



# Uu-a-thluk

## Taking Care Of

Volume 2 Issue 1  
Spring 2006

**Kyuquot**

**Nootka**

**Clayoquot**

**Barclay**

**Ditidaht**

**Pacheedaht**

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## THE NISMA PROJECT

The Nism'a Project began in January 2006, and for founders Gisele Martin and Doug Wright, the project is an opportunity to expose children to the land, have fun, and learn. "We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world," explains Gisele, owner and operator of Tla-ook Cultural Adventures. "It is important to be familiar with our environment in order to take care and manage it."

The Nism'a Project focuses on exposing Nuu-chah-nulth children to the natural world by taking them out onto the land to places with cultural significance. Martin, who is a member of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, uses these excursions to teach about the environment as things appear or happen in real time. "I want the children to come away with more knowledge of the area," said Martin, who has seen inspiring changes in the children who have participated. Reflecting one of her trips, where she was teaching the children how to tell the age of certain types of mosses in the forest, Gisele says, "at first while we were doing

it they all got grossed out and wondered why I was touching the moss, but then, on a later trip after a hike, they all flopped down on the same moss. It shows a real change in attitude."

Other changes in attitude Gisele has witnessed include overcoming fears of snakes, crickets, and other creatures. She teaches the participants the Nuu-chah-nulth names of plants and the significance of the different medicine, for which she has a passion. While growing up, Gisele would often bring plants to elders and ask what they are and how they are used.

The participants of the Nism'a Project include a core group of 30 children from 7-13 years of age from the Opitsaht and Long Beach areas. Gisele and her crew, who has included her partner Doug Wright, her father Joe Martin, her sister Tsimka Martin, and local scientists such as Barb Beasley, take 10 participants out every Sunday. The project occurs primarily from fall

through to spring, during the winter season when the kids don't get out very much. Grants from various organizations, which cover all the costs for the children to participate, have made the project possible.

"Culture is about the environment around us. The two cannot be separated. Our stories, songs, and family names are all based on the environment. It is just as important as our language," explains Gisele. "Being out in the wilderness has been the most stable thing in my life."

With her passion for the outdoors, her culture, and the future, Gisele is successfully making the wilderness a part of our children's lives as well.



Nism'a Project leaders and participants at Meares Island Tribal Park.

# NUU-CHAH-NULTH INITIATIVES

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

## WEST COAST VANCOUVER ISLAND (WCVI)

### GROUNDFISH INTEGRATION UPDATE

In November 2005, Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations proposed a Consultation Protocol to guide and track consultations to ensure they follow the rulings of the Supreme Court of Canada. Consultations regarding Groundfish Integration were one of the items under the Protocol. Nuu-chah-nulth and DFO were proceeding through the first several stages of the Consultative Protocol during the winter. In March, DFO announced it was likely to proceed with implementing the Groundfish Integration proposal, despite not having completed a major step of the Protocol: assessing the impacts of the proposal on Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations. Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations objected strongly to DFO's "urgency" for implementation, especially given that DFO had given industry three years to come up with the plan and was allowing only a few months to assess and accommodate Nuu-chah-nulth interests. On April 10, 2006, DFO officially announced that it was implementing the Commercial Industry Caucus' Groundfish Integration plan.

The Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations are of the view that the impacts of the proposal could be significant on their Title and Rights. Assessing the impacts of a proposal on Nuu-chah-nulth is a critical stage in the Consultative Protocol that was not reached before DFO decided to go ahead. Because DFO did not meet their court directed obligations to consult with Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations and did not follow through on their commitment to the Consultation Protocol, all 15 Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations (including Pacheedaht) have taken the issue to court, seeking judicial review of DFO's decision to proceed. If successful, DFO's decision could be set aside pending proper consultation with Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations.



### Species At Risk within Nuu-chah-nulth Territories

You've probably heard about rapid rates of species extinction on the news. An estimated 5 to 10% of all species are lost every year. It doesn't only happen in the tropics.

#### What can you do to help them recover?

- Learn as much as you can
- Reduce your impact on the planet
- Practice hishukish ts'awalk (everything is one) and iisaak (respect with caring)

Check out these websites:  
[www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca](http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca)  
[www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/)



#### Learn more from the "Species-at-Risk within Nuu-chah-nulth Territories Guide Book"

Coming to a community near you!

For more information contact:  
Mike Jacobs, NTC Fisheries Biologist @ 250-726-2455 or [mjacobs@nuuchahnulth.org](mailto:mjacobs@nuuchahnulth.org)

For more information on any of these projects contact [info@uuathluk.ca](mailto:info@uuathluk.ca) or Don Hall at 724.5757

# NUU-CHAH-NULTH INITIATIVES

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

### UU-A-THLUK WELCOMES SUMMER STUDENTS CHRISTINE ADAY AND SABRINA HALVERSON

Uu-a-thluk is excited to welcome Christine Aday and Sabrina Halverson to our staff this summer.

Christine Aday will be working as the Capacity Building Intern, helping increase Nuuchah-nulth participation in careers related to sea resources.

Christine has been attending the University of Victoria, working toward a Bachelors Degree of Science in Biology. With her studies and the practical experience she will gain through this summer position with Uu-a-thluk, she will be a step closer to reaching her dream job of becoming a fisheries biologist and to work for Nuuchah-nulth-aht.

As the Capacity Building intern Christine will be working on a job manual and completing an inventory of Nuuchah-nulth First Nation's Fisheries Departments resources. She'll also be getting out in the field with the regional fisheries biologists. "It is valuable because learning from books can only bring you so far. Experiential learning is deeper, remembered stronger and can be a more effective way of learning." Christine explains.

Through this position with Uu-a-thluk Christine will sit with elders who can help her meet her goals for traditional knowledge. "It is very important to know about our traditional fisheries so that when I work as a fisheries biologist I can bring that knowledge and respect with me and be more effective working for my communities," explains Christine.

Sabrina Halverson is thrilled to have the opportunity to continue to work with Uu-a-thluk and the regional biologists as a summer student this year. This past winter Sabrina worked with Uu-a-thluk Fisheries staff on a work practicum through Malaspina.

In April of this year, Sabrina completed her diploma in Fisheries and Aquaculture and plans on returning in September for another two years to receive her Bachelors of Science degree.

After arranging to do her course practicum with the NTC fisheries department, Sabrina spent every Friday of January through to April of 2005 working with the southern region fisheries biologist Jim Lane.



Christine Aday during Swift Water training.

"I hope to work a little more with the fisheries aspect [this summer] because I have worked with shellfish aquaculture for the past few summers. I am excited to visit new areas and learn more about fisheries in different communities," explained Sabrina.

"This summer Sabrina will get a much broader view of the type of work we do and will be working with the central and northern region biologists (Mike Jacobs and Roger Dunlop," states Jim Lane, southern region biologist for Uu-a-thluk. "Uu-a-thluk tries to expose summer students to a broad range of fisheries resource experiences."

The types of projects Sabrina can look forward to this summer include Henderson and Kennedy Lake sockeye assessments, sea otter counts, sea lice sampling in Clayoquot and Nootka sounds, Somass sockeye and chinook fisheries planning, and clam stock assessments in southern, central and northern regions.



Sabrina Halverson.

"I believe that it is important for Nuuchah-nulth to be in this line of work [resource management] so we can be more involved with our natural resources. Knowing more about fisheries will benefit the community, the environment, and also provide important information which can be used to protect and enhance our

natural resources and ensure future progress in our wild populations," explained Sabrina.

Christine and Sabrina are great examples of Nuuchah-nulth working towards taking their rightful role as managers of our sea resources.

# NUU-CHAH-NULTH STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT FISHERIES CAREERS



## 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, Ehattesaht, Mowachaht/Muchatlaht, Hesquiaht, Ahousaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Ucluelet, Toquaht, Uchucklesaht, Tseshaht, 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.

### Secretariat:

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 October 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

Forty-four students and ten chaperones attended a two-day event promoting fisheries careers and business opportunities available to

Nuu-chah-nulth. Sponsored by Uu-a-thluk, the field trip included grade 9-12 students from Kyuquot, Zeballos, and Maaqtusiis Schools.

Gathering in Nanoose First Nation territory on March 22, students and chaperones began with a tour of a commercially run smokehouse owned and operated by Ahousaht member, Edith Fred. Next, Randy Fred of Tseshaht gave a presentation about seafood business opportunities. Following the presentation, students took part in activities with a marine biology theme led by DFO Education Coordinator, Christy Wilson. Over dinner they listened to Penny White, a UBC fisheries graduate student from the Tsimshian Nation. White talked about the kinds of careers available and why they're important to First Nation students. "This is life fulfilling work," she said.

The second day of the trip, students gathered at Malaspina

University College for Aboriginal Student Day. Touring the Fisheries and Aquaculture department, they heard from Johnnie Manson

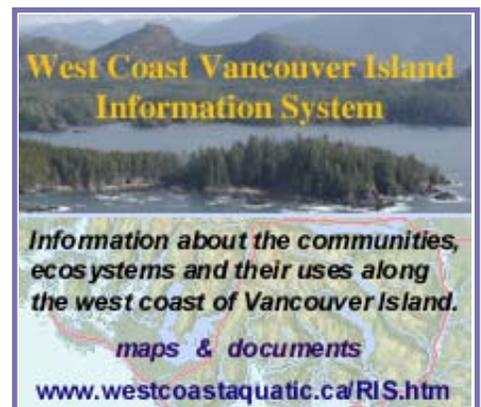
of Tla-o-qui-aht, who created and delivered a presentation about working in the shellfish industry. Along with a fellow student, Manson told the visitors how important shellfish production is to coastal

communities.

Students also heard from Dr. Rosalin Hanna, Coordinator of student services from UBC's First Nations House of Learning. Said Kirsten of Zeballos School, "I liked Dr. Hanna because she looks and sounds like a woman in charge. She is very empowering and inspired me not to compare myself to others because I can do just as well or better."



DFO Education Coordinator Christy Wilson talks to students about the marine food web.



## FROM THE SEA

p̓uuʔi • Halibut



nism̓a • Land/Earth



caʔinwa • Goose Barnacles

