**AH Reflection on the Stevenson field trip**

When I reflect on the Stevenson field trip, it brings up many different issues including: commercial fisheries in British Columbia (B.C.), current and past social injustice issues, and the history of salmon in B.C. These important topics are all intertwined when I reflect on the Gulf of Georgia Cannery field trip.

**Our time with Professor Eric Wickham**

One of the most impactful moments of the field trip was with professor Eric Wickham when we discussed both B.C.'s commercial fishery fleets and fishing stocks. In this discussion, it was apparent how fishing effort (in both sizes of vessels and gear) has increased throughout the recent decades without the improvement of commercial catch. In my opinion the economic troubles of BC fisherman were reflected in the high numbers of boats for sale in Steveston harbor, as well as the 120 million trawler boat nearby. Overall, this exciting discussion on fisheries issues led me to wonder about B.C.'s fisheries and how currently the biological, social and economic factors seem to be out of sync. BC fisheries issues seem partly down to Jimmy Pattison's Canadian Fishing Company which owns a high number of commercial licenses and reduces the accessibility of the commercial fishing sector to the new generation of fishermen (men and women) (Bennett, 2019). These accessibility issues were previously highlighted by the talk by Mr. Frazer McDonald from an earlier field trip discussing Skipper Otto and sustainable fisheries in B.C.

Erick Wickham's talk also led me to think about the current remit of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and if I felt enough was being done to conserve fish species here in Canada. When I reflect on success stories of fisheries, one great example has been the United States Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management, which has meant U.S. fisheries have improved biologically due to reductions of fishing efforts and fleets (NOAA, 2021). Overall, erics poignant talk made me consider how Canada and B.C. can move forward and weather a provincial fishing management plan would be beneficial for B.C socially, ecologically, and economically.

**The history of salmon in British Columbia**

The second theme of todays was the history of salmon in B.C. When I first arrived in this country, I didn't quite understand B.C.'s clear and ingrained relationship with salmon. Still, after being immersed in this culture for some time, I now know the economic, social, and cultural importance of salmon to first nation groups and current B.C. settlers. The importance of salmon was reflected in the field trips history of abundant salmon stocks in the 1900s and how a whole cannery was built around salmon stocks in B.C. The field trip also made me reflect on how the salmon runs have been affected historically by the 1914 hells gate slide and the 2019 big bar landslide on the Frazer river system. These impacts on the runs of the salmon stocks combined with the increased effort of commercial salmon fisheries in B.C. is also worrying, with the worst salmon runs in history coming in the last two years since the big bar landslide in 2019 (Larsen, 2020).

**Social justice issues surrounding British Columbia**

The third theme I thought about was previous social injustices of the cannery with race-based and gender-based pay throughout the 1900s. When we were shown the cannery, I thought about how gender and race affected people working here in the 1900s. When I reflected on this field trip afterwards, I reflected on how gender and racial discrimination are still in the very fabric of our society nowadays. This thinking is particularly prevalent around the current Covid-19 pandemic. Since the Covid-19 pandemic started, racism towards Asian minorities has vastly increased in Canada Little and Johnson (2021), the United states, and the United Kingdom. During particularly tuff times such as the Covid-19 pandemic, racial and gender discrimination seems to rise. Still, it must be challenged at societal, governmental, and global levels to change the status quo.

**So how did this field trip play into my work and life**

This field trip was connected to my career plans by showing the complicated nature of fisheries in B.C. and understanding that social, economic, and biological factors contribute to fisheries and marine conservation success. It also contributed to me thinking that marine conservation issues require collaboration from people with different skill sets to affect the most significant change.

The trip also made me relate Asian racism to my conservation work and plans. Understanding the perspectives of fishers, traders, and even local people in marine conservation is essential if you want to be successful in removing parachute science and the cultural bias that it brings, without many of the prevailed perspectives coming into your work and life.

**How could this field trip be improved?**

Overall, I think Roshni and Tanvi did their best to make sure this field trip a success in light of the Covid-19 Pandemic. I hope that next year's cohort of Biol 420 is a Covid-19 free class and field trip which would make it more enjoyable for everyone, just due to the energy and passion received when students can be unrestricted and interact more fluidly.

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