



Uu-a-thluk, the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Fisheries department, is pleased to announce a new website promoting Nuu-chah-nulth sport fishing guides who work on Vancouver Island's west coast.

Created to help boost the economic benefits that fishing brings to Nuu-chah-nulth and neighbouring communities, the website features recreational fishing guides from Nitinat Lake to Kyuquot.

"I was a deckhand during my teenage years and in my twenties, and was herring fishing in my forties..." said Bamfield guide Bill Ginger. "I learned the guiding ropes from Larry Johnson [another Bamfield fishing guide], who is a very good teacher."

"I grew up in Nuchatlaht and spent most of my childhood with my grandfather on his commercial troller. That makes me a fourth generation fisherman," said Zeballos fishing guide, Jordan Michael. "I have fifteen years experience running a boat, and 13 years experience as an independent guide."

Like the other fishing guides listed on the site, Bill and Jordan have special knowledge that comes from a lifetime spent on the water. They also draw on their Nuu-chah-nulth ancestry to enrich their clients' experience by providing cultural information as part of their fishing package.

In some cases, this includes acting as cultural ambassadors.

"There's an old village site to the north of us with totem poles," said Kyuquot guide Derek Hansen. "Some people like to go up there and learn some of the history."

Ditidaht member Fred Sieber agrees. He combines his knowledge of First Nations cultural history on the west coast with fishing tours by taking some of his clients to tsuxwkwada village, one of the only intact remains of traditional longhouses on Vancouver Island. "It's a pretty special place," he said.

All of the fishing guides listed on the website operate fishing charters in Nuu-chah-nulth Ha-ha-houlthee on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. Many also offer other charter services, such as whale watching or wildlife tours, water taxi services, and more.

To view the site, visit:

<http://www.uuathluk.ca/bcsporfishingguides/index.html>

For more information or to have your business listed, please contact Shannon Cowan (Shannon@uuathluk.ca).

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Derek Hansen (centre) pictured with two of his clients. © Derek Hansen.



Huu-ay-aht member Larry Johnson pictured with clients and their catches. © Larry Johnson



Fishing guide Dave Miller's boat rigged and ready to go. © Dave Miller.



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Wildlife viewing is a popular activity on some fishing charters. © Dave Miller.