

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

\* Transcribed

### ***Making Ecosystem-based Management Work***

**Dave Daust**

Consultant

**Question:** (20:59) I was interested in the last presentation and particularly the interaction of values with decisions. And I wasn't quite clear on how those values are carried forward. I was a member of the Community Resources Board here in Smithers from its inception in the 1990s until the late 1990s and I think if we're considering the process for the Skeena, to me the tricky part is in how the public values are going to be carried forward in decisions. And from the model that you put on the board there Dave, it looked like the management was charged with carrying those values forward. And I would have some concern about that. Many people here would remember Irving Fox and his role in creating the framework for the resources board and his, I guess fairly radical point, was that in the decision making about public resources that no person had more priority in terms of values. In other words, the average person on the street, those values were just as important as the values that a resource manager might have. And so on that basis, the resources board was formed. It was formed on the basis of different values and perspectives about a particular resource. So, in the considering what happens in the Skeena, somehow I think that same idea has to be brought forward, because if we let decisions about a public resource be made by, say, commercial fisherman or guides or managers to the exclusion of the average person in the public, who also values that resource, I think I can foresee a problem. So, I'm not offering that model as the only way to go, but I do see some difficulties if those broad public values are not somehow adequately and democratically brought forward, say, on the management of the Skeena fishery.

**Answer:** (23:40, Daust) Just a couple points in response to that. One of the intentions with having these clearly explicit models that are tied to objectives is it's very easy to see what the managers are doing. You know what decision is being made. You know the trade off they've made among values. So that's critical to keep the managers honest. The other point, as you raise, it's an excellent point and I'm not sure what the answer is, because the solutions that have been developed in the real world have taken into account the power structures. So, on the coast, the really powerful people that could influence decisions were basically the province and the First Nations first and foremost and then secondarily the industry and the environmental lobby. The person on the street really didn't get a lot of consideration, unless we have a very good consultation process to bring that in. So I think LRMPs went some ways to doing that and it's the responsibility of the people managing to make sure that consultation process is somehow bringing in and reflecting public values.

**Answer:** (25:35, Karen Price) The way that we dealt with that is anything that came from LRMPs, so any objectives that have come into the model from any way, so any objective that was an agreed upon objective, which would be the

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objectives that the Community Resource Board is responsible for bringing forward, we ensure that the conceptual models included all of those objectives. And so the idea is that the knowledge base includes all of the values that have been brought forward from everybody at any point. And so that you have this transparent knowledge base that does include the values of everybody including the people on the street. Now, as Dave pointed out, on the coast it's a bit more of a complicated situation. But we do think that if you can have a way of including all those values, including all of the objectives that have been brought forward and agreed to at any point, and make those transparent with these models and have them available for everybody, that's the best way that you can carry them forward because everybody can look at this knowledge base and say, "Hang on, there's something that's wrong here."