascinating struggles, but there is no better career than doing what you love, in places that you love, and working with fantastic, amazing, and interesting people.

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#10: Chantal Pronteau - Guardian Watchman & Researcher

Tell us about where you live and your connection to the Great Bear Sea...My home is Klemtu, but I grew up in East Vancouver, right in the heart of kind of the hub of the aboriginal communities that were all "urban rez," as we called it. I visited Klemtu quite a bit as a young kid in the summertime, but never in the winter months. So, when I turned 14, my grandmother had wanted me to move home to Klemtu with her. I guess to learn about the traditional ways, and the traditional teachings where she was brought up. So I moved home with her. I really enjoy learning and building on who I am, and where I'm going. One of the things I learned about was harvesting our sockeye salmon, cutting them, jarring them, preserving them for winter use. It was all new to me.

I was looking out my grandmother's window, and out of nowhere this thought came to me: "I am one of the very few, but many, First Nations people who can say that they are Tsimshian, and they are alive, and they are living here." Ever since that thought came to me, I have a better understanding of who I am, and where I'm going. I was raised in East Vancouver, where you are surrounded by multi-culturalism, non-First Nations stuff. Whereas here, it's completely the opposite, and I think that's what really awoke, in me something was being a part of her — a big part of me is my grandmother.

Marine planning is important in the Great Bear Sea because...I think we will be there for one another, is the way I'm seeing things are going with this marine plan being put into place, and action being taken on it. Myself, a young steward, getting involved in all this is huge for my community, and all First Nations, and non-First Nations as well.

Data recording is the biggest thing — we have to get the numbers and get accurate data recording about what's going on in our territory. I think that's huge, for my generation and the next and coming generation. But even the years past I've seen a lot of work done on the rockfish, for my territory. We completed a traditional ecological knowledge study. We went to the Elders to get their knowledge, and hear about the places where they have traditionally harvested and gathered. Getting an idea where the reefs are, because I know that's where they like to frequent.

Goals and priorities and what I'd like to see for my community is... as I look around Klemtu, and I know a lot of my people have not gone on to continue in their post-secondary schooling. One dream and one hope I have is for most, if not many, of our people to say: "Hey, I want to go do this. I want to be a biologist. I want to learn more about becoming a nurse. I want to go learn about how to be a project coordinator." Things that are needed for our community. Some people might not want to stay here and that's completely fine. But I really wish that we could pour into these children's hearts and heads what we're doing and opening their eyes a bit more. Maybe we could take them out for an hour or two to see what we are doing. That is where the Supporting Emerging Aboriginal

Stewards (SEAS) program comes into play. I think the SEAS program is doing a huge job on their end, both internally in the school, and externally outside of the school in the summer programs they run. I think that is a really important thing that's helping our kids get involved with the different departments and resource stewardship, such as the Guardian Watchmen Program. Such as co-management, which is monitoring our creeks and waterways. Going out to count the fish stocks. Doing some diving. Learning about dive surveys that you could do for our underwater life. There's a lot of other things that they could look into. Tourism is another one that's huge for our kids. Learning about the different areas to go and view wildlife. But also where not to go view wildlife, where is it sacred and where it is not sacred. All that does come into play for them sparking their interest. The SEAS program is a huge one that I commend as a very good way for those kids to open their eyes.

I have learned... we can teach sustainability to our kids. You learn to take what you need. Actually, I just learned this recently. I was with the Spirit Bear Research Foundation, I was a field technician at the time. We went to our sites for the day, and we finished early, so we decided to go do a little bit of jigging out west. I caught a fish and then I caught another fish. I came in, ready to go home after a long day, and I decide to leave my fish, saying, "You guys can have it..." One of the women pulled me aside and said, "You know we're not really like that. We want you to take only what you'll eat. You could have given it to an Elder." I thought "Oh, shoot. You're right." I'm one of those people who really doesn't like being told what to do, but you know I had to accept what she said, and say, "You know what, she is completely right. How would my grandmother feel if that could have gone to her, or somebody's grandmother. I just took it for granted." So, I am learning, still, as I go, about what to do with the foods, and how to sustain it, and take only what you're going to eat, if you're not going to eat it, just try to give it to somebody else who might need it. A lot of our people don't have the luxury of going out on a boat.

Featured Career Biographies

#11: Trevor Russ – Vice President, Council of the Haida Nation

Talk us about where you grew up, went to school and how you began your career... I grew up in Haida Gwaii the majority of my life. I moved away for the last couple of years of high school. I came home again shortly after because my grandparents had passed. I had an obligation to stay at home and take care of the property, so right out of school, I decided to go into commercial fishing. I had done it in the summer months, previously, as a salmon fisherman, but right out of high school, I got into the dungeness crab fishery and I did that for a few years before I decided to embark off to university. I managed to do a year there, but then I moved on to Alaska, because I had a young family, and I decided at the time that my kids were a little more important, so we lived in Alaska for a couple of years.

Tell us about moving into your position of Vice President, Council of the Haida Nation... In 2004, I moved back to Haida Gwaii again, and I got back into the dungeness commercial fishery again for a few years, and over conversations with friends, there was a bi-election coming up for a seat at the table, on the Council of the Haida Nation and my friends wanted to put me forward to run. I was unsure at the time if I was prepared to take that step, but I figured let's put a feeler out to see if people support me, and sure enough I did get a seat at the regional table, and my regional committee sat me as an alternate at our Executive table, so I sat with our predecessors for a few years, before they moved on. I sat with them for a few years at that table, and witnessed their work in negotiating the land use work, and then what led us to the KUNNST'AA GUU KUNST'AAYAH Reconciliation Protocol with the Province. They handed over the marine file to me shortly after that. That's how I ended up where I am in this process.

Featured Career Biographies

#12: Markus Thompson - Masters of Resource in Environment Management Simon Fraser University

I graduated at the University of British Columbia with an undergraduate degree in Marine Biology. Then I worked as a diver for quite a few years. After that I worked as a consultant and decided that I wanted to go back to school, and make a shift in my career, from consulting to conservation, because that's where my passion really laid. So, that's why I'm here now.

I'm doing a Masters in Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University, and the lab I'm in, the Coastal Marine Ecology and Conservation Lab, primarily does the research up here on the central coast. We study local ecosystems, like kelp ecosystems, clam gardens, herring, systems that are important to the local communities, and to the economy of the area.

Most of the people I know that study herring or are out here on the coast studying the local ecologies, not necessarily for the massive amounts of money you might think we make. It's because you're passionate about what happens out here. You're passionate about the wildlife, about the ecology, and you want to answer these questions that have huge effects on the local communities, and with changing climate and shifts in fisheries. It's really important that we get this knowledge so that we know how things are changing, and we know how to best manage these systems for the next generation, and for the people who live here in Klemtu and PawPaw.

My advice for people who want to work in this area is... to follow what you're passionate about. If you do something you love, then you're bound to be good at it. You may not often get paid massive amounts of money for what you love, but if you're happy at what you're doing, then you have a good life.