

# Nu-a-thluk

Taking Care Of

**Kyuquot**

**Nootka**

**Clayoquot**

**Barclay**

**Ditidaht**

**Pacheedaht**

## Pacific Salmon Treaty Chinook Agreement-In-Principle Reached

On May 9th, 2008, Canada and the U.S. reached a tentative agreement for a renewed Chinook Annex of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). Due to expire at the end of 2008, the Chinook Annex governs the management of chinook salmon harvests in Washington, northern Oregon, British Columbia, and southeast Alaska. Most chinook salmon in the PST management area originate from streams and hatcheries in Washington, Oregon and B.C. and migrate northward. The chinook are harvested in commercial, recreational, and aboriginal fisheries in southeast Alaska, B.C., Washington, and Oregon waters.

Entering these negotiations, both Canada and the U.S. sought to reduce catch ceilings to lessen impacts on chinook stocks of conservation concern. Canadian and U.S. negotiators considered the harvest rate reductions in the existing Chinook Chapter, negotiated in 1999, inadequate for rebuilding stocks due to continued poor ocean survival conditions over most of the last 10 years. Negotiators sought further harvest reductions to allow less productive stocks to meet spawning and recovery goals in Canada (e.g. West Coast Vancouver Island wild chinook) and for U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed populations (e.g. Puget Sound and Lower Columbia River chinook). Although not under PST jurisdiction,

chinook fisheries in California and Oregon have collapsed and will be closed in 2008, illustrating the serious coastwide nature of the chinook situation.

### Summary of the Agreement

There are three main parts to the new Chinook Annex that will be in effect for ten years, providing Canada and the U.S. both ratify the agreement. These parts are:



1. Reductions in the catch ceilings of the Aggregate Abundance Based Management (AABM) fisheries of 30% in WCVI troll and outside sport; and 15% in southeast Alaska (SEAK) troll, sport and net fisheries. (Northern B.C. troll and Haida Gwai sport fisheries were not reduced in the draft agreement, but will be subject to Canadian domestic management constraints to protect WCVI and other southern bound chinook stocks.) The Pacific Salmon Commission will consider

altering the reductions after a five-year review in 2014.

2. Funding totaling \$59 million (M), including:

- \$30 M from the U.S. to help mitigate the WCVI fishery disruption affecting fishermen and local communities;

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# NUU-CHAH-NULTH INITIATIVES UPDATES

## A FEW ITEMS THE FIRST NATIONS AND UU-A-THLUK STAFF ARE WORKING ON

### CRAB REFORM

Based on recommendations adopted at the January Council of Ha'wiih, members of the Crab Working Group met in March to discuss ways to achieve Nuu-chah-nulth Crab Reform goals and objectives for food and ceremonial access, economic access, and management authority. On April 17,

Nuu-chah-nulth Crab Working Group members Carl Edgar, Phillip Edgar, and Jim Lane reported to the Council of Ha'wiih about those discussions and made further recommendations for Crab Reform. The new recommendations included establishing Nuu-chah-nulth Crab Management Areas (NCMAs),

developing harvest targets based on the size of legal males (a Legal Male Index or LMI), and developing objectives for catch monitoring. Council members adopted all 14 of the recommendations and further suggested that the Nations track the number of crabs caught for home use to better understand each Nation's needs.

### PACIFIC INTEGRATED COMMERCIAL FISHERIES INITIATIVE (PICFI)

Under the direction of the Council of Ha'wiih and NTC directors, Uu-a-thluk staff have continued to work with other First Nations and DFO to help design how PICFI will be implemented. On April 17, Uu-a-thluk staff outlined to the Council of Ha'wiih a proposed approach for Nuu-chah-nulth Nations working collectively with the Nuu-chah-nulth

Seafood Development Corporation (NSDC) to access PICFI resources. The benefits of this approach include reduced administrative costs, better opportunities for leveraging other funds and capital, and increased overall PICFI acquired access for Nuu-chah-nulth Nations. The model also provides an opportunity for Nations to develop a licence bank

and meet community objectives such as increased access to sea resources, employment, and revenue. Council members passed a motion to establish a Seafood Business Advisory Committee to assist NSDC and the Nation shareholders with the development of a comprehensive collective business plan.

### FISHERIES LITIGATION

The case to have Nuu-chah-nulth rights and title to sea resources recognized, respected, and implemented continues at the Vancouver Law Courts. Eight Nations are involved in this phase of trial (Ka'yu:k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h', Ehattesah, Mowachah/Muchalah, Hesquiaht, Ahousah, Tla-o-qui-aht,

Ucluelet, and Huu-ay-aht) while three Nations will continue as plaintiffs in a second phase (Tsesah, Hupacasah, and Nuchatlah). Presentation of the Nuu-chah-nulth case concluded in early June, with lawyers calling expert Nuu-chah-nulth and non-Nuu-chah-nulth witnesses to testify. Canada began its

defence case in June by calling Michelle James and Gordon Gislason, two of Canada's expert witnesses. The trial originally began April 24, 2006 and is scheduled to run until next November with a two-month break in July and August this summer.

### GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT

DFO Regional Coordinator Gary Logan spoke at the April 18th Council of Ha'wiih about groundfish harvesting abuses occurring under the guise of dual fishing, mainly in northern B.C. waters. Dual fishing is the term DFO uses to describe when a commercial fishing boat is fishing for commercial purposes and for legitimate First Nations food and

ceremonial purposes at the same time. One problem with dual fishing arises when catches declared as food fish are sold illegally into the commercial market. Some vessels are also violating regulations by fishing commercially in closed areas such as Rockfish Conservation Areas where only First Nations are allowed to fish for food and ceremonial purposes.

Logan asked the Council of Ha'wiih to help DFO develop enforceable management principles to govern dual fishing. The Council agreed to work with DFO through the Uu-a-thluk Joint Technical Working Group, providing none of the options diminish First Nations access.



For more information on any of these projects contact [info@uuathluk.ca](mailto:info@uuathluk.ca) or Don Hall at 724-5757

# PROJECT BUILDS FUTURE THROUGH NUU-CHAH-NULTH YOUTH

According to Uu-a-thluk Program Manager Don Hall, Nuuchah-nulth fisheries goals are fairly straightforward: increase Nuuchah-nulth access to their sea resources and increase the management authority of Nuuchah-nulth Ha'wiih, their Nations, and their communities. "Access has two parts," Hall said, "seafood for food and ceremonial purposes,

students in elementary and middle school, high school, and post secondary institutions.

"This project combines current scientific knowledge with traditional Nuuchah-nulth teachings," said Norine Messer, Uu-a-thluk's Capacity Building Coordinator. "One of the project strengths is that it increases the capacity of educational organizations to provide culturally rich programs that support the goals of Nuuchah-nulth communities."



Ditidaht students look at marine critters in their school's touch tank.

and seafood for economic purposes. Management authority is required to sustainably manage the aquatic resources for present and future generations and to protect Nuuchah-nulth access."

For Hall, capacity building is an important part of meeting those objectives. Nuuchah-nulth Nations have several major initiatives underway to increase their access to, and management of, their sea resources. For this and other reasons, the Nations need people trained and ready to step into the different opportunities that exist now and in the future. Thanks to a grant from the B.C. Capacity Initiative, Uu-a-thluk is playing a bigger role in making that possible.

"I am excited about the BCCI proposal," said Hall, commenting on Uu-a-thluk's program to deliver a multi-level educational program aimed at building the capacity of Nuuchah-nulth youth. "Nuuchah-nulth Nations are also excited. When I presented a summary to the Nuuchah-nulth Chiefs in April, they unanimously endorsed the project."

Through a unique combination of aquatic science and media camps, school programs, job shadowing placements, and a youth conference, the project will increase the capacity of Nuuchah-nulth to work in marine-based careers. The project will target



Summer student Sabrina Halvorsen during her third summer with Uu-a-thluk (2008).

Centre to deliver 15 culturally appropriate aquatic science programs in Nuuchah-nulth communities.

On-the-job learning will be a feature of the project when high school students looking to earn graduation credits gain work experience through job shadowing positions. There will also be two summer student intern positions for post secondary students studying biology or resource management.

"The initiatives within this project provide young people with opportunities to get hands-on experience in multiple environments," Messer said. "Young people will be encouraged to see a role for themselves in marine related careers and in taking care of ocean resources."



Students at Anacla's 2008 summer science camp build bridges using newly-learned engineering principles.



Ditidaht dancers welcome students after a camping trip.



## Uu-a-thluk is:

### **Council of Ha'wiih:**

The Ha'wiih or their representatives of: Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h', Nuchatlaht, Ehatesaht, Mowachaht/Muchatlaht, Hesquiaht, Ahousaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Ucluelet, Toquaht, Uchucklesaht, Tseshah, Hupacasath, Huu-ay-aht, Ditidaht and Pacheedaht.

### **Joint Technical Working Group:**

First Nations, Uu-a-thluk, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans staff working together to solve problems and take advantage of opportunities.

### **Staff:**

Biologists, Managers, Outreach, Capacity Development, Fundraising and Economic Development. Conducting the day to day work under the direction of the Council of Ha'wiih.

## Contact Information

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Next Uu-a-thluk Council of Ha'wiih meeting is scheduled for July 30th & 31st, 2009.

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# Pacific Salmon Treaty Chinook Agreement-In-Principle Reached Cont.

- \$29 M for improved management, including \$10 M over five years for a "Sentinel Stocks" program to assess chinook escapements to rigorous standards and assist the 2014 review of the harvest reductions.
- 3. A revised approach for triggering annual reductions in fisheries to relieve pressure on chinook stocks that continue to decline. Unlike other AABM fisheries, the WCVI fishery will be exempt from any additional measures, given the 30% overall reduction.

The new Chinook Annex is part of an overall renewal of several species annexes to the 1999 Pacific Salmon treaty. Both Canada and U.S. will be taking the agreement in principle for all revised annexes to their constituents for consultations. After consultations, the revised annexes will be tabled in the Canadian Parliament and the U.S. Congress for ratification. In addition to ratifying the agreement, both Canada and the U.S. will need to meet other criteria before the new Chapter is implemented. The U.S. must provide the agreed funding to Canada and Canada must provide funding of \$7.5 M for the improved Coded Wire Tag program. As the new agreement may not meet the requirements for rebuilding all of the U.S. ESA-listed chinook stocks, additional conservation actions will also be required in the U.S.

### **Information Sharing with Nuuchahnulth to Date**

Prior to reaching the chinook agreement in principle, the NTC President, Vice President and Uu-a-thluk

staff met with DFO on several occasions to be informed about the status of the negotiations. At the April 17-18, 2008 Uu-a-thluk Council of Ha'wiih meeting, Nuuchahnulth Ha'wiih and representatives received a further update on the negotiations and provided specific Nuuchahnulth interests and recommendations to Paul Macgillivray, DFO Associate Regional Director and lead negotiator for Canada on the chinook agreement.

Nuuchahnulth Nations stated three interests to DFO:

1. Rebuild WCVI chinook populations
2. Ensure sufficient WCVI returns to meet Nuuchahnulth food and ceremonial needs for chinook
3. Restore and maintain a viable Nuuchahnulth and Area G WCVI commercial troll fishery

Now that Canada and the U.S. have reached this agreement in principle, Nuuchahnulth Nations will need to prepare for further consultations on this issue. An initial meeting with DFO on the agreement was held on July 11th, further discussion will take place at the July 30th/31st Council of Ha'wiih meeting at Anacla. Nuuchahnulth Nations and fishermen will need to evaluate whether their interests can be met by the proposed chinook agreement. For more information on the chinook agreement, please visit [www.uuathluk.ca/salmon\\_treaty0608.htm](http://www.uuathluk.ca/salmon_treaty0608.htm) or contact Don Hall at 724-5757 (dhall@nuuchahnulth.org) or Roger Dunlop at 283-2012 (rdunlop@nuuchahnulth.org).