

Shane P. Mahoney

Shane P. Mahoney is an internationally celebrated biologist, writer, and lecturer gifted with the ability to captivate listeners and instill fervor for conservation among diverse audiences. Born and raised in Newfoundland, Canada, Mahoney is Executive Director of Science of the Newfoundland & Labrador Department of Tourism, Culture, and Recreation. A biologist with broad experience, Mahoney has spent 20 years investigating phenomena as diverse as seabird breeding behaviour, waterfowl parasites, and the predator-prey relationships and population dynamics of black bear, lynx, moose, and woodland caribou.

His lectures and writings reflect a deep personal commitment to understanding man's place in nature and are drawn from his own experiences in rural Newfoundland, where his fascination with wildlife and the human cultures that depend upon it was fostered. These experiences are combined in his prose with a passionate interest in diverse historical writings. A radio documentary featuring his stories and narrations was awarded the International Gabriel Award for 1996, a distinction granted annually to the radio arts program that most contributes to an understanding of man and society.

Mahoney has appeared in, and assisted with, films for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and Canadian Geographic, a special on global warming for the Turner Broadcasting Network, and most recently, a film for the British Broadcasting Corporation and National Geographic. He co-wrote, narrated, and acted as scientific consultant for this latest film, which dealt with the collapse of fish stocks off Canada's east coast, its ecological underpinnings, and the role of human over-exploitation. This internationally aired film has won nine awards, including Best Wildlife Film and Best Conservation Film for 1997.

Mahoney challenges audiences to think about the positions and beliefs they hold about nature, emphasizing the evolutionary and historical influences on modern society's outlooks and values. He suggests to professional and public audiences alike that a deeper understanding of man's interactions with nature and a more profound appreciation of the miracle of "conservation through wise use" must be developed by wildlife specialists themselves, by individuals and industries in support of these activities, and by society at large. A rationalist in his strategies for conservation, Mahoney argues that human societies are also a unique and inspiring component of the biodiversity we seek to conserve and protect.

No stranger to Pennsylvania, Mahoney was keynote speaker at the Governor's Symposium on North America's Hunting Heritage in 1998, and more recently, at the First Pennsylvania Biodiversity Conference in 2001, hosted by the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership. He served as an external advisor to PBP on the development of a comprehensive Biodiversity Conservation Plan for Pennsylvania.

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