

Laura Jean Richards
Curriculum vitae

Work address:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Pacific Biological Station
3190 Hammond Bay Rd
Nanaimo BC
V9T 6N7

Ph: 250 756 7177
Fax: 250 729 8360
e-mail: [Laura.Richards@pac.dfo-
mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Laura.Richards@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Education

1982 PhD (Zoology), University of British Columbia
1979 MSc (Zoology), University of British Columbia
1976 BSc (Hons, Biology), Dalhousie University, Governor General's Gold Medal

Work History

2002 – present: Regional Director Science, Pacific Region, DFO
1998 – 2002: Acting Regional Director Science, Pacific Region, DFO
1997 – 1998: Division Head, Stock Assessment, Science Branch, Pacific Region DFO
1995 – present: Adjunct Professor, University of British Columbia Fisheries Centre.
1983 – 1997: Research scientist, Pacific Biological Station, DFO Groundfish Research
1982 – 1983: Post-doctoral fellow, Pacific Biological Section, DFO Shellfish Research

Current international appointments

2005 – present: Chair/Co-chair (alternating years) and Canadian Lead Commissioner of the International Pacific Halibut Commission
2001 – present: Canadian Co-chair of the Committee on Scientific Co-operation under the Pacific Salmon Commission
2000 – present: Canadian delegate to North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) Governing Council, Finance and Administration Committee, and Fishery Science Committee; head of delegation since 2002

Career Summary

Dr. Richards joined DFO as a Research Scientist in 1983 after a year as a post-doctoral fellow. She was initially tasked to develop stock assessment advice for inshore rockfish and later, to develop advice for other species of rockfish, groundfish and salmon. She was promoted in 1987, 1991, and 1996 before becoming a research manager in 1997. In 1995, she received the Deputy Minister's Commendation Award for the development of groundfish management plans. During her scientific career, she published more than 40 journal articles and has authored 30 stock assessment documents. She gained international recognition as a developer of quantitative stock assessment methods before shifting focus to take on a greater role in science management. In 1998, she was appointed as Acting Regional Director Science, Pacific Region, and she was confirmed in the position in 2002. She currently represents Canada as Commissioner of the International Pacific Halibut Commission, Co-chair of the Committee of Scientific Co-

operation under the Pacific Salmon Commission and as Head of the Canadian delegation to the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES).

Example publications

- Richards, L.J., and J.-J. Maguire. 1998. Recent international agreements and the precautionary approach: new directions for fisheries management science. *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* 55: 1545-1552.
- Schnute, J.T., Cass, A., and L.J. Richards. 2000. A Bayesian decision analysis to set escapement goals for Fraser River sockeye salmon. *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* 57: 962-979.
- Schnute, J.T., and L.J. Richards. 2001. Use and abuse of fishery models. *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* 58: 10-17.
- Riddell, B.E., R.J. Beamish, L.J. Richards, and J.R. Candy. 2008. Comment on “Declining Wild Salmon Populations in Relation to Parasites from Farm Salmon”. *Science* 322: 1790. DOI: 10.1126/science.1156341.
- Schnute, J.T. and L.J. Richards. 2009. The high dimensional future of fisheries science. pp. 125 – 136. *In: The future of fisheries science in North America. Edited by R.J. Beamish and B.J. Rothschild. Fish & Fisheries Series 125. Springer Science + Business Media B.V.*