

Uu-a-thluk

Taking Care Of

Makah Success an Example for Nuu-chah-nulth

When Uu-a-thluk (NTC) Fisheries Program Manager Don Hall first saw the large number of boats in Neah Bay this past June, he thought the Makah Nation leased out marina space to non-native recreational and commercial fishermen. Then he learned otherwise. The boats were actually the Makah fishing fleet. Hall was impressed.

“Here’s a pretty isolated coastal Nation that has developed their fisheries access that they won initially through the court into an important part of their economy,” said Hall. “The potential is there for Nuu-chah-nulth to do the same kind of thing here on the west coast of Vancouver Island.”

Looking at the Makah success was part of the reason Hall and former NTC president Francis Frank visited the small town of Neah Bay on Washington’s Olympic Peninsula for two days last June. In addition to being the southernmost Nuu-chah-nulth Nation, the Makah Nation is demonstrating what is possible when the courts uphold Aboriginal rights and title, creating access to sea resources.

Just over thirty years ago, the Makah were in a very different situation. Although their original treaty signed with the State of Washington in 1855 said the Makah reserved the right to fish, the state continued to limit their access to salmon. In a landmark ruling known as the Boldt Decision, the court affirmed the Makah right to harvest.

“The Boldt decision thirty years ago was the start of it,” said Hall. “The Makah have built on the Boldt decision and have structured their governance with their Tribal Council and their Fisheries Program to help

support, maintain and increase their participation in the seafood economy.”

In addition to strengthening the cultural and family ties that the Makah share with Nuu-chah-nulth, Hall and Frank made the trip to Neah Bay to see how Nuu-chah-nulth relatives to the south structured their economy post-litigation victory. Given the pending trial in the Nuu-chah-nulth fisheries litigation, there are many parallels.

“Makah are a model for Nuu-chah-nulth to look at now and into the future,” said Hall. Given that the Makah currently harvest an area much smaller than the Nuu-chah-nulth’s traditional fishing grounds, the potential is there for Nuu-chah-nulth harvesters.

Greeted by Ryland Bowe chop, Tourism and Economic Development Planner for the Makah Nation, Hall and Frank then met with the Makah Tribal Council Vice Chair Debbie Wachendorf, Micah McCarty, and Tim Green.

In a meeting with Chief Judge Jean Vitalis, Hall and Frank learned about the Makah tribal court, a separate justice system dealing specifically with fisheries and other infractions on-reserve. They also met with Russ Svec and spoke with Steve Joner, both from the Makah Fisheries Program.

On the second day, Hall and Frank met formally with members of the Makah Tribal Council, including Chairman Ben Johnson, to talk about how the two Nations could work together. Issues discussed included business relationships with seafood companies, generating revenue to maintain fisheries programs, business

Kyuquot

Nootka

Clayoquot

Barclay

Ditidaht

Pacheedaht

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NUU-CHAH-NULTH INITIATIVES

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

Pacific Salmon Treaty

Canada and the U.S. are currently renegotiating several Chapters and Annexes of the Pacific Salmon Treaty due to expire in 2008. Of particular relevance to Nuu-chah-nulth Nations is the Chinook Annex. The U.S. has proposed three options for renegotiation that would potentially reduce the harvest of Chinook by Canadian fisheries, and in particular the Area G salmon troll fishery on the west coast of Vancouver Island

(WCVI). The NTC and Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District have written to DFO Regional Director General and Chair of the Canadian Commissioners Paul Sprout to convey to Canada the west coast interest in protecting and rebuilding our west coast troll fleet. NTC President and staff met with Paul MacGillivray (DFO Associate RDG and lead negotiator for Canada on the Chinook Annex) in June to discuss the status of the

negotiations and convey the Nuu-chah-nulth interest that Canada needs to maintain and rebuild the WCVI fishery and express concerns about the potential impact of the three U.S. options on Nuu-chah-nulth fishermen and Nuu-chah-nulth access to salmon. NTC Executive and staff will meet again with DFO in early November for continued dialogue on the renegotiation of the Chinook Annex.

Clam License Transferability and Sub-area Licensing

DFO is interested in making commercial clam licences (Z2s) transferable. Following initial discussions under the DFO's Consultation Protocol, Uu-a-thluk requested input from

communities and individuals and further discussed clam licence transferability with DFO. After considering different options, Uu-a-thluk decided full market transferability does not meet

Nuu-chah-nulth interests and would not address problems in the clam fishery. Uu-a-thluk has requested further meetings with DFO to explore other options.

Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI)

DFO recently announced funding to increase First Nations access to licences and quota. The Nuu-

chah-nulth Seafood Development Corporation is working with Uu-a-thluk and individual nations to

develop a comprehensive business plan so that Nuu-chah-nulth can benefit from the program.

Crab Reform

DFO is proposing changes to the way it manages Dungeness crab resources, seeking to move from a system focused on the needs of the commercial sector to one that puts more emphasis on First Nation's and recreational crab fisheries. Although there are

many difficulties facing the reform process, it presents an opportunity for Nuu-chah-nulth to have significant influence on how the crab fishery will be managed in the future. For this to happen, Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations must take a leadership role and build

productive relationships with the recreational and commercial sectors and DFO. Success in the crab reform process can lead to success in creating positive changes for Nuu-chah-nulth in other fisheries.

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

Collaboration Builds Success for Ash River

The Ash River Restoration Working Group (ARRWG) is proving that collaboration builds success. After years of struggling to obtain funding independently from BC Hydro's Bridge Coastal Restoration Program (BCRP), local governments and stakeholders decided to work together. Forming the ARRWG in 2004, the partners have leveraged over \$500,000 in the past three years for restoration work in the Somass watershed.



A view of Elsie Lake reservoir, which is no longer accessible to salmon and steelhead.

Among other river systems, the Somass River watershed includes the Ash, which is home to populations of Steelhead, Coho, Chinook and Sockeye. Back in the 1950's, a hydroelectric dam cut off salmon and Steelhead access to Elsie Lake and the upper Ash River. The project's power requirements also resulted in reduced flows in the Ash River below the dam, which reduced fish habitat and limited the ability of salmon and steelhead to get over Laternman Falls and Dickson Falls.

In the 1990s, BC Hydro established the Bridge Coastal Restoration Program (BCRP) to help repair and restore fish and wildlife affected by hydroelectric developments like the Ash River dam. From 1999 to 2004, the Hupacasath First Nation, the Provincial Ministry of the Environment (MOE), the BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF) and the Alberni Valley submitted several proposals to the BCRP for the Ash River. Most were rejected because the proponents couldn't show comprehensive community support.

Seeing many common interests around the restoration of the watershed, Uu-a-thluk Fisheries Biologist Jim Lane suggested forming a working group to collaboratively develop funding proposals. In July of 2004, the Hupacasath contacted local enhancement groups, the Aquatic Management

Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), MOE and BCCF. By the fall of 2004, the ARRWG was in action.

The goal of the ARRWG is to work together to develop proposals for the restoration of fish and their habitat in the Ash River system. All project proposals are reviewed by the group and submitted to BCRP with Hupacasath as the project administrator.

Since adopting this collaborative approach, over 85% of the ARRWG's proposals have been successful in obtaining BCRP funds. In the three years since its inception, the ARRWG has pioneered feasibility studies, fish habitat restoration projects, and salmon distribution research. Trevor Jones, Executive Director of the Hupacasath First Nation, is excited about the ARRWG's success. "All parties began to work together in an incremental way," he said, "working on areas of agreement and shared interest."

Not only does the ARRWG collaboration allow the Hupacasath to work with biologists at a technical level, it demonstrates long-term changes in the ways of doing business. The collaboration has been so successful, BC Hydro hopes to replicate the ARRWG model to other areas of the province.

"We call what is happening with the ARRWG the 'Ash model'," says Andrew McDonald, Acting Program Manager for BC Hydro, Fish and Wildlife, BCRP Program. "The idea of the ARRWG is that when a project comes forward, we know all parties have sat down and prioritized the best project. Everyone signs one letter and all projects are supported 100%. There is no competing applications and the result has been a real turnaround."

In the year since its inception the Ash River working group collaboration generated over \$500,000 in funding for restoration work.

Makah Success an Example

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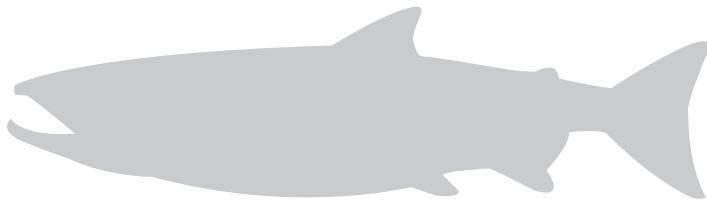
and political relationships with fishermen, and more. The two Nations also discussed the sharing of technical information such as data and genetic samples. "We felt it was important to share our science with our family," said Ryland Bowechop.

Hall and Frank concluded the trip with a visit to the Makah Museum, "a very impressive exhibition," according to Hall. But what struck him most of all were the numbers. Out of the approximate 2000 people living in the small town of Neah Bay, over 150 were earning at least part of their living from the sea.

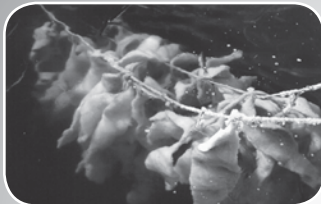
Said Ryland Bowechop of those numbers: "Our management schemes are deeply rooted in science and the knowledge of our ancestors. While the American fleets

continue to dwindle, we're able to add because we use the best science available and the knowledge that's been handed down to us."

For Hall, the trip to Neah Bay reinforced that Nuuchah-nulth are on the right track. "There are steps that Nuuchah-nulth are taking," he said. "Fisheries litigation, negotiating agreements with Canada, taking advantage of program opportunities that come up, protecting habitat so that there can be access, trying to retain the knowledge that Nuuchah-nulth fishermen have to pass on to younger generations: all these steps are currently being taken by the Council of Ha'wiih and the First Nations. Seeing the Makah example shows that these can work."



From the Sea



kwáqmísi/siihmuu
Herring Row



tií'úup
Octopus



ʕaamiq
Horse Clam



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, 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.

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

Uu-a-thluk Secretariat
P.O. Box 1383
Port Alberni, B.C.
V9Y 7M2
Ph: 250.724.5757
Fax: 250.724.2172
Email:
info@uuathluk.ca

Next Uu-a-thluk Council of Ha'wiih meeting is scheduled for January 2008, dates to be announced.