

NEARSHORE SALMON HABITAT RESTORATION IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Virtual Knowledge Exchange Workshop – Speaker Profile

JULIAN GAN

Aquatic Science Biologist
DFO Science



Julian Gan is an Aquatic Science Biologist with the Science Branch of Fisheries and Oceans Canada working out the Cultus Lake Lab. Julian previously worked for the Hakai Institute and completed his graduate work at Simon Fraser University.

Julian has extensive experience working in estuary and nearshore environments and is passionate about applying scientific research to inform management practices and restoration priorities. He most recently published a paper on the complex temperature mosaics in estuaries and the importance of habitat complexity in nearshore environments for temperature resilience and juvenile Chinook salmon growth.

Additional resources:

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2023.1278810/full>

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Dr Isobel Pearsall

Director, Marine Science Program
Pacific Salmon Foundation



Isobel has a first class degree in Pure and Applied Biology from Oxford University, a MSc in Ecology from the Department of Biology at Dalhousie University, and a PhD in Ecology from the Department of Plant Science at UBC.

Isobel is *Director of Marine Science Programs* for the Pacific Salmon Foundation. Isobel wears many distinguished and hats, including overseeing several major programs in nearshore and estuary habitat restoration, a number of large-scale Citizen Science programs for oceanographic, forage fish and salmon data collation, a major research program to assess bottlenecks to survival of Coho, Chinook and Steelhead in the Strait of Georgia, and development of PSF educational initiatives. Isobel also leads the Strait of Georgia Data Centre, an online hub of ecological, environmental and human use data for the entire Strait of Georgia.

Additional resources:

<http://digital.canadawide.com/i/1354465-salish-sea-marine-survival-project/0?>

<https://marinesurvivalproject.com/wp-content/uploads/2021-Marine-Survival-Summary.pdf>

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Dr Jason Toft

Research Scientist
University of Washington School of
Aquatic and Fishery Sciences



Dr. Jason Toft is a Research Scientist at the University of Washington in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences. Jason's work focuses on the ecological interactions of juvenile fish and invertebrates within estuary and nearshore habitats.

Jason has special interest in nearshore restoration and the effects of shoreline armoring in Puget Sound. He has been monitoring shoreline armor restoration in Puget Sound for over a decade and Jason spearheaded and leads the Shoreline Monitoring Database, which is a project that has established standardized protocols for shoreline monitoring and provides tools for data management and analysis. Jason also coordinates the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program Nearshore Work Group to increase communication on nearshore issues in Puget Sound.

Additional resources:

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jason-Toft>

<https://www.shoremonitoring.org/>

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Tom Reid

West Coast Conservation Land Manager
The Nature Trust



Tom Reid is the West Coast Conservation Land Manager with The Nature Trust of BC. Tom is a long-time Vancouver Island resident and is passionate about estuary and marine environments. He sees estuaries as the heartbeat of aquatic ecosystems among rivers, ocean and upland environments. In his work with Nature Trust, he aims to link science and restoration work with the opportunity to build meaningful partnerships with community groups and coastal First Nations communities.

Keeping Tom especially busy these days is his work as Project Manager for the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund's 5-year project to assess the resilience of 15 estuaries on Vancouver Island, central coast, and Haida Gwaii, and to implement several restoration projects..

Additional resources:

<https://youtu.be/lhYWAE9UCT80&q=>

<https://www.naturetrust.bc.ca/our-projects/enhancing-bc-estuaries>

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Eric Balke

Senior Restoration Biologist
Ducks Unlimited Canada



Eric is an enthusiastic ecologist with a diverse multidisciplinary background. Eric is passionate about restoring wetlands, rivers, and estuaries, and he is keen for any excuse to explore the outdoors!

He completed his BSc in Biology at UBC and his MSc at SFU in Ecological Restoration, for which he studied the receding brackish marsh in the Sturgeon Bank Wildlife Management Area off the west coast of Lulu Island, Richmond, BC. Eric was previously the province's point-person managing over 37,000 hectares of provincial conservation land throughout the BC South Coast. As a Senior Restoration Biologist for Ducks Unlimited Canada, he leads a collection of restoration projects, including the Fraser River Estuary Salmon Habitat (FRESH) Restoration Projects and the BC Nature Force Program.

Additional resources:

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Eric_Balke

<https://www.ducks.ca/assets/2022/04/backgrounder-210422-3.pdf>

<https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/csp2.310>

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Todd Woodard

Executive Director of Infrastructure and
Resources
Samish Indian Nation



Todd Woodard is the Executive Director of Infrastructure and Resources with Samish Indian Nation. Todd has had a long career in resource management, habitat restoration, and grant administration, mostly with Tribal Nations in Western Washington.

Todd has been involved in many stream and beach restoration projects, as well as being instrumental in the coordination required to strategically implement these projects, which is a role that Eric Balke highlighted as being so central and key to project success.

In Todd's words, he and his staff are tasked with "*Preserving, Protecting and Enhancing Culturally Significant Natural Resources and Habitats within Samish Traditional Territory for Current and Future Generations*".

Additional resources:

<https://www.samishtribe.nsn.us/departments/environment>

<https://www.samishtribe.nsn.us/departments/environment/climate-change>

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