

Biography - Dr. Kees Groot

Kees Groot was born in Modjokerto, on Java, Indonesia, in 1928. After spending 3 years in a Japanese concentration camp during the Second World War, he went to Holland in 1946 and studied biology at the Universities of Amsterdam and Leyden. He immigrated to Canada in 1956 and a year later joined the Fisheries Research Board of Canada (now the Department of Fisheries and Oceans) as a fish behaviourist (ethologist) at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo, British Columbia. There, under the guidance of Dr. J.R. (Roly) Brett, he worked on problems related to a major threat to Fraser River salmon because of a proposal to build multiple dams on the main stem of this river for the generation of hydroelectric power. After this multiple dam construction plan was rejected because of the high likelihood that migrating salmon stocks would be destroyed, he concentrated his studies on long distance migration, orientation, and navigation of Pacific salmon and used the data of these studies to obtain his Ph. D. degree (cum laude) at the University of Leyden in Holland in 1965.

In 1966, soon after receiving his doctorate degree, Kees Groot was appointed Biological Director of the Netherlands Institute of Sea Research in Holland. In 1968 he was invited to return to Canada and again join the staff of the Pacific Biological Station at Nanaimo. His studies then have centered on 1) problems of Pacific salmon migration, specifically on how these fish find their way during long distance journeys, 2) on problems related to salmonid enhancement, and 3) on the potential effects of global climate change on Canada's west coast fisheries resources.

Kees Groot has acted as research supervisor for a number of M.Sc. and Ph.D. candidates of Canadian and Dutch universities and has taught as visiting professor at Simon Fraser University and, several times, at the Bamfield Marine Station. He has also given Animal Behaviour Workshops at the Pacific Biological Station and Malaspina University College, both in Nanaimo, British Columbia, and at the Rajamangala University in Trang, Thailand.

In 1993 he retired from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, became scientist emeritus at the Pacific Biological Station and started his own biological consulting business - Yellow Point Bio-Research. He has done a number of fisheries and fish farm related studies under contract with both the Federal and BC Provincial Governments and with private industry. He lives on Gabriola Island with his wife Donny with whom he is involved in a number of artistic ventures, such as watercolour and silk painting, pottery, and woodcarving and as a hobby he grows tropical orchids.

