



## Marine Harvest Donation: Surge Narrows Community Dock

Marine Harvest Canada (MHC) staff in Campbell River, British Columbia, won many compliments for their assistance when a small but vital ramp and boat-dock structure were formally reopened to ensure access to some remote homes and communities along the region's Hoskyn Channel.

MHC owns and operates several salmon farms in the vicinity and when the company was approached to aid in replacing a dangerously-deteriorated boat dock which provides access to parts of the island coastline, it not only supplied two floats and support materials for revamping the dock, it led to others aiding in the process and even tossed in a salmon barbecue as part of the opening-ceremony celebrations.

The project to replace the dock structure was headed by Rob Wood, Chairperson of the Surge Narrows Community Association, who said at ribbon-cutting ceremonies with MHC in late June that he traces the program back several years. At that time, the local regional-district authority adopted a policy to take ownership and responsibility for the tiny access docks in outlying island, in order to ensure that they were kept open and maintained for the area's residents.

The dock in Hoskyn Channel, said Wood, provides a sheltered access point for boat operators in the Surge Narrows and Hoskyn Channel part of the area to reach a back-country road on nearby Quadra Island. The road leads to the island ferry to the city of Campbell River, where MHC has its regional headquarters.

As a part of finding a way to replace the dock for as little money as possible, he was referred to MHC to see if it would be prepared to contribute some disused fish-farm floats and structure.

That was the easy part compared to the government red-tape involved, said Wood, adding that the company readily agreed, and even indicated it would pay for work to be done to upgrade and re-secure the anchors and moorings, as well as assisting with design work so that the new facility would meet governmental insurance standards.

MHC Area Manager James Rogers, who was the main company contact for the project, said the structural items from the company's inventory was handled through MHC Logistics Coordinator, Roger King, from Port McNeill; and former employee Lloyd Muckle, who now works as an infrastructure contractor to MHC ([www.searoamermarine.ca](http://www.searoamermarine.ca)), voluntarily donated all his time to visit the remote site, along with all the barge transportation of the galvanized-steel floats from Campbell River and the time and labour by two staff members to take the former fish floats to the site and install them.



In the final tally, said Wood, the vast majority of the materials and labour for the crucial project was donated, with MHC playing a central role in that. Company regional Communications Manager, Ian Roberts, turned out on opening day to record the ribbon-cutting by Rogers, Wood and Strathcona Regional-District Director, Jim Abram. Roberts also acted as cook at the celebratory barbecue, to which MHC donated farmed Atlantic salmon.

The salmon and a great time were enjoyed by all.