



## **Local Research Facility to Host Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Discussion**

The BC Center for Aquatic Health Sciences (BC CAHS) located at the Maritime Heritage Center in Campbell River in association with visiting scientists from New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric research (NIWA) will be hosting a meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup>. The goal of the meeting is to bring together local and international researchers to present their work and perspective on the practical applications of TEK.

The researchers will be presenting on a range of topics meant to stimulate discussion on the applications of TEK and the challenges of co-management. There will be a panel discussion following the presentations that will invite all participants to engage in a question and dialogue session. "We are extremely pleased to host our colleagues from New Zealand and we are looking forward to learning from their experience in this area", says Linda Sams, CEO, BC Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences.

The range of sectors attending the meeting will also be broad; there will be representation from First Nations, provincial and federal governments, non-government organizations, industry and local stakeholders. This is the second in an ongoing information series. The Center is committed to building local scientific capacity and transferring that knowledge to all marine user groups and all marine industries.

The mandate of the BC Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences (BC-CAHS) is to improve the economic, social and environmental sustainability of aquatic resource-based communities. This objective is being achieved through a multidisciplinary approach including aquatic animal health, food safety as well as environmental and welfare issues. This research capacity is attainable not only through the staff at BC-CAHS but also via an extensive collaborative network that draws upon a diverse group of researchers to address specific aquatic health issues and broader aquatic environmental concerns.

The meeting will be held at the Maritime Heritage Centre, Friday September 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am – 1:00pm. There is no fee to attend and lunch following the meeting is being generously sponsored by BC's Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. However RSVP's are required. CAHS believes in promoting an "open door" policy and has sent out a broad range of invitations; anyone interested in attending the workshop who did not receive an invitation should contact the BC Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences at 250-286-6102 and ask for Tracy Sharpe. CAHS is working on developing a local invitation list for these sorts of workshops and seminars and is asking interested groups or individuals to forward their contact information to the Centre.

***The Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences exists to advance understanding of British Columbia's aquatic resources by addressing issues of aquatic animal health and welfare, production and aquatic food safety, thereby facilitating the economic, social and environmental sustainability of British Columbia's aquatic based resource industries and increasing research and service capacity in rural and coastal communities.***

*For more information, contact:*

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