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**For Immediate Release**

***Vancouver and Terrace* – Terrace Resident Jim Culp receives Haig-Brown Award for Half century of Fighting for Fish**

British Columbia's oldest fly-fishing club has honored one of B.C.'s longest-serving and most-respected fish advocates with the prestigious Roderick Haig-Brown Conservation Award.

Totem Flyfishers of B.C. president Ehor Boyanowsky cited Terrace resident Jim Culp's "lifetime of dedication to fish and fish habitat" in bestowing the award.

Culp's career as a fish advocate began 52 years ago, when the then high-school student joined the Port Coquitlam Hunting and Fishing Club. He had a decade of experience in fish advocacy before the Totem Flyfishers came into being. He became the Coquitlam club's secretary when he was in grade 11. Soon thereafter he and one other represented the club at meetings of the B.C. Wildlife Association's Lower Mainland Zone.

From then on, Culp has been a tireless and respected spokesman for fish, fish habitat, and anglers. He has raised his concerns at every political level—municipal, regional, provincial, and federal. His style is typified in the major role he played in a small committee later named in a B.C. Wildlife Federation conservation award given to the Port Coquitlam Hunting and Fishing Club. The committee succeeded in "significantly" reducing the flow of silt entering Coquitlam River from a stream that cut through property originally owned by Deeks McBride and then by Lafarge Cement.

During his two years working on the site, Culp befriended Lafarge superintendent Mel Earl who promised that, if permitted to operate another four years, the company would give its cleaned-up property—including a pond—to the community. The promise was kept, and the pond and its surroundings are now a green oasis in the community. Dubbed Lafarge Lake, the pond provides a little-known but much-appreciated put-and-take trout fishery.

Culp was also active in the small but determined ROSS Committee—which stopped Seattle Light and Power from increasing its Ross Lake storage capacity, and thereby prevented the drowning of the Skagit River upstream of Ross Lake. The Run-Out-Skagit-Spoilers and the Totem Flyfishers were formed in the same year, 1967.



Also in the late 60s, Culp and a handful of BC Wildlife Federation members met at the Nanaimo Rod and Gun Club to establishing a committee dedicated to the concerns of steelhead fishermen. The meeting led to the founding of the Steelhead Society of British Columbia in 1970. Culp, a founding member, was the Society's third president.

In 1974, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans appointed Culp to the Skeena Salmon Advisory Board the significance of which is that every board member but one represented the commercial fishing industry. The exception was Culp, who represented sport fishers.

Culp calls the period from 1979 to 1992 his "busiest" years. His 20 years of volunteering with the Sport Fishing Advisory Board began in 1979.

He and others fashioned the Terrace/Kitsum-Kalem Salmon Enhancement Society in 1982, but the First Nation members soon withdrew. Culp served the reorganized and re-named society—the Terrace Salmonid Society—for many years, as salmon hatchery manager, board member, and director.

Also in 1982, Culp was elected regional director for Thornhill, Terrace's across-the-Skeena "suburb". His six-year stint as the DFO's North Coast Restoration Fisheries Advisor and Sport Fishing Ombudsman began the next year. In 1985, Culp initiated a change in angling regulations —from a total angling closure on a section of the Morice River to fly fishing with dry or wading flies only. The change successfully protected spawning Chinooks and permitted angling for commingling steelhead.

In 1991, Culp led an initiative that created interim employment for 60 Terrace area residents, including eco-centered jobs such as creel censuses on the Skeena and Kitimat rivers, and restoring fish passage on the Kitimat River and Williams Creek. Somewhere along the way, he was feted with a National Recreational Fisheries Award for his contribution to sport fishing.

Culp currently provides advice on salmon harvesting plans for Watershed Watch and the Pacific Marine Conservation Caucus. The Haig-Brown Award is named after pioneering writer, conservationist, and judge Roderick Haig-Brown.

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