

## **B15 - An Adaptive Management Framework for the Central North Coast of BC and Regional Land Use Planning in the Sea to Sky Area**

**Presentation # 1 title:** Implementing Ecosystem-Based Management: an Adaptive Management Framework for the Central and North Coast of British Columbia

**Presenter:**

Stephen Tyler - Adaptive Resource Management Ltd

**Abstract**

The globally significant forest and other natural resources of the B.C. coast are contested by commercial, conservation and First Nations interests. For the last several years, these groups have been working collaboratively towards a shared land management vision. Recent changes in provincial policy and First Nations legal authority have led to new Government-to-government agreements for land use on the coast, which set aside large areas for conservation and enshrine Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) as the approach to guide future resource use. EBM aims to maintain functioning ecosystems while recognizing the need for economic activity to support coastal communities, including several First Nations. The challenge is how to implement EBM in a way that allows for both ongoing learning and collaboration among interested parties, in order to improve management over time. The authors led a multi-disciplinary team of professionals that designed an Adaptive Management Framework to address this challenge. The framework provides for management of the region's land based resources to be informed both by research as well as by ongoing management practice. A crucial innovation in the framework is the clarification and monitoring of Human Well Being objectives of EBM as well as the more conventional Ecosystem Integrity objectives. This approach required the integration of different disciplinary tools and perspectives in a transparent and collaborative framework that is based on shared knowledge and learning. The implementation of an adaptive management framework will support the general principles of good professional practice and continuous learning, but will require new roles for resource managers from the province and First Nations and new relationships with researchers. It will also require considerable capacity building for monitoring, research and shared data management among most of the parties involved. These requirements come at a time when the forest industry faces commercial uncertainties, and when First Nations communities face stark livelihood crises. Implementation of adaptive management will have to reflect these realities. The lessons from an adaptive management framework have broad relevance for complex and dynamic resource management issues in other parts of B.C. The main question for land managers in rural B.C. facing dynamic ecological, socio-economic and political contexts is how to take practical interim decisions in the face of mounting uncertainty, while building robust systems for collaborative learning to reduce risks. We suggest some practical guidelines and will invite the audience to test these in the context of their own experience. The session will produce a refined set of guidelines for good practice in adaptive management for participants to take away from the Summit.

**Speaker Biography**

Stephen Tyler is the founder of Adaptive Resource Management Ltd, an interdisciplinary consulting practice specializing in community-oriented natural resource management and adaptation studies, active in B.C. and internationally. Recent work has included climate adaptation, adaptive management and community forestry in B.C., climate adaptation program development in Asia, adaptive policy frameworks for climate change in Canada and India (with IISD), and climate adaptation and water management in Africa. Stephen has worked as a policy analyst, consultant, and researcher on environment, energy and development issues with governments, research institutions and international agencies in Canada, the U.S. and Asia for over 25 years. He holds a PhD in city and regional planning from the University of California, Berkeley, and is a long standing Member of CIP. He and his family live in Victoria, where he rides his bike to help atone for the massive carbon footprint of his professional travel. Dave Daust is a Registered Professional Forester with over 15 years of professional experience in field forestry, landscape scale resource analysis and computer modeling. Most of his recent work has involved

collaborative research and simulation modeling engaging multiple interests at the community level in participatory workshops. He has extensive experience with community education and awareness building, working with First Nations and other communities on the coast and in north-central B.C. He was instrumental in designing the adaptive management framework implemented successfully since 2005 by the Babine Watershed Monitoring Trust for the Babine River watershed in north-central B.C. He has supported operational forest planning and management on both the coast and interior, and worked in multidisciplinary teams to assess watershed, timber and indigenous cultural values for forest operations planning. He also manages his own commercial woodlot outside Smithers, B.C.

**Presentation # 2 title:** Regional, First Nations and Provincial Planning in the Sea to Sky Region

**Presenters:**

Steven Olmstead - Squamish - Lillooet Regional District

Lucinda Phillips - Director of Land & Resources, Lil'wat Nation

Ross Kreye - Land & Resource Planning, BC Ministry of Agricultural and Lands Integrated Land Management Bureau

**Abstract**

Several regional level planning initiatives have recently been completed in the Sea to Sky region including the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy, the Lil'wat Nation Land Use Plan and the provincial Sea to Sky Land and Resource Management Plan. This session will focus on the process and outcomes of those plans, their interrelationships and some of the innovative approaches that are being used to address the diverse interests and complex land use issues in the region.