

Uu-a-thluk Strategic Plan

Whereas:

- (1) Nuu-chah-nulth Ha'wiih are grateful for the gifts of the Creator and recognize our responsibility to watch over and care for those gifts and the health of our Ha-ha-houlthee.
- (2) Nuu-chah-nulth Ha'wiih are committed to uphold our responsibility and ensure the inherent health and wealth of our Ha-ha-houlthee for generations to come.
- (3) Nuu-chah-nulth Ha'wiih respect each other's Ha-houlthee, and recognize the importance of working cooperatively with each other to ensure that all natural species, habitat, and people in our Ha-ha-houlthee are cared for and respected.
- (4) Nuu-chah-nulth Ha'wiih recognize that there are other governments, bodies and people working within and outside our Ha-ha-houlthee, and that it is important to work cooperatively with them to ensure that all species, habitat, and people in our Ha-ha-houlthee are cared for and respected.
- (5) Nuu-chah-nulth Ha'wiih are guided by the principle of *hishukish ts'awalk* (everything is one), which embodies sacredness and respect for the many forms that life takes.

Therefore:

The Ha'wiih are establishing this Strategic Plan to provide guidance and direction in moving towards our collective vision and goals.

Our Vision

Our Ha-ha-houlthee are managed sustainably for future generations, consistent with Nuu-chah-nulth knowledge and values. Our healthy, abundant resources help us meet our food, ceremonial and societal needs, including providing an economic base to our communities.

Our Principles

Our Ha-ha-Houlthee will be managed consistent with the principle of Hishukish Ts'awalk (everything is one). This principle embodies sacredness and lisaak (respect with caring). Nothing is isolated from other aspects of life surrounding it and within it. This concept is the basis for respect of nature, and also contributes to a value system that promotes the need to be totally conscious of our actual needs and not to be wasteful. A belief in the spirituality and sacredness of life and the earth, and in a oneness between humans and the environment, brings respect for other life forms.

Our Goals

1. Protect, rehabilitate, and maintain clean water, air, soil, and sunlight.
2. Build a strong Nuu-chah-nulth culture, including a clear understanding of and respect for spirituality, values, principles, language, teachings, traditions, and roles and responsibilities.
3. Ensure secure access to healthy resources within our Ha-ha-houlthee for sustenance, cultural, and economic purposes.
4. Build individual and community capacity.
5. Build partnerships based on a clear sense of roles and responsibilities with others who can help achieve these goals.

Our Priorities

Based on our understanding of what produces healthy and wealthy communities, our fundamental priorities are:

- Respect for and understanding Naas.
- Ensuring clean water, air, soil, and sunlight for all species.
- Having the attitude, self-respect, skills, teachings, and support to convert information and experiences (soil) into sources of growth and fulfillment.
- Ensuring secure access to healthy resources (root).
- Maintaining a strong understanding of values and principles, language, teachings, traditions and customs (root).
- Having a clear sense of roles and responsibilities as part of a community/nation (root).
- Developing strong relationships with other communities, organizations, and nations (root).

Taking care of these priorities will lead to the growth of:

- governance (decision-making, administration, management, rules and laws, justice, distributing wealth and opportunities).
- economics (harvesting, guiding, supplying, processing, marketing, selling, trading, distributing, financing).
- cultural expression (diet and health, games and recreation, education, art, music, dance, stories, theatre, entertainment, ceremonies and practices).

We recognize the challenges we face with our communities. There are many immediate issues, opportunities, and crises in relation to governance, economics, and cultural expression, and so it is easy to lose sight of our fundamental priorities. We will have to work hard to stay focused on our fundamental priorities while also taking care of things that are continually happening around us.

The more we work at our fundamentals, the easier it will be to Chart our own Course to deal with what comes our way.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 1: Protect, rehabilitate, and maintain clean water, air, soil, and sunlight

Develop pro-active plans that make sure things do not get overharvested or polluted
Develop a 'Nuu-chah-nulth Fisheries Plan' for litigation implementation
Produce a picture of salmon health in the area, and improve assessment
Develop rockfish conservation or closed areas where needed, without impairing food, social, and ceremonial harvesting
Undertake watershed rehabilitation or enhancement projects
Monitor sea lice from fish farms
Water quality and clam harvest management: conditional management plans and depuration fishery plans
Continue looking at enforcement options for First Nations
Gather information and values about important areas to conserve using traditional knowledge

Negotiate agreements and protocols
Negotiate protocols and agreements that ensure clean air, water, and soil with Federal and Provincial governments (see below under 'Develop Relationships With Others'), and with industry

Document traditional and current use activities across the Ha-ha-houlthee to help protect resources (see below under same title under Secure Access)
Document for the Ha'wiih what resources we are using and how much for future reference to manage better and prove that Nuu-chah-nulth actively harvest resources for food and economic purposes; (see below under same title under Secure Access)

Goal 2: Build a strong Nuu-chah-nulth culture, including a clear understanding of and respect for spirituality, values, principles, language, teachings, traditions, customs, and roles and responsibilities.

<p>Cultural immersion: Build every-day understanding and practice of governance, traditions and culture</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce language learning materials and incorporate language into all Uu-a-thluk publications ('sea creatures' website and cd-rom, labels, defining words and sentences, etc.) • Increase the usage of Nuu-chah-nulth language throughout Uu-a-thluk activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview elders, research and produce materials (posters, booklets, website text, etc) that define, explain and teach about traditions and culture related to aquatic resources, and how they might be used in a modern context.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce a cookbook with Nuu-chah-nulth recipes for traditional foods (COMPLETE), and other materials (posters, etc.) that promote eating traditional foods. • Introduce and promote the positive health aspects of eating seafood to youth. • Provide instruction on how to preserve seafoods (e.g. canning, smoking, drying).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview elders, research and produce materials (posters, booklets, website text, etc) that define, explain and teach about governance • Create awareness around Ha'wiih, hupakwanum, Ha-houlthee and the Court Case • Identify which of the Ha'wiih in the Litigation [Court Case] are willing to exhibit our curtains as a Nuu-chah-nulth form of documentation-- it demonstrates aboriginal title, landmarks, and boundaries. • Redefining and creating resource management roles (e.g., tsa-tsa-thluk stream keepers)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with a Tye Ha'wilth and have meetings in their community; • Attend an Uu-a-thluk potluck in different communities, bringing traditional food. • Provide support to Ha'wiih who wish to build our houses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice what we talk about: LIVE culture today, not just talk about how culture used to be, but to practice it every day

Include more cultural components into Council Meetings

- Introduce and explain traditional seating and practices
- Use and teach language
- Perform songs and dances
- Help Ha'wiih develop and display blankets
- Invite youth
- Invite Elders to the meetings, and listen from them information about what is going on
- Explain various roles and responsibilities in a House
- Explain role and importance of spirituality
- Work towards a 'living experience' of an annual feast where traditional governance is practiced.
- Need to practice Ha'wilt patuk Hawiihuk nuuchahnulth-aht. "Governing our Chief" at Council of Ha'wiih meetings.
- Need to invite Ha'wiih, our ah'ii'apit [advisors], the tikawilt and speaker for Chief to a Council of Ha'wiih meeting.

Cultural immersion: Get more people out on the land

- Share information about how different First Nations are doing this.
- Help people within First Nations who are interested in organizing field trips or outdoor clubs that pass on knowledge of fishing areas, timing and species, show ceremonies that should be done for different species of fish, and increasing spiritual respect of the land and resources.
- Focus on youth for field trips and cultural immersion activities.
- Knowledge sharing between youth and elders around fisheries and sea resources (species, timing, locations). Visits to fishing stations/locations.
- Building life-skills for youth by passing on traditional knowledge to live on the land and use sea resources (e.g., elders teaching youth language and skills, like preserving upskwii)
- Look at best practices that are successful at bringing elders, youth, and scientists together to talk about different sea resources and methods for learning;

Goal 3: Ensure secure access to healthy resources within Ha-ha-houlthee for sustenance, cultural, and economic purposes now and in the future.

<p>Community Aquatic Opportunities Strategy</p> <p>Implement litigation: smaller community-based and communal fisheries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at mosquito fleets and license splitting opportunities. • Employ traditional (selective) harvesting techniques such as weirs and traps in terminal fisheries. <p>Increase capacity for existing licenses and tenures and set realistic priorities for training and investment in new community fisheries, aquaculture, tourism and other aquatic opportunities</p> <p>Promote recognition of the need to have access to a wide range of species and catch, due to changing abundances and types of fish. Consider the needs of expanding communities and ensure access for future Nuu-chah-nulth.</p> <p>Support mechanisms to develop shellfish aquaculture and processing and marketing of fisheries products further.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage commitment to participate • Help research ways to establish a coordinated buyer for Nuu-chah-nulth fisheries and aquaculture products in the region
<p>Legal Strategy</p> <p>Continue with litigation case implementation</p> <p>Pursue injunctions to stop harmful policies or developments, when necessary and there is a strong case</p>
<p>Negotiation Strategy</p> <p>Negotiate protocols and agreements regarding access to sea resources with governments (see below under ‘Develop Relationships With Others’), and with industry</p>
<p>Increase knowledge and use of trade and barter</p> <p>Provide information to all First Nations on what species a First Nation has and can trade, as a way to increase awareness for trading.</p> <p>Incorporate trade and barter into Council meetings and/or annual feast</p> <p>Research trade and barter systems and website</p> <p>Increase knowledge in youth to give them cultural awareness that supports trade and barter</p>

Establish markets and a trading mechanism for traditional foods through protocols for trade and bartering to be established among Nations. Mutual respect must prevail in all transactions. It is important to understand and respect traditional protocols with trade and barter.

Document traditional and current use activities across the Ha-ha-houlthee to help protect our Title and Rights of Access

- Mapping Place Names that have been collected by First Nations into a central place and encourage usage. And use signage to increase awareness and assert rights around resource use in a specific place
- Integrating Nuu-chah-nulth place names in resource management

Individual First Nations gather all cultural and traditional information available and enter into a centralized information system to use in the referral process and in developing pro-active plans.

- a. Document elders knowledge before it disappears,
- b. Interview fishermen and resource users
- c. Use fishermen's logs and other information
- d. Uncover all reports, journals, articles (Spanish and English)
- e. Access all archaeological information or request new studies if needed
- f. Historical records (e.g., TUS studies, archives, photographs)

Document for the Ha'wiih what resources we are using and how much for future reference to manage better and prove that Nuu-chah-nulth actively harvest resources for food and economic purposes;

Identify priority areas for access in each Ha-houlthee (fishing, aquaculture, and other activities)

Identify priority areas to expand to other species and growing areas as required in each territory.

Goal 4: Build individual and community capacity

Develop School Curriculum
Develop curriculum to implement in schools to balance traditional knowledge with western education
Training
Financial management training
Building skills in the community through mentoring. For example, matching business owners with youth
Training for employment opportunities in the communities specific for First Nations needs.
Increase administration skills through training in the community (proposal writing, email, fax)
Build awareness around what opportunities are available, such as kayaking, hiking and other tourism activities.
Educate all community members about Aboriginal Rights to fish.
Activities to help build self-esteem and confidence for youth and awareness of the importance of training for building skills.

Goal 5: Build partnerships based on a clear sense of roles and responsibilities with others who can help achieve these goals

Internal Uu-a-thluk Business

Create an inventory of protocols or practices describing how elected Councils work with hereditary Chiefs.

Define general process for how Council of Ha'wiih will work

Identify ways to incorporate hishukish ts'awalk and build strong linkages between resource sectors or inter-governmental departments (Get different departments to work together to integrate their strategic plans around Ha'wiih's priorities)

Set short, medium and long term targets that will help us measure success and evaluate whether our strategies are effective

Negotiate Protocols

Develop Protocols with other First Nations in BC or Washington.

Develop a framework or protocols for consultation/shared management with the Federal and Provincial governments. Individual First Nations can choose to take and tailor, work collectively, or use a system they already have. Some may need help.

Promote traditional ecological knowledge

Work to integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge into decisions, demonstrate its use, keep building acceptance of TEK as a valid form of knowledge. Use traditional knowledge to assist in resource management because we need to play a role in re-balancing certain wildlife and marine mammals, e.g. sea otters.

Information Sharing

Information sharing with other BC First Nations (e.g., best management practices, negotiations)

Participation in Advisory Processes

Appointments to West Coast Aquatic, with outline of roles and relationships between the organizations and reporting back

Appointments to various fisheries advisory processes; outline of roles and relationships between the organizations; reporting back