

# *Uu-a-thluk*

Taking Care Of

## **Nuu-chah-nulth Work for Change to West Coast Chinook Management**

***Kyuquot***

***Nootka***

***Clayoquot***

***Barclay***

***Nitinat***

***San Juan***



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Before Canada and the U.S. ratified the Chinook Annex of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) in late December of 2008, the Uu-a-thluk Council of Ha'wiih met twice with Canada's lead negotiator to present Nuuchahnulth interests. In July the Council of Ha'wiih adopted seven interests that the Ha'wiih and their representatives requested be jointly developed between Uu-a-thluk and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) for the benefit of the Nuuchahnulth fishermen and communities who would be affected by the revised Chinook Annex.

DFO Associate Regional Director, Paul MacGillivray, received the recommendations and subsequently met with NTC leadership, Uu-a-thluk, and DFO staff to move the interests forward. One concern is ensuring WCVI chinook stocks left in the water by the 15% reduction in the southeast Alaskan troll fishery are not caught in Northern B.C. "A driving force in the negotiations

for Canada was the low status of chinook returns on the WCVI," said Uu-a-thluk Program Manager Don Hall. "Canada negotiated a 15% reduction from Southeast Alaska. Now we're trying to make sure those fish make it back to their west coast Vancouver Island streams of origin."

To help those fish with their journey, Hall, Errol Sam, and Roger Dunlop met with MacGillivray and DFO North Coast Fisheries Manager Dave Einarson in January. "There will be an exchange of information between DFO North Coast staff and Uu-a-thluk staff pre-season and in-season so that we can be sure that WCVI chinook are passing through the northern commercial and recreational fisheries," Hall said.

Another opportunity with the Chinook Agreement is a \$30 million mitigation package intended to compensate for the agreement's 30% reduction in chinook harvest imposed on WCVI troll fishermen. Said Hall: "The \$30M will likely

# NUU-CHAH-NULTH INITIATIVES UPDATES

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

### PACIFIC INTEGRATED COMMERCIAL FISHERIES INITIATIVE (PICFI)

Seven Nuu-chah-nulth Nations (Kyuquot/Checlesaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, Hesquiaht, Huu-ay-aht, Ditidaht, Uchucklesaht, and Pacheedaht) are the first in the province to receive funding for their proposal to develop a collective business plan under PICFI. Working with the Nuu-chah-nulth Seafood Development Corporation (NSDC), the Nations have received \$55,000 through a contribution agreement with DFO to develop the business plan and a complementary training plan. Independent contractor Darren Willis will assist the Nations with the development of

their business plan. Nuu-chah-nulth fishermen are also participating in PICFI through an at-sea mentoring program designed to pass fishing skills on to future generations. The next steps for participating Nations include reviewing the draft business and training plans and acquiring licences and quotas for the 2009 fishing season. For more information on PICFI, please contact Don Hall at 250-724-5757.



*Commercial fishing boats anchored in a West Coast harbour.*

### CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM



Over the past year, Uu-a-thluk's Capacity Building Coordinator Norine Messer has organized a variety of programs aimed at increasing the participation of Nuu-chah-nulth youth

*Students explore touch tanks at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre during Uu-a-thluk's youth conference in Anacla.*

in the harvest and management of sea resources. Students from grades 3-12 have experienced exciting learning opportunities through cultural field trips, camps, and classroom visits. To date, the following activities have taken place in Nuu-chah-nulth communities:

### UU-A-THLUK CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES 2008/09

UU-A-THLUK PROGRAM	PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES	# OF STUDENTS
Sustainability Camp	Ahousaht and Hot Springs Cove	6
Science Venture Camps	Anacla, Tsaxana, Kyuquot	54
Nisma Cultural Field Trips (ongoing)	Opitsat and Esowista	12
Raincoast Education Society Classroom Programs	Kyuquot, Zeballos, Tahsis, Gold River, Ahousaht and Hot Springs Cove, Port Alberni, Port Renfrew, Ditidaht	180
Youth Conferences (ongoing)	Ahousaht, Anacla and Esperanza	250
High School Experience	Students from VAST Alternative School and Alberni District Secondary School	15
Uu-a-thluk Internships	Kildonan, Tofino and Port Alberni	2
Fish Media Camps	Pacheedaht, Itattsoo and Tofino	15

For more information about Uu-a-thluk's capacity building program, contact Norine Messer at 250-723-5504 or [norinemesser@hotmail.com](mailto:norinemesser@hotmail.com).

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

# WCVI CLAM MANAGEMENT BOARD SEEKS REPRESENTATIVES

More than one election will be underway on the west coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI) this spring. In addition to the provincial election, scheduled for May 12, the WCVI Clam Board is seeking eight licensed clam harvesters to help manage the clam fishery for the next three years. Ideally, the board needs two diggers to represent each of Area 23 (Barclay Sound), Area 24 (Clayoquot Sound), Area 25 (Nootka Sound), and Area 26 (Kyuquot Sound). The board's Terms of Reference allow for four diggers from the south (Area 23/24) and four from the north (Area 25/26).

"All the diggers who have purchased their clam licence for the 2009 fishing year will receive a nomination package from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) asking them to nominate potential Clam Board representatives by early April," said Uu-a-thluk biologist, Roger Dunlop. "Anyone interested in being a board member will have to get signatures from two other diggers with valid licences backing them as nominees, and then their names will be put on the ballot along with a description of their platform."

Once nominations are complete, DFO will mail the ballot package to approximately 300 Aboriginal Commercial Licence (ACL) and regular licence holders. "Look in your mail for this ballot in late April and please vote. Your community representative will have been nominated and will need your support to be elected," Dunlop said.

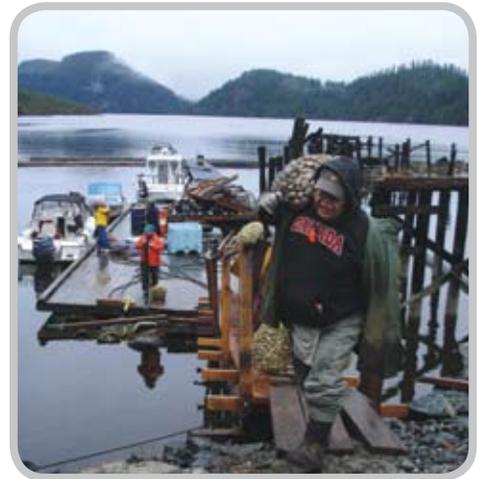
After the election, the WCVI Aquatic Management Society will receive and count the ballots and DFO will announce the winners to licensees by mail. Diggers elected to the board will attend two meetings per year and take part in several conference calls during the clam fishing season to

help choose the duration and opening and closing dates of the fishery.

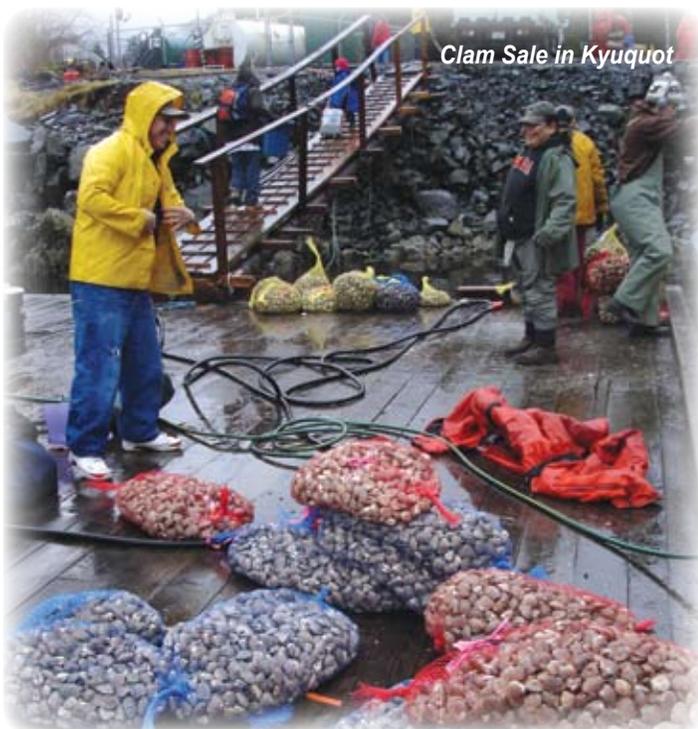
"The WCVI Clam Board manages the fishery by providing direction to the DFO fishery manager. This is the one

place where Nuu-chah-nulth have a dominant interest because over 80% of the licences are held by Nuu-chah-nulth-aht," Dunlop said. He added: "This election is an important one—at least six out of eight of the representatives could be Nuu-chah-nulth if every Nuu-chah-nulth-aht with an Area F clam licence votes."

The election is one step towards revitalizing the Clam Board, a direction given by the Uu-a-thluk Council of Ha'wiih last July. Other steps include appointing Nuu-chah-nulth community and guardian representatives. In early February, the Council of Ha'wiih recommended Errol Sam and Darrell Campbell as Nuu-chah-nulth representatives to the board. Along with eight elected diggers, a processor, two WCVI community representatives, and a representative from the BC Shellfish Growers Association, these NTC appointed representatives have full decision-making rights on the board. For more information, call Roger Dunlop at 250-283-2012.



Danny Short with clams



Clam Sale in Kyuquot

**HAVE YOU EVER WANTED MORE SAY IN THE CLAM FISHERY? HERE'S YOUR CHANCE.**

**Are you a clam digger active in the Area F intertidal clam fishery?**

**Do you want to help manage the clam fishery for the benefit of clam diggers and the clam resource?**

If so, the WCVI Clam Board needs you. If elected to the board, you will attend two meetings and several conference calls per year and help choose the duration and opening and closing dates of the fishery. For a little bit of time, you'll have a very big voice. For more information, call Roger Dunlop at 250-283-2012.



## 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, Tseshah, 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.

### **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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tii'uuup • Octopus



## Nuu-chah-nulth Work for Change to West Coast Chinook Management cont. from page 1

go toward buying out a large portion of the Area G troll fleet. One of the Nuuchah-nulth objectives is to restructure the troll fleet so that it benefits Nuuchah-nulth and WCVI fishermen and WCVI communities. A specific objective supported by the Council of Ha'wiih and NTC Directors is to increase the number of Nuuchah-nulth in the fishery to

become majority participants."

NTC leadership and Uu-a-thluk staff will continue to work with DFO on meeting the seven interests presented by the Council of Ha'wiih. For more information, contact Don Hall at 250-724-5757 or by email at don.hall@nuuchahnulth.org.

## NUU-CHAH-NULTH OUTCOMES FOR THE PST CHINOOK ANNEX:

- 1) Restructuring the WCVI Area G troll fleet and increasing the number of Nuuchah-nulth fishermen.
- 2) Developing and restoring a commercial salmon mosquito fleet.
- 3) Improving recreational fisheries monitoring and limiting the overall annual WCVI recreational harvest amount.
- 4) Ensuring the 15% harvest reductions from Southeast Alaska will return to WCVI streams of origin.
- 5) Developing and abiding by an annual commercial fishing plan that ensures the entire WCVI allowable catch is harvested.
- 6) Designing and implementing a government-to-government plan for the agreement's \$30 million mitigation package.
- 7) Jointly determining how Nuuchah-nulth Ha'wiih, Nations, and fishermen can increase their participation in future PST agreements.

## Nuu-chah-nulth Initiatives Updates cont. from page 2

## SEA OTTER MANAGEMENT

Over the past year, a sub-committee from Uu-a-thluk's Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG) has been meeting to revise the draft management plan for sea otters in Nuuchah-nulth Ha-houlthee. The draft management plan has been under development since 2000 when Nuuchah-nulth hosted a workshop to discuss sea otter management on the

WCVI. The current plan is particularly timely as the Species at Risk Act (SARA) review process considers reclassified sea otters from "threatened" to "special concern." If all parties accept the plan, DFO can issue communal licences for harvest for ceremonial purposes. For more information on the draft sea otter management plan, contact Katie Beach at 250-725-3899.

## GROUND FISH INTEGRATION

The Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council has appointed Uu-a-thluk Program Manager Don Hall to a new working group established by DFO to develop a terms of reference for a new integrated groundfish advisory process. Made up of ten representatives, with two each from the commercial and recreational sectors, communities, First Nations, and environmental groups, the

working group met for the first time on February 16th to begin developing the terms of reference for the proposed Groundfish Integrated Advisory Board. The draft terms of reference being developed will be brought to Nuuchah-nulth Nations for consideration and approval. For more information, contact Don Hall at 250-724-5757.