

# *Uu-a-thluk*

Taking Care Of

**Kyuquot**

**Nootka**

**Clayoquot**

**Barclay**

**Ditidaht**

**Pacheedaht**

## Lingcod Closure Lifted for Communal Access



*Commercial Groundfish boat on WCVI.*

*Although lingcod living in Nuu-chah-nulth territories fall into the statistical areas and trawl catch locations known 3D and 3C, DFO had managed the WCVI as a 4B area until recently.*

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Nuu-chah-nulth Nations have successfully argued for the removal of a restriction on Nuu-chah-nulth communal fishing licences prohibiting the winter harvest of lingcod. Over five years ago, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) decided to apply the lingcod conservation measures designed for sports fishermen in the Strait of Georgia to Nuu-chah-nulth communal licences for the West Coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI). This decision effectively closed the fishery for the lingcod spawning/nesting period between November 15 and April 14 each year.

“That had a huge impact on our funerals, because lingcod was one of the few available fish at that time of year,” said Helen Dunn, Fisheries Biologist for Pacheedaht First Nation.

When the closure first appeared, Pacheedaht went to DFO’s science branch and asked for an expert opinion. “What happened was that DFO

had lumped Pacheedaht’s area in with the Strait of Georgia and managed it as one area for lingcod,” said Uu-a-thluk biologist, Jim Lane. “They have now noted the stocks are separate even if DFO has put them in the same management unit. The lingcod stocks in Nuu-chah-nulth territories do not have any conservation issues.”

In fact, DFO allowed the commercial trawl fishery to harvest lingcod in Nuu-chah-nulth territories while the recreational and First Nations fisheries were closed. Pacheedaht and Uu-a-thluk staff used this information to back up their

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# NUU-CHAH-NULTH INITIATIVES UPDATES

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

### GROUND FISH INTEGRATION



*Halibut caught from Nuu-chah-nulth waters.*

The Nuu-chah-nulth litigation against DFO for not properly consulting Nations about ground fish integration (GFI) was unsuccessful. However, as part of his ruling in the case, the Court indicated the need for ongoing consultations with Nuu-chah-nulth Nations, particularly in the current GFI pilot program review. When the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans approved commercial groundfish integration in 2006, he did so on a pilot basis. This season marks the end of the pilot and DFO is required to fully review the in-

tegration program. To meet their obligations to the Crown, DFO requested Nuu-chah-nulth input in three specific areas. Uu-a-thluk staff presented this request at the July 30-31, 2008 Council of Ha'wiih meeting and recommended Nuu-chah-nulth Nations engage in the GFI program review through the six-stage consultation protocol. The Council adopted this recommendation and is proceeding using the consultation protocol.

For more information, contact Jim Lane at 250-724-5757.

### PACIFIC INTEGRATED COMMERCIAL FISHERIES INITIATIVE (PICFI)

Uu-a-thluk staff and NSDC directors continue to meet with Nuu-chah-nulth Nations to receive input on a collective structure and business plan for PICFI. Uu-a-thluk staff have submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) to DFO on behalf of the seven Nations who decided to work collectively on a PICFI

business plan. DFO has responded favorably to the EOI. The next step will be a contribution agreement with DFO to develop the Business Plan, a training plan, and NSDC structure. The goal is to submit a comprehensive business plan this fall. Uu-a-thluk staff will continue to discuss opportunities

for participation and alternatives with undecided Nations and fishermen. The approach is designed to allow undecided Nations to join until the Business Plan is complete.

For more information, contact Don Hall at 250-724-5757.

### CRAB REFORM

In May of 2008, Uu-a-thluk Southern Region biologist Jim Lane attended a DFO-hosted Crab Sectoral meeting, where he was appointed to a new steering committee. The committee's main role is to help move crab reform forward by laying the groundwork for a multi-party working group comprised of representatives from the commercial and recreational sectors working with government and First Nations. The multi-party working group will be a forum where Nuu-chah-nulth can present recommendations for crab reform and interact with the recreational and commercial sectors. At a meeting in late May, the steering committee drafted a terms of reference for the multi-party working

group. DFO committed funding for an independent working group Chair/Facilitator, who the organization has now hired. In a separate process, DFO responded to the first set of Nuu-chah-nulth Crab Reform recommendations by requesting a meeting for September 19.

For more information, contact Jim Lane at 250-724-5757.



*Uu-a-thluk biologist Katie Beach measures crab during the Ucluelet Harbour crab study for toxicology.*

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# BCCI PROJECT ENGAGES YOUTH

Uu-a-thluk's 2008-2009 capacity building program is in full swing and Nuuchah-nulth Nations have been enthusiastic participants in the program's offerings. To date, Nuuchah-nulth communities have hosted a variety of Uu-a-thluk's scientific and culturally based camps, supporting an increased understanding of ocean-based resources among school-aged children. Already the program has reached over 100 youth.

"It has been great. The program has been really well received by the communities—the kids have been loving the camps and have had a really good time," said Uu-a-thluk's Capacity Building Coordinator, Norine Messer.

Included in the roster of summer offerings were the following: three science camps delivered by University of Victoria's Science Venture program, one sustainability camp delivered by the Tofino Botanical Gardens Foundation, and three media camps delivered by media professional Caron Olive. Uu-a-thluk also supported students who wanted to attend Vancouver Island University's First Nations Youth Leadership and Shellfish Program.

"Here was a culturally appropriate program for Nuuchah-nulth youth that had a focus on instilling a sense of

pride and understanding of the historical relationship between Aboriginal communities on the Island and marine resources," said Messer. "It engaged youth and developed leadership skills, and that's what Uu-a-thluk's capacity building program is all about."

Now that fall has arrived, Uu-a-thluk's programming has shifted gears somewhat, partnering predominantly with the schools and other organizations working in the classroom. As part of Uu-a-thluk's ongoing effort to increase participation of Nuuchah-nulth youth in ocean-based careers, Messer is coordinating a high school job shadowing program. She is also working with organizations like the Raincoast Education Society and the Nisma Society to deliver education programs to Nuuchah-nulth students up and down the coast. A youth conference, to be delivered in each Nuuchah-nulth region, will include a seafood harvesting retreat for the hardworking youth planning team. This unique experience will offer 5-10 youth the chance to gather traditional foods in the ways of our ancestors.

For more information about Uu-a-thluk's Capacity Building program, contact Norine Messer at 250-735-4111.

PROGRAM	REGION/COMMUNITY	WHEN
Nisma outdoor culture programs	Central Region	September - December
Classroom aquatic science programs	15 Nuuchah-nulth Nations (including Pacheedaht)	September - March
Youth conferences	Ahousaht Bamfield Ehattesaht	October 16 November 12th and 13th Late February
High school job shadowing program	All regions/communities	September - March

Students at the 2008 sustainability camp learn that solar panels can be used to charge batteries to use in almost anything - including remote controlled cars!



(Bottom row) Uu-a-thluk interns Sabrina Halvorsen and Allison Gallic get ready to snorkel during their stay at the Bamfield Youth Forum, summer 2008.





## 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

Uu-a-thluk Secretariat  
P.O. Box 1383  
Port Alberni, B.C.  
V9Y 7M2

Ph: 250.724.5757  
Fax: 250.724.2172  
info@uuathluk.ca

ṭskuuḥ • Lingcod



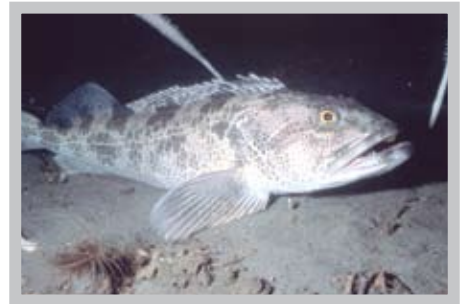
## Lingcod Closure Lifted for Communal Access cont. from page 1

request to have the winter closure lifted.

“After discussions with DFO’s Groundfish Manager, the harvesting restriction for lingcod along the WCVI for Nuuchahnulth’s food and ceremonial purposes was lifted,” Lane said.

Despite the restriction’s removal, Nations like Pacheedaht will continue to respect the fish’s need for protection while nest guarding in the winter months. In January and February, the female lays 150 000-500 000 eggs before letting the male take up the role of guardian. During this time, males rarely stray from the nesting site and aggressively defend their offspring. If a male does perish and the nest is left unattended, the eggs will not survive to hatch.

“We’re not going to have a huge all-out fishery,” said Helen Dunn. “This is just a food and ceremonial access issue.”



*The male lingcod guards its nest during the winter months on the WCVI. If left unguarded, the nests will not survive to hatch. Photo courtesy of DFO.*

Lane concurred. “Although it’s proper that Nuuchahnulth have access during this time, it’s also important to remember these are spawning periods, and especially in the near-shore populations, you harvest conservatively and responsibly.”

***Lingcod spawn between December and March along the west coast of North America. Although they inhabit the nearshore waters from California to Alaska, their greatest centre of abundance is in B.C. Because they are non-migratory, lingcod have been an important winter food for Nuuchahnulth Nations for over five thousand years.***

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### **PACIFIC SALMON TREATY CHINOOK AGREEMENT**

On May 9th, 2008, Canada and the U.S. reached a tentative agreement for a renewed Chinook Annex of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) due to expire at the end of 2008. Uu-a-thluk staff, Nuuchahnulth Nations, and DFO met on July 11, 2008 to discuss the proposed agreement and Nuuchahnulth representatives, primarily active or past salmon fishermen, spoke strongly against the proposed 30% reduction to WCVI AABM (outside) chinook fisheries. On July 30, 2008, the parties met again at the Uu-a-thluk Council of Ha'wiih and

DFO received six conditions that must be met before Nations would accept the proposed agreement. DFO Associate RDG Paul Macgillivray responded to the conditions in some detail and met with Uu-a-thluk Program Manager Don Hall and NTC President Tom Happynook on August 14th to further discuss Nuuchahnulth interests. Uu-a-thluk staff expect a response from DFO on the six conditions this fall.