

NEIL L. TODD

Owner/manager, Diversified OvaTech Ltd.

Neil Todd has been working in a broad spectrum of fisheries management for 46 years: with the Provincial Government's Province-wide Fish Culture Section for 20 years, and as the owner/ manager of his fisheries management consulting firm for 26+ years. Through this time he has worked extensively as a supervisor and a manager at the program/organization level. He has developed a working knowledge of the management of fisheries resources of this province, including a solid grounding in the issues surrounding management of Fraser River stocks of steelhead, coho, chinook, and sockeye salmon. For the past 20+ years Mr. Todd has been intimately involved with First Nations and their concerns and issues about fisheries management, working on their behalf at a wide variety of forums at both the technical and policy levels.

EDUCATION:

- graduate, academic program, North Vancouver High School
- certificate – Fish and Wildlife (Fisheries Technician) Option, BCIT
- certificate – Management in the Public Service (university-level one year full course load)
- Personnel Management (University credit course, Camosun College)
- Public Service Commission In-service training: workshops and short courses dealing with labour relations and Collective Agreement (labour contract) management.

EXPERIENCE

First Nations Engagement

- ♦ currently is the Operations Manager for the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (2007-present): responsible for coordinating and directing a communications/technical support secretariat for Fraser River First Nations; provision of support to the Executive Committee on policy issues including drafting correspondence/position papers as required; maintenance of organizational clarity through drafting Terms of Reference for the various bodies, committees, and processes that the Secretariat coordinates on behalf of DFO and First Nations; and maintaining expenditure control of an annual budget of up to \$850,000;
- ♦ assisting First Nations (Nicola Tribal Association, 1989-present; Lheidli T'enneh Nation, 1996-2010; and other First Nation communities) with building fisheries technical, supervisory, administrative, and management capacity;
- ♦ technical assistance and oversight to the Nicola Tribal Association's fisheries department, the Nicola Watershed Stewardship and Fisheries Authority, in the undertaking of numerous stock assessment, stock enhancement, and habitat restoration projects;
- ♦ providing policy advice through reviewing and analyzing government agencies' fisheries management policies and issues, providing support to First Nation leadership at technical and consultation meetings and forums, and preparing position papers on relevant topics on behalf of First Nation leadership;

- ◆ three-plus years' experience as a Fish Chapter negotiation team member with the Lheidli T'enneh Indian Band at the Treaty table; planned, implemented, and reported on Treaty Related Measures projects and a Resource Partnership Program project for the Lheidli T'enneh Indian Band, including a multi-year Fish Sales Feasibility Study;
- ◆ participated as a member of the Policy Analysis Group of the BC Aboriginal Fisheries Commission;
- ◆ September 2010-present, acting as the General Manager of the Nicola Tribal Association as it undergoes governance re-structuring and restoration of financial stability.

Organizational Management

Extensive experience in both the public and private sectors as a supervisor and manager in the field of fisheries management:

- ◆ Supt. of Hatcheries for the Province of BC, 1976-1984: presided over the expansion of the Fish Culture Section's annual production program through doubling the number of hatchery production facilities; responsible for the production of numerous species and stocks of fish each year to meet lake and river stocking goals (450-500 bodies of water annually) throughout the Province; managed the Fish Culture Section which consisted of six production hatchery facilities, numerous satellite facilities, related equipment, and a staffing complement of up to 65 person-years; responsible for the maintenance of the vehicle fleet and equipment inventory; responsible for staff performance, motivation, discipline, training, and maintenance of a productive work-force while implementing the terms of the labor-management collective agreement; responsible for setting annual budgets for each facility and for the program, maintaining expenditure control, and meeting annual fish production targets within the annual budget.
- ◆ owner and President, Diversified Ova Tech Ltd., 1984-present: formed own limited company, creating appropriate departments re payroll, accounting, contract administration, and operations; responsible for bidding on and undertaking a wide range of fisheries management contracts in a highly competitive environment by running a cost-effective profitable company; during the 1990's, was the largest hatchery contracting firm in the Province, operating up to five facilities at one time; undertook numerous stock assessment, creel census, sockeye enhancement, etc. contracts; responsible for maintenance of a dedicated, motivated, and responsible work force with a wide diversity of skills and experience in order to undertake and deliver on a variety of contract obligations.