



KYUQUOT SHELLFISH CONDITIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Kyuquot

Nootka

Clayoquot

Barclay

Ditidaht

Pacheedaht

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Environment Canada routinely tests the quality of sea water where shellfish are harvested in commercial and recreational fisheries. In some areas of B.C., water quality testing has revealed the presence of fecal coliforms. A Conditional Management Plan (CMP) is a program of intensive water quality monitoring testing to open shellfish areas for harvesting while continuing to monitor water quality. A good CMP can also enhance resource productivity and improve shellfish management while reflecting the conditions and cycles responsible for an increased fecal coliform concentration.



Clam sale in February.

The CMP agreement between Kyuquot/Checlesht First Nations (KCFN), Environment Canada, DFO and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has made it possible for KCFN clam diggers to harvest in their territory for the first time since closure of area 26 took place in 2004 due to water quality issues. The closure was implemented after findings of high fecal coliform bacteria (associated with mammal feces) in the marine water during Environment Canada's bi-annual sampling. However, the local community believed that the year-round closure was not reflective of the general water quality in the area, especially given the remoteness of Kyuquot Sound and the lack of

large population centers nearby. Fecal coliform is a bacterium from the fecal material of warm-blooded animals that can contain pathogens and disease.

Based on traditional ecological knowledge, Nuu-chah-nulth believe that shellfish harvest should happen in the winter months, but testing took place twice per year during fall and spring, when there was the heaviest rain after drier periods. This provided highest potential for water run-off to bring animal waste into the water. Most Nuu-chah-nulth in the area would know better than to eat shellfish after a major rainfall.

In this case, Environment Canada lacked money to explore the community's concerns by doing additional water sampling in the winter. The KCFN Fisheries department was willing to provide the funding and the human resources to conduct additional testing to see if some clam harvesting was possible. Collaboration between the KCFN, Simon Fraser University, and Environment Canada developed that enabled training and sampling. A protocol was developed with Environment Canada to work jointly with the Kyuquot fisheries crew. After testing every two weeks, the water was found to be safe in the winter with spikes of fecal coliform bacteria counts during the fall and spring.

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KYUQUOT SHELLFISH CONDITIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN CONT...

The Conditional Management Plan was developed in partnership between the Kyuquot/Checlesheht First Nations, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), DFO, Environment Canada, and the provincial Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. The CMP lays out what beaches are open for fisherman to harvest according to regular water quality and clam meat sampling results. Currently community members can harvest from 3 beaches in the area; it is hoped that other beaches will potentially be opened by this coming April.

“The real benefit is that it allows the community increased control in the management of the resource,” states Kevin Head, KCFN Manager. There was a lot of effort on the part of the KCFN to bring the Conditional Management Plan to fruition. Kyuquot/Checlesheht, along with the NTC and Environment Canada, contributed to the initial microbial bacterial source tracking research conducted by Katie Beach. Kyuquot/Checlesheht also funded the sample gathering at a cost of up to \$2,000 for each sample run. “That money turns into about \$10,000 in income per dig for community members” states Head, “That is a good investment.”

With very few other fishing opportunities in the area, the Conditional Management Plan is also benefiting the community in many other ways. Sales of clams in the winter months are important to Kyuquot/Checlesheht members with limited opportunities to make money in the winter. “It is critical income for members to get through the winter,” says Head “Other than one commercial salmon fisherman, KCFN members are shut out of every other fishery.” The clam fishery doesn’t require a big boat or a lot of equipment to participate. “A lot of people have no boats or cars to go to another area to dig,” said Tony Hanson, Kyuquot/Checlesheht Fisheries Department Manger, “they are happy to get out there.”

diggers are getting full price for their harvest, where typically one would lose some percentage per pound if digs take place under depuration. “There is overhead for the sampling work,” states Kevin Head, “but it is less than what it would cost to lease a beach from the Province, or losing a percentage from a depuration dig.”

With 60 licenses within the community, harvesters have taken a total of 15,000 pounds of clams since the beginning of January. “Compliance with the plan is good,” states Hanson, “mostly it gets people out in their own area, and they don’t have to travel to another place to dig.”



Danny Short with clams

“We are hoping to get other areas open,” stated Hanson, “One more tide in Amai Inlet and we won’t be able to dig. There are two other beaches to hopefully open if the samples are clean.” The process of rotating beaches helps to encourage healthy beaches, when they are given a chance to rejuvenate.

The Conditional Management Plan is working in Kyuquot Sound, but it isn’t perfect. They do feel limited to the approved areas of harvest. “It is a new process and a learning curve for our fisheries department,” states Head. “We need to work on who to communicate with and build trust with in Environment Canada, CFIA and DFO. It is not insurmountable but we are still working the bugs out of the system.”

The Conditional Management Plan model is a good example for all west coast communities as Nuu-chah-nulth become aware of water quality closures affecting their communities. “They might look at how the Kyuquot/Checlesheht First Nation is handling this so far,” says Head “and see if it looks like something that will work for them.” Kyuquot/Checlesheht is working to prove that no challenge is insurmountable and a community can take the responsibility in managing their own resources and finding solutions.

Through the Conditional Management Plan,

NUU-CHAH-NULTH INITIATIVES

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

WEST COAST VANCOUVER ISLAND (WCVI)

GROUND FISH INTEGRATION UPDATE

The Nuu-chah-nulth have challenged the Groundfish Integration Plan on the basis that there was not proper consultation with Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations. The hearing for the Judicial Review of the Groundfish Integration Plan is set for May 15th and 16th in Vancouver, with a judgment expected this summer.

WILD SALMON POLICY

The Aquatic Management Board has released a draft WCVI Salmon Strategy for comment. It is posted at www.westcoastaquatic.ca or phone 250-720-6815 for a copy. Comments are welcome by the end of April. The Uu-a-thluk Joint Technical Working Group is developing workplans for parts of the strategy. West Coast Vancouver Island sockeye and chinook stocks are priorities for revitalization.

CLAM LICENCE TRANSFERABILITY AND SUB-AREA LICENCING

DFO is interested in making commercial clam licences (Z2s) transferable, and the Clam Management Board is looking for feedback regarding a proposal to limit all WCVI clam licences to sub-areas (Clayoquot, Nootka, etc.). Nuu-chah-nulth and DFO agreed to discuss these issues under the steps outlined by their Consultation Protocol.

DFO has provided initial information about the proposal, Nuu-chah-nulth have asked questions to get more information about both proposals, and recently DFO responded to the questions. The next step will be for Nuu-chah-nulth to solicit additional input from the communities and to respond to the proposals.

FOOD AND CEREMONIAL FISHING

Herring were so few this winter that Nuu-chah-nulth Ha'wiih and Chiefs collectively decided not to allow any harvesting in their territories. Some Chiefs requested herring from Georgia Strait, making arrangements with the First Nation Marine Society. A DFO employee did not allow it, saying it was against DFO's "adjacency principle." This was the same reason used to try to stop Nuu-chah-nulth from accessing sockeye last summer

from the Johnstone Strait area. Uu-a-thluk staff contacted DFO and questioned their application of this principle without first having consulted Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations about it. DFO agreed to allow Nuu-chah-nulth to receive the herring. Uu-a-thluk staff will be working with DFO to ensure this kind of disruption does not happen again and that reasonable guidelines are developed.

UU-A-THLUK & THE WCVI AQUATIC MANAGEMENT SOCIETY ARE TEAMING UP TO SEND NUU-CHAH-NULTH YOUTH TO SCIENCE CAMP

Summer camp is a great place for kids to learn about themselves, their environment, and their culture. We are asking you to sponsor a child to attend the Science Venture Camp. One hundred percent of your tax-deductible donation will be used to cover the costs of a Nuu-chah-nulth youth attending the camp.

If you can't afford a full sponsorship, even a small donation will help!

For more information, visit:

www.uuathluk.ca/NCNsciencecamp.htm

For more information on any of these projects contact info@uuathluk.ca or Don Hall at 724-5757

FOSTERING BUSINESS SUCCESS FOR NUU-CHAH-NULTH



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, Ehattesah, Mowachaht/Muchatlaht, Hesquiaht, Ahousah, Tla-o-qui-aht, Ucluelet, Toquaht, Uchucklesah, Tsesah, Hupacasah, 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.

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Next Uu-a-thluk Council of Ha'wiih meeting is scheduled for June 2007, dates to be announced.

hasaamac • crab



Establishing a mobile business incubator for Nuu-chah-nulth communities has been one of the focuses for Randy Fred, Economic Development Coordinator for Uu-a-thluk.

The purpose of a business incubator is to provide new businesses with the support and resources they need in order to become successful and flourish. A conventional business incubator is made up of several businesses housed within one building. This model would be too expensive and would not meet the needs of Nuu-chah-nulth communities. That is why Randy Fred from Uu-a-thluk has been working on establishing a mobile business incubator. Unlike the conventional model, the mobile option allows remote communities such as those within Nuu-chah-nulth territory to access professional business advisors and receive support and resources without leaving their communities. The plan is to have these advisors travel to each community as well as use some kind of conferencing technology to help Nuu-chah-nulth shellfish operators.

Uu-a-thluk is working on establishing a partnership with Malaspina University-College and the Centre for Shellfish Research to conduct three community assessments and to ultimately establish a mobile business incubator. "Malaspina University-College's Centre for Continuing Studies is honoured to be working closely with the Nuu-chah-nulth to investigate business incubation needs and training possibilities," said Sara-Jane Brocklehurst, Administrative Coordinator for

the Centre for Continuing Studies. "Our aim in this partnership is to help provide appropriate and required training, as determined through the assessments, and to help Nuu-chah-nulth enterprises realize success and longevity their endeavours."

This partnership between Uu-a-thluk and Malaspina will benefit an already established collaboration between Uu-a-thluk and the Nuu-chah-nulth Seafood Development Corporation (NSDC) along with Nuu-chah-nulth communities. "It is vitally important to re-establish local economy that sustains each of the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations. To this end it is equally important that Nuu-chah-nulth nations establish viable businesses and promote, support and nurture Nuu-chah-nulth entrepreneurs. Having been severely restricted by the Indian act over the past 150 years has created a dependency that must be severed. Having the ability to participate in the local, regional, national and ultimately international economy we will need the support of programs like the business incubator model being developed" explains Tom Mexsis Happynook, chair of the NSDC. "By bringing all the Nuu-chah-nulth economic opportunities together under one umbrella we can and will again be an economic engine in our respective regions. The business incubator concept is an important piece of the economic puzzle.

The assessment team will work closely with Nuu-chah-nulth communities to develop a training strategy. Some options are on-the-job and course enrolment.