

peace. Instead, he recounts the passions that formed the movement and kept it motivated, and the inner conflicts that forced its evolution.

The history certainly has its shortcomings. A tiresome *Lord of the Rings* analogy runs throughout the 574 pages of text, and the foreshadowing of future Greenpeace trouble is almost constant. Most distracting is Weyler's tendency to tediously set a scene, detailing the room, the lighting, and even the contents of paintings hanging on the walls. But his goal is as much to convey the emotion as the historical record of these first nine years, and the details help to transport the reader to the time and place remembered. (Weyler's elaborate scene-setting becomes slightly more understandable once we learn that he is the group photographer.)

The Last Great Sea: A Voyage Through the Human and Natural History of the North Pacific Ocean

By T. Glavin. 2000. David Suzuki Foundation and Greystone Books Douglas & McIntyre Publishing Group, Vancouver/Toronto, Canada. 244 pages, \$34.95 hardcover.

This book belongs in every conservationist's bookshelf, to say the least. As D. Suzuki describes very convincingly in the foreword, the environment of today's North Pacific is characterized by its loss of (fish) species and its wipe-out of protein assemblages. The collapse of Sockeye Salmon is only one of many sad examples, many more exist: Steller's Sea Cow, Spectacled Cormorant, Dawson's Caribou (Queen Charlotte Islands), and even plant species like Tobacco (Queen Charlotte Islands). Other species like Walruses, Sea Otters and Fur Seals barely survived until now.

The first chapter starts slow but allows a very solid overview about historical and archaeological facts. Already after Chapter 2, nobody can deny anymore the environmental disaster and mis-management of the North Pacific and coastal British Columbia. Nevertheless, the author convinces the reader that the North Pacific still is THE largest fish producer in the world. "As in aboriginal fisheries, mythology played a part in industrial fisheries management, especially the myth of a superabundant ocean and the all-powerful capability of science and technology to fix the messes made by hydroelectric dams, lousy forestry practices and overfishing". The governmentally encouraged Merganser Control and Bear Shooting Programs designed for the sake of Salmon Protection prove this citation very well. Galvin strongly eliminates all illusions on how to heal the problem of overfishing. For instance, he shows that S. Livingstone's widely followed idea of Fish Hatcheries does not produce more salmon, but instead takes away funds and harms natural salmon stocks since they simply replace the last remaining and struggling stocks with poorly adjusted new ones. Strong also are Gavin's arguments against Salmon Farming; e.g., it contributes to the closure of

Ultimately, Weyler's passion and enthusiasm for the ideals of the Greenpeace movement are shared with the reader in a style that is politically, scientifically and historically informed, making his book the perfect starting point for anyone who is looking for either a history of Greenpeace, or the inspiration to become politically and environmentally active. This history, I think, will make Greenpeace's proud, as it functions as a mindbomb: reading about Greenpeace's commitments, their successes and failures, awakens an awareness of the potentials of eco-activism within each reader. You can put the book down, but you can't stop thinking about it...

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marine fisheries for wild salmon, and it requires 3 kg of fish to produce 1 kg of salmon.

Fisheries and the ecology of all major North Pacific fish species get well-covered in this book. Since the abundance of salmon shaped western North America, this topic receives major attention in the text. All Pacific salmon species are discussed: Chum, Sockeye, Pink, Coho, Steelhead, Masu and Amago. Of major interest is in this regard the scientific discussion around the taxonomy of salmon; e.g., Steelhead (classified until 1980s as Trout). The author brilliantly points out the implications of the religious-based and somewhat outdated taxonomical system by Carl von Linné, and how this affects the species management by national governments (provincial and federal) on an international level even (Canada vs. USA).

The backwardness and failure of fishery laws are shown by outlining that the first salmon-fishing regulations for the Fraser River was a simple word-for-word replication of fishing regulations on English Rivers. At that time, Canada's external affairs jurisdiction was still controlled by the British, which affects the Canada-U.S. salmon treaty concluded 1930s and renewed in 1985. In addition, Galvin shows that Canadian and U.S. fishery scientists significantly differed in their stock assessment results for the same species in the same waters even; consequently, so did the management and political agendas. This is the classical picture of "mixed-stock" fisheries, which also threatens small salmon runs.

The author reports the incidental death of 50 000 marine mammals and 500 000 seabirds due to driftnet fishery activities in the North Pacific; marine (plastic) pollution comes with it. Despite the well shown failure of a European and Western approach dealing with the North Pacific fisheries, domestic Japanese and Native fisheries seemed to work well and be sustainable. Galvin shows the magnitude of "pre-contact" fish-

ery for salmon by natives, which was even comparable with levels of commercial fisheries from this century. Some readers might find that the book slightly follows stereotypical views of the noble native.

A very strong point in this book is how the North Pacific and its fauna is linked with the "hinterland": Old-growth rainforest, landscape and Bald Eagles. This needs to be considered in the light that resident Killer Whales in British Columbia are among the most contaminated cetaceans of the world.

A very complete picture of the North Pacific is portrayed by fully considering the Russian influence and history. The book outlines well that Russian settlers did much better than the western type of colonization (a point that might be put in doubt for the Kodiak Islands at least). The Russian-American Company was much more relevant in the history of North Pacific settlements and explorations than the Hudson Bay Company (HBC). But nevertheless, as with the HBC, the Russian quest for the North Pacific had the same motivation: central European pelt resources were already overhunted!

Regarding the marine ecology of the North Pacific, the importance of the Aleutian low, Pacific currents, and El Niño are fully described. This ecosystem is driven by "regime changes", which calls for a dynamic management. The author outlines this very well by presenting the ground-breaking work from Russian Scientist T. Baranov, but also from Bill Ricker "Ricker curve" and others at the Pacific Biological Station, e.g., G. McFarlane and D. Beamish. A quote from the book says it all: Understanding catch statistics is like "reading a single faded and crumbling onionskin page from an early draft of Wagner's Tannhaeuser, in a dimly lit room". Another quote of the book and taken from the U.N. Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries states, in part, that "the absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures". Well said.

Galvin makes a strong case that ethnocentric approaches for understanding and managing the North Pacific have failed, e.g. the Chinese might have been in North America much earlier than the Europeans. The book elaborates on the major question "who came

first" since it had such a major economical and political implication for European powers. A major conclusion from this book is that there never was such a thing like an Old World (Eurasian) and New World (Americas).

The chapters on anthropology and human history of the North Pacific and how the Russians, Asians and Natives settled and explored the North Pacific are on the same level than high-caliber books as *Guns, Germs and Steel* by J. Diamond. Just to name some highlights, Galvin mentions how natives grew Arrowhead and potatoes, he cites the work of the Russian Anthropologist S. Fedorova, and he documents that Hawaiians, Japanese, Chinese and Russians presented a major group of settlers. In addition, the book reports a lot of British Columbian and Vancouver history and puts Canada in the context of the overall Pacific.

Despite the fact that whaling, sealing and eating dolphins is as old as the human history of the North Pacific, whale watching (starting as early as 1907) has already produced more profit than commercial whaling ever did for western North America. Greenpeace started in Vancouver, it "was born in the blood of whales". Nevertheless, the author shows that already in the 19th century the pelagic seal hunt provoked the first great international controversy about the overharvesting of the world's marine mammals. It resulted in the international milestone contract ("fur seal treaty") of 1911 between Russia, Japan, Canada and USA.

Topics mentioned in the seven chapters of this book are so manifold and detailed that only some can be mentioned in this review: Bute Wax, Russian scientist K. V. Belkemishev, occurrence of pilchards in British Columbia, oolichan grease, geoduck, Pollock fisheries, Korean squid fisheries, canneries, Earth Rotational Velocity Index, J. Cook, G. Vancouver, V. Bering and J. J. Walbaum. Although the author emphasizes the problems with old-fashioned type of science for the North Pacific, the book is actually based on scientific publications. The index and the annotated scientific references will be highly appreciated by the scholar. This text book (no pictures but five maps) has no shortcomings.

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Quantitative Conservation Biology: Theory and Practice of Population Viability Analysis

Morris, W. F., and D. F. Doak. 2002. Sinauer Associates Inc., Sunderland Massachusetts USA. ISBN 0-87893-546-0 paperback (41.95 US\$)

This is a great book, which should affect how we research and manage wildlife and its controlling factors. The topic of a Population Viability Analysis (PVA) is not really new, but there are only few books that describe the topic well for the general public and managers. "PVA is the use of quantitative methods to predict the likely future status of a population or collection of populations of conservation concern".

"The promise that PVA holds as a tool for guiding conservation decision-making has been recognized by governmental science advisory boards, by professional organizations such as the Ecological Society of America and by nongovernmental conservation organizations such as The Nature Conservancy." This statement also holds for the Habitat Conservation Plans and for the Recovery Plans of the U.S. Endangered Species Act. However, "Instead of seeing PVA as a valuable tool to aid their decision making, most field-oriented conservation biologists retain the misinterpretation