

Biography of Ross Wilson for the Cohen Commission

Ross Wilson, a member of the Heiltsuk Nation, was raised around fishing boats and started off helping his grandfathers on their gillnetter; as a teenager he worked aboard seine boats and as a fish packer, and eventually as a skipper on a dive boat. He has participated in dive research projects and numerous fisheries management activities on the Central Coast on behalf of the Heiltsuk Fisheries Program and Heiltsuk Tribal Council.

Mr. Wilson is currently the Director of the Heiltsuk Integrated Resource Management Department, and his previous employment has included the following:

- Chief Councillor for Heiltsuk Tribal Council;
- Aquatic Manager for Heiltsuk Integrated Resource Management Department;
- Habitat Stewart for Central Coast Habitat Conservation Stewardship Program;
- Dive Supervisor for Heiltsuk Fisheries Program;
- Band Manager for Halfway River First Nation; and
- Owner/Operator of Dasla Adventures.

Mr. Wilson currently sits on the following boards/committees:

- Central Coast representative for PNCIMA First Nations Governance Steering Committee;
- Heiltsuk College Advisory Board;
- Central Coast Alternate Board member for First Nations Fishery Council; and
- Co-management Working Group member for First Nations Fishery Council.

Mr. Wilson has been involved in numerous initiatives on behalf of the nation, including the following:

- Forest and Range Agreement;
- Heiltsuk Land Use Plan;
- Coast Sustainability Trust;
- Hakai Luxvbalis Conservancy Area;
- Heiltsuk Tribal Council representative and witness for the British Columbia Utilities Commission hearing on BC Hydro Rate Design Application;
- Advocate for Qqs Society;
- Executive Board member for the Coastal First Nations in Turning Point;
- Mid-Coast First Nations Training Society; and
- UBC's Institute for Aboriginal Health.