

# THE Watershed's



Vol. 2 No. 1

Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance Society Newsletter

June 2005



## Welcome to our new newsletter

THE UPPER FRASER FISHERIES CONSERVATION ALLIANCE (UFFCA) is pleased to launch our new monthly publication *Watershed's Source*.

Our goal with this newsletter and other assorted media products is to effectively connect with all upper Fraser River First Nations and other parties through information that addresses fish and their habitat. We will work to provide information that is timely, insightful, educational and, ideally, motivating.

For example, you should know that UFFCA encompasses these five primary watersheds: i) Upper Fraser/McGregor, ii) Nechako/Stuart, iii) Cottonwood/Blackwater, iv) Quesnel/Horsefly, and v) Chilcotin/Chilko.

And that the "Upper Fraser" begins at the Deadman Creek and Fraser River confluence, approximately mid-way between Williams Lake and Lillooet.

UFFCA holds monthly meetings in the region with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to discuss and plan around salmon and habitat concerns.

If you want to know more about what's going on, then consider attending our next meeting or read the *Watershed's Source* regularly.

For a quick update on our accomplishments and activities to date, visit our website at [www.uffca.ca](http://www.uffca.ca).

UFFCA is primarily funded by the Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management (AAROM) Program - Fisheries and Oceans Canada (FOC). - *Marcel Shepert*

This happy bunch are current and active members and support staff of UFFCA. See page 4 to learn if your government or organization is eligible for membership. *Back row, left to right:* Ken Michel, Pete Nicklin, Andrea Johnson, Gord Sterritt, Milton Thomas, Al Charbonneau, Jim Webb, Sharolise Baker. *Front row, left to right:* Barb Wycotte, Randy Billyboy, Ron Murphy, Marcel Shepert, Brian Toth. *Missing:* Chief Thomas Alexis, Joe Alphonse, Andrew Meshue, Melvin Paul, Paul Grinder.

## The UFFCA story...

THE UPPER FRASER FISHERIES CONSERVATION ALLIANCE is made up of culturally and linguistically distinct Peoples living throughout the central interior of what is now known as British Columbia.

Long ago we established and protected our respective territories near the salmon-rich "Fraser River" and its tributaries. From time-immemorial our territories sustained hunting, fishing, gathering, trading, and cultural and settlement uses.

Upon arrival of the British Empire and its eventual successor, Canada,

*cont'd on page 4...*

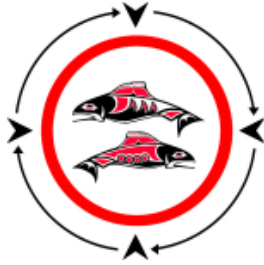
### INSIDE...

Page 2... **UFFCA Mission Statement**

Page 3... **UFFCA Personnel Profiles**

Page 4... **UFFCA Eligibility List**

**Upper Fraser Fisheries  
Conservation Alliance  
Society**



Mail: 1041 Whenun Road  
Prince George, B.C. V2K 5X8

Telephone: 250-964-0337

Fax: 250-964-0399

Email: [info@uffca.ca](mailto:info@uffca.ca)

Online: [www.uffca.ca](http://www.uffca.ca)

§

*A fisheries conservation group serving the  
Upper Fraser region since 2001.  
Incorporated 2005.*

§

**Board of Directors**

**Ron Murphy**

Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation

**Thomas Alexis**

Tl'azt'en Nation

**Joe Alphonse**

Tsilhqot'in National Government

**Barb Wycotte**

Esket'mec First Nation

**Brian Toth** (*Tech. Rep.*)

Carrier Sekani Tribal Council  
Lheidli T'enneh First Nation

**Technical Team**

**Marcel Shepert**

Executive Director-Coordinator

**Peter Nicklin**

Fisheries Biologist

**Letters are welcomed  
& encouraged!**

**UFFCA © 2005 All Rights Reserved.**

# Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance

## Mission Statement

The Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance is a Society that functions without prejudice to Aboriginal rights, including title, through a cooperative agreement with participating Aboriginal organizations in the Upper Fraser River Watershed and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, all of whom commit to an open and transparent process that:

- Develops and implements co-operative management for the protection of fish species and the ecosystem upon which fish depend by taking an integrated approach with Aboriginal organizations in the Upper Fraser River, federal and provincial governments and, where appropriate, other parties with an interest in fish.
- Coordinates funding to support the Society's initiatives, make better use of resources available, and eliminate funding competition (where possible) amongst the Parties.
- Benefits Aboriginal organizations and their membership by identifying and developing economic opportunities associated with fisheries resources.
- Achieves consensus on short term (< 1 year), intermediate (1 > 5 years) and long term (5 > years) objectives.
- Develops and implements plans based on the best available science and Aboriginal ecological knowledge.
- Does not limit or replace any bilateral process, interim measure, or other negotiated agreement between Parties.

# UFFCA Profiles...



**Barb Wycotte**

**Title:**  
Director

**Credentials:**  
Current  
Esketemc  
First Nation  
Fisheries

Coordinator. Past involvement with the Carrier Tribal Council's fisheries program from 1992 to 1999. Former director of both the Quesnel Fish Enhancement Society and Fisheries Renewal Society. Trained with Darren Hebert, who is now with Malaspina University College. Fisheries Field Technician Training, April 2001. Former Williams Lake Indian Band representative with the Cariboo Tribal Council.

**Comments:** "At this time, UFFCA has started to create positive working relationships with all Upper Fraser groups."



**Ron Murphy**

**Title:**  
Director

**Credentials:**  
Current  
Stswecem'c  
Xgat'tem  
(Canoe Creek  
& Dog Creek)

First Nation Community Fisheries Representative

**Other Roles:** Stswecem'c Xgat'tem (Canoe Creek & Dog Creek) First Nation Councillor; Cariboo Chilcotin Aboriginal Education Training Centre Director; and Cariboo Tribal Council sub-committee member (economic development & housing).

**Comments:** UFFCA can best address the "conservation of salmon by getting everyone

in the upper Fraser region working together at the same table. That is the main point of the organization. That's something we've never really done before at the regional level because, for the most part, we've all been looking at our own individual interests. By coming together in this way we have a stronger unified voice on salmon conservation."

Through the UFFCA regional process, Ron believes his Band's input on fish and fish-habitat conservation will be heard and respected. Furthermore, he thinks that all upper Fraser Shuswap, Chilcotin and Carrier governments eligible for membership stand to benefit from participating in UFFCA because it provides an opportunity for all three groups to meaningfully work together to ensure salmon and other fish are never lost to present and future generations. "This process is more than just identifying economic opportunities, it's about our traditional food and livelihood. It's about who we are."



**Marcel Shepert**

**Title:**  
Executive  
Director-  
Coordinator

**Credentials:**  
Former  
executive

director of the Fraser Watershed Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS) and manager and coordinator for the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council fisheries program. Recently co-authored the report: "Our Place at the Table: First Nations in the BC Fishery".

**Other Roles:** Since 2002, First Nations negotiator on the Fraser panel of the Pacific Salmon Commission.

**Comments:** Marcel has been instrumental in building a strong coalition of interior Fraser First Nations into the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance (UFFCA), which is establishing itself as a solid management force within British Columbia's interior resource management sector.

He's academically trained at the Open Learning agency of British Columbia; the Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology in Ontario; the British Columbia Institute of Technology; and the Justice Institute of British Columbia. His focus ranges from international marketing and communications, to negotiations and conflict resolution.

He has lived, worked, and traveled in Europe for three years.

"I am passionate about preserving our natural resources for future generations."



**Peter Nicklin**

**Title:**  
Fisheries  
Biologist

**Credentials:**  
Registered  
Professional  
Biologist with

the College of Applied Biology and Association of Professional Biologists of BC. Involved in fisheries work for 11 years, 9 of them in the Upper Fraser.

**Other Roles:** Contracts with

the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS) and individual First Nations in the Upper Fraser.

**Comments:** Believes that UFFCA is best able to address "Conservation Unit (CU) monitoring and assessment."

Peter thinks it is important for Upper Fraser First Nations to participate in UFFCA because "capacity building and information sharing can benefit bi-lateral discussions within each community and highlight issues of concern within respective territories; as well, there is sharing of knowledge and advice for the benefit of the fisheries resource."

"We are seeing the decline of several salmon stocks within the Upper Fraser, as well as other areas in the Fraser watershed. Mixed stock management is not working, so fisheries management must shift efforts to build fisheries management plans that place a priority on weak stocks. Strong regional input to a Fraser Watershed process is necessary to ensure weaker stocks have a voice in management."

"DFO is not able to implement the Wild Salmon Policy alone, and is operating under decreased budgets in the face of huge conservation challenges. The UFFCA is an organization that can facilitate co-management, protection and re-building of the resource."

*Further Director profiles will be published in upcoming issues of Watershed's Source.*

colonial legislation was enacted and enforced which forbade Aboriginal fishing, except for food purposes. This of course benefited the emerging marine-based commercial fishery. Not surprisingly then, conflicts occurred over the years, including various legal challenges.

Then, in 1982, Section 35 of the newly signed Canadian Constitution recognized and affirmed “aboriginal and treaty rights,” which in turn provided a measure of protection for First Nations against infringement by the state.

Further, in 1992, the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed in *Sparrow* that the Crown had a fiduciary (“trust-like, rather than adversarial”) responsibility with respect to Aboriginal rights generally, and specifically to fishing rights. As a result, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) created its Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS). Subsequently, numerous upper Fraser River First Nations signed an AFS agreement.

In 2001, resulting from dissatisfaction with the

Fraser Watershed Process, the upper Fraser River First Nations formed an informal coalition called the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance (UFFCA or "Alliance"). Over time, the Alliance adopted a mission statement with several goals, all with an emphasis on watershed management and technical objectives as opposed to political ones.

By 2004, the Alliance completed its “Strategic Plan for a Watershed Based Approach to Facilitating First Nations’ Co-Management of the Anadromous Resources of the Upper Fraser Watershed”.

In early 2005, the Alliance submitted a proposal to DFO’s Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management (AAROM) Program. By March, the Alliance became a Society under the B.C. Society Act. This has allowed the Alliance to receive funds from the AAROM program for start-up costs.

One Alliance priority is the achievement of a multi-year AAROM funding agreement with DFO in order to continue to work toward and achieve its far-reaching goals.

## Aboriginal Governments & Tribal Councils eligible for UFFCA membership

T'exelc (Williams Lake First Nation)  
Stwecem'c Xgat'tem (Canoe Creek First Nation)  
Tsq'escen (Canim Lake First Nation)  
Xats'ull Cmetem' (Soda Creek First Nation)  
Cariboo Tribal Council

Lhoosk'uz (Kluskus First Nation)  
Lhtako (Red Bluff First Nation)  
Ndazkho (Nazko First Nation)  
Tl'esqox (Toosey First Nation)  
Ulkatchot'en (Ulkatcho First Nation)  
Carrier-Chilcotin Tribal Council

Wet'suwet'en First Nation  
Burns Lake First Nation  
Stellat'en First Nation  
Nadleh Whut'en First Nation

Saik'uz First Nation  
Takla Lake First Nation  
Nak'azdli First Nation  
Carrier Sekani Tribal Council

Xeni Gwet'in (Nemah First Nation)  
Yunesit'in (Stone Indian First Nation)  
Tsi Del Del (Alexis Creek First Nation)  
Tl'etingox (Anaham First Nation)  
?Esdilangh (Alexandria First Nation)  
Tsilhqot'in National Government

Esketemc First Nation  
Lheidli T'enneh First Nation  
Tl'azt'en Nation  
Yekooche First Nation

For more information on UFFCA membership and upcoming meetings, contact Marcel Shepert, Executive Director-Coordinator, 250-964-0337 or Email: [info@uffca.ca](mailto:info@uffca.ca)