
The Art and nature of nurture

by Tony Pitcher and Daniel Pauly

Only the tallest among Fisheries Centre members may have noticed it, so here it is: Dr Arthur Tautz recently had an operation that left a scar on top of his head. To this we shorter people say: thanks for a successful operation Art!

Many of the younger Fisheries Centre members do not know Art well, although they deduce that he is somehow “with the Province”. Some say he may be seen secretly consulting his own multi-coloured map of river habitats when fly-fishing mahi-mahi in the fall (see photo). Others say he has spent nearly his whole career sheltering from earthquakes in mouldering, wobbly huts. In fact, he worked first with our predecessors at the Institute of Animal Resource Ecology, and then, from the

founding of the Fisheries Centre in 1993, Art Tautz as head (unrepaired) of the BC Government research unit generously and consistently supported us, despite what seemed at times like annual changes of name and mandate from his political overlords. The list of critical financial support provided by Art’s unit is long: the seminar series since its inception in 1993, the inaugural volumes of the Fisheries Centre Research Reports (our ‘blue reports’), the first five start-up workshops, our now bi-annual Fisheries Centre reports, seven years’ maintenance of IT and our first web site, student hardship funds, early project development support, and more.

Outsiders are amazed when they learn how, over a cycle of three

external evaluations, we have survived on miserly funding from UBC yet have somehow produced an impressive portfolio of collegial research activities. Well – it’s all down to Art. The Fisheries Centre could not be where it is today without Art Tautz: a big thank you from all of us!

