

*Taking Care Of*

**On the Job for Nuu-chah-nulth Fisheries**

Kyuquot

Nootka

Clayoquot

Barclay

Nitinat

San Juan

Since 2005, Uu-a-thluk has worked on three goals for Nuu-chah-nulth Nations: increase access to seafood, increase the Nuu-chah-nulth voice in fisheries management, and increase Nuu-chah-nulth employment and careers related to the ocean. These second and third goals—management authority and career development—are the focus of Uu-a-thluk’s 2009/10 internship program.

Working in partnership with Uu-a-thluk biologists and Nuu-chah-nulth Nations’ fisheries departments, Uu-a-thluk has hired three interns to build senior level job skills in fisheries science and management for Nuu-chah-nulth Nations.

Sabrina Halvorsen of Uchucklesaht joined the Uu-a-thluk team as an associate biologist in January. Halvorsen first began her work with Uu-a-thluk as a summer student in 2006 while studying fisheries and aquaculture at Vancouver Island University. Prior to that, she worked on her Nation’s shellfish farm, applying the practical skills learned through her studies on the job.

“I’ve always had an interest in working on the water—I plan on being a biologist at the end of my position and I just want to get more involved in the fisheries in this area,” Halvorsen said.

Halvorsen’s current job offers her that opportunity. This year, the associate biologist is participating in preseason salmon forecast and fisheries planning, assisting with the Alberni Barkley Sound Aquatic Integrated Planning process,

and helping collect the fish and habitat data required to develop restoration prescriptions for the Cheewaht Lake watershed. She will also analyze salmon assessment data and help develop

fish habitat proposals for future work.

Another former Uu-a-thluk intern is also back on the job, this time with her own Nation. After two summers with Uu-a-thluk, Allison Gallic knew that jobs in fisheries science and management were full of variety. But it wasn’t until her own Nation recruited her to work as their fisheries manager-in-training that she really began to experience the multi-faceted nature of the job.

“No two days are the same, because I’m always working on different projects,” said Gallic from her office at Tseshaht’s administration building. “Some projects last a week, some a month. Some last a whole summer.”

Thankful for her experience with Uu-a-thluk, which helped ready her for her current job, Gallic also recognizes the help she gets from the team at Tseshaht. “I’m not doing this alone. If I have questions or need help, I can just draw on one of the many resources around me.”

As a student at the University of Victoria in Earth and Ocean Sciences, Gallic studied everything from math to geology. After Tseshaht came calling, however, she transferred to Vancouver Island University. “I realized that if I was going to work in fisheries management, I was going to need courses in that area. I’m now working towards my Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Aquaculture.”

Gallic’s job with Tseshaht will run every summer until graduation. This year, Uu-a-thluk is sponsoring her work placement with Tseshaht under funds provided by the B.C. Capacity Initiative.

The capacity building program also provided funds for a third intern, Cameron Tatoosh of Hupacasath. Tatoosh joined Uu-a-thluk in the middle of June, just as this newsletter was going to press. Uu-a-thluk staff and contractors look forward to working with Cameron and recognize the many skills he brings to the team.

Uu-a-thluk would like to thank all current and former interns for their dedication to this important work. *Klecko! Klecko!*



**Allison and Sabrina survey sea otters**

# Nuu-chah-nulth Initiatives Updates

## *Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI)*

Six Nuu-chah-nulth Nations (Ka:yu:kt'h'/Che:ktles7et'h, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, Hesquiaht, Huu-ay-aht, Diti-daht, and Uchucklesaht) developed a business and training plan to access licences and quota under PICFI. Working with the Nuu-chah-nulth Seafood Development Corporation (NSDC) and contractor Darren Willis, the Nations submitted their plan to DFO in April. In a separate PICFI initiative, Chuck McCarthy participated in at-sea mentoring workshop in April designed to pass fishing skills on to new fishermen. For more information about PICFI, please contact Don Hall at 250-724-5757 or [Don.Hall@nuuchahnulth.org](mailto:Don.Hall@nuuchahnulth.org).

## *Groundfish Integration*

People interested in commenting on the draft terms of reference for the new Groundfish Integrated Advisory Board can do so until August by contacting Don Hall at 250-724-5757 for a copy. DFO is also coordinating a review of the Groundfish Integrated Pilot Program (GIPP) by hosting community dialogue sessions and bilateral meetings with First Nations. Nuu-chah-nulth Nations and fishermen can make final submissions to the review using the DFO workbook or their own format. Uu-a-thluk will also submit a version on behalf of NTC. Submissions are due by August 6, 2009. Fisherman looking for help with their submission can contact Jim Lane at 250-724-5757. Workbooks are also available online through DFO.



**Andrew Mack, Phillip Edgar, and Perry Edgar gather food fish for Ditidaht First Nations.**

## *Sea Otter Management*

On March 5, 2009, the Species at Risk Act (SARA) public registry downlisted sea otters (k'w a k'w aλ) from a "threatened" species to one of "special concern." Anticipating this change, Uu-a-thluk and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) have been working together through Uu-a-thluk's Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG) to prepare a draft sea otter management plan for Nuu-chah-nulth territories. Uu-a-thluk biologists Roger Dunlop and Katie Beach will visit communities in the north and central Nuu-chah-nulth regions this summer to talk about the plan and gather feedback. For more information on the draft sea otter management plan, contact Katie Beach at 250-725-3899 or [katie.beach@nuuchahnulth.org](mailto:katie.beach@nuuchahnulth.org).





**The youth planning team and coordinators meet in Tofino to gear up for the first of three youth conferences sponsored by Uu-a-thluk**

## *Capacity Building Program*

Between April 2008 and March 2009, Uu-a-thluk staff and contractors successfully delivered a capacity building program for Nuu-chah-nulth communities. Programs aimed at increasing youth participation in the harvest and management of sea resources included science and sustainability camps, cultural field trips, youth conferences, job shadowing, and workplace mentorship. This year, Uu-a-thluk will focus efforts on building senior level job skills and delivering cultural and science enrichment programs to communities. For a complete schedule of summer camps, see below.

| Camp                                  | Location/Date   | Age         |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Sustainability Camp                   | Clayoquot Field Station, Tofino—<br>open to students from<br>Wickaninnish Community School<br>and Maaqtusiis Elementary School<br>(June 9-11) | Grade 6     |
| Science Venture Camps                 | Anacla (July 13 - 17)<br>Yuquot (August 10 - 14)<br>Kyuquot August (3 - 7)  | Grades 3-6+ |
| Future Leaders on the Water<br>(FLOW) | Moorecroft Camp, Nanoose<br>(July 2-7)  | Ages 13-19  |

## *Sentinel Stocks Program*

The Canada/U.S. Sentinel Stocks Committee has confirmed \$464,000 in funding for two WCVI chinook salmon escapement estimation projects in Nuu-chah-nulth territories. Approved after a second stage proposal review by the Committee in March, the projects on the Burman and Kaouk Rivers are part of a 5 year, \$10 million program to assess chinook escapements to rigorous standards under the new Pacific Salmon Treaty. Working collaboratively, staff from DFO, Uu-a-thluk, and Ka:yu:kt'h'/Che:ktles7et'h Fisheries will build a weir on the Kaouk for counting chinook. They will back up their census with a mark-and-recapture estimate of the total return using radio tags. The Burman Project will continue mark-and-recapture work done by Uu-a-thluk staff and Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation using visual tags to estimate escapement and compare the results to the swim survey method. For more information contact Roger Dunlop at 250-283-2012 or [roger.dunlop@nuuchahnulth.org](mailto:roger.dunlop@nuuchahnulth.org).



# Planning Time for Salmon Fishing

Each year, Nations have the chance to coordinate salmon fishing for their communities, enabling families and elders to receive a share of the salmon that is available for eating and preserving. Chiefs, councillors, and other people responsible for organizing the fishery can improve their chances of getting fish by planning well in advance.

In some cases, Nations hire Nuu-chah-nulth fishermen to catch salmon and bring them directly to the community. In other cases, individuals exercise the Aboriginal right to harvest and meet their family's needs for food fish. Either way, salmon fishing for communities takes planning and organization, something that must start now.

"The message is 'get ready early,'" said Paul Preston from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. "If Nations get hold of fishermen now, they'll know what they're fishing for and we can write our supplemental communal licence for the place where most of the fish will be coming through."

Fishermen agree with this urgency. Con Charleson, who fishes on the Princess Colleen, is one of the fishermen contracted out by Nuu-chah-nulth Nations for salmon fishing. "We just want to have our plan all ready so we don't have to be running around and phoning them when it's time to go," he said, noting that many Nations have to first get approvals from Chief and Council in order to get things rolling. This can be difficult in the summer when people are on holidays.

Although many of the forecasts for salmon this year are low, there may be some harvest potential for Somass sockeye. Thanks to cooler sea temperatures, DFO also expects over half of the Fraser River's sockeye runs to pass by the west coast of Vancouver Island rather than going through Johnson Strait.

Nations looking to contract out the harvesting of Fraser River sockeye can hire a seine boat to fish in San Juan or a troller to fish the west coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI). Based on early forecasts, there is also some harvest potential for Fraser River pinks. Forecast abundances for WCVI coho and chum are low. Wild WCVI chinook remain a stock of concern, although there are fishing opportunities for First Nations on hatchery stocks in terminal areas.

For more information about salmon fishing, contact your Nation's fisheries department or Uu-a-thluk at 250-724-5757.



Uu-a-thluk is...

## Council of Ha'wiih

*The Ha'wiih or their representatives of:*

Ka:'yu:'kt'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.

## 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 and First Nations.

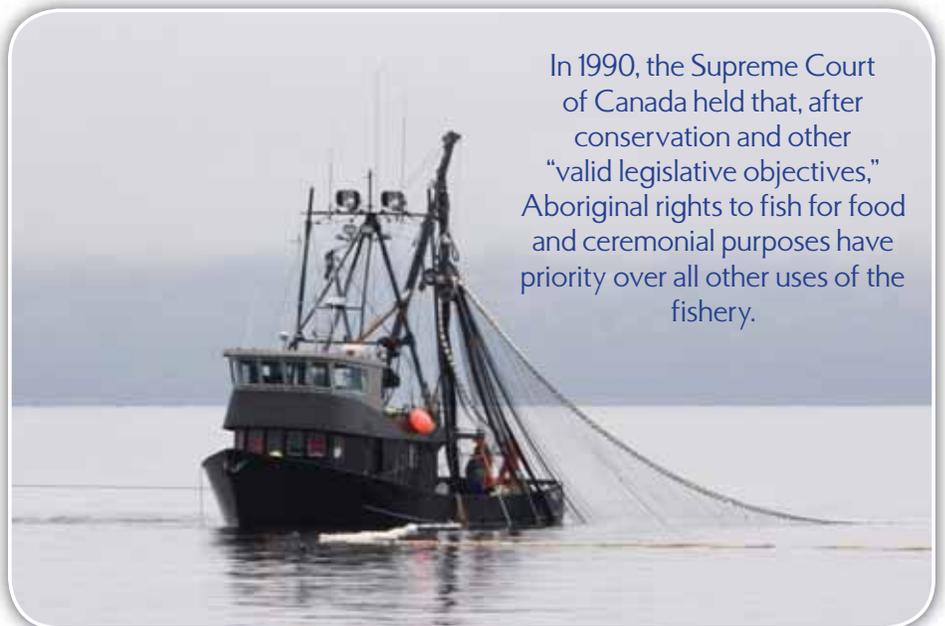


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Uu-a-thluk Secretariat  
P.O. Box 1383  
Port Alberni, B.C.  
V9Y 7M2

Ph: 250.724.5757  
Fax: 250.724.2172  
info@uuathluk.ca

[www.uuathluk.ca](http://www.uuathluk.ca)



In 1990, the Supreme Court of Canada held that, after conservation and other "valid legislative objectives," Aboriginal rights to fish for food and ceremonial purposes have priority over all other uses of the fishery.