



# Uu-a-thluk

## Taking Care Of

Volume 1 Issue 2  
Winter 2006

**Kyuquot**

**Nootka**

**Clayoquot**

**Barclay**

**Ditidaht**

**Pacheedaht**

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## Northern Region Profile: Mowachaht/Muchalaht Shellfish Aquaculture

Three years ago the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation started up their first shellfish aquaculture operation in Ous. It took two years for the site approval process, but with the funding in place, the shellfish farm is in full operation with a total of 12 rafts growing oysters.

The operation started with 550,000 oyster seeds. Oyster growing can be a frustrating venture as growth is affected by depth, location, weather, and spacing. Currently one of the challenges facing the operation is overcrowding. When the crew experimented with the number of oysters per tray, increasing density from 110 to 300, (something which has been successful on the east coast of the island), they soon noticed a higher mortality rate among

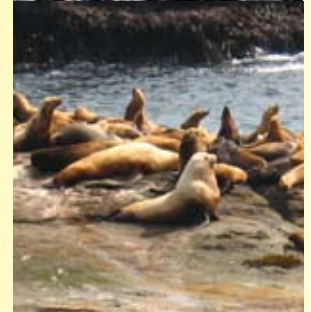
young oysters. The crew continues to learn as they experiment with depths and other elements, trying to limit loss and the growth of mussels on the trays.

Manager Edwin Jack is one of the farm staff who received training in shellfish growing from Camosun College. He sees possibilities through shellfish aquaculture programs being offered at Malaspina. So the nation can expand their operations and diversify the species of shellfish they are growing, Edwin hopes to see more training for his members.

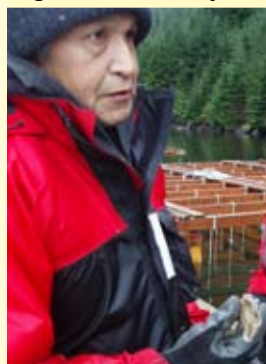
“I am proud of everything that has been done. We got trained and now I can help the crew do the work just by showing them. I teach them every operation. We work as team to learn all of the jobs and maintenance.”

The operation has faced other challenges, one of which was grading the oysters for sale. “Nobody

Continued on page 8...



*Up-c-yin, Mowachaht /Muchalaht's shellfish farm boat along side the oyster rafts.*



Sam Johnson with oyster in hand.

# NUU-CHAH-NULTH INITIATIVES

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

### WEST COAST VANCOUVER ISLAND (WCVI)

#### UU-A-THLUK SPECIES AT RISK PROJECT

Many Nuu-chah-nulth on-reserve communities are expanding or poised for expansion to accommodate their growing populations. As new development gets

underway it is important to consider aquatic and terrestrial species protected by the Species at Risk Act. This project will provide information about the species at risk and their

habitats within Nuu-chah-nulth territories. Uu-a-thluk staff will be visiting communities in 2006 to share information and ask for your input on what to include in a useful guidebook.

### BARKLEY

#### AHOUSAHT CLAM DEPURATION DIG

New economic opportunities have been developed for clam harvesting for the Ahousaht First Nation in an area that had been previously



One of the 35 diggers harvesting clams for depuration.

closed to harvesting due to contamination. Depuration is a method for cleansing shellfish. The clams harvested at Atleo beach need to be depurated before they can be sold into commercial markets. This depuration dig has provided employment and access to a wild clam beach for the Ahousaht community.

In late November,

Ahousaht First Nation started to look into a joint venture with Limberis Seafood Processing Ltd., a company with depuration technology and the proper licence. The partnership's first depuration dig took place in early December, when 35 people took part in a dig for Manila clams. Over four nights, harvesters collected 200 sacks of Manila clams for a total of 7,287 pounds. Rose Anne John was the top digger over all, who by



Rose Anne John, top digger at Ahousaht's first clam depuration dig.

the end of the four days filled 20 sacks weighing 40 pounds each. The average for the group of 35 was 14 sacks.

The next step for the harvested clams was depuration. Mike Langlet of Limberis Seafood describes the process as "very

simple. The clams are put into a tray and then into a tank of sterilized saltwater. The clams in this environment then pump themselves clean." He goes



Some of the 7287 pounds of clams.

on to explain that each batch of clams are tested when they complete this process to ensure that they are decontaminated, assuring a quality product. This makes them easy to sell because

safety is guaranteed.

All in all, the depuration dig was quite a success. Ahousaht looks forward to future joint ventures that continue will give members access to their clam beaches and jobs in harvesting. "Depuration is the first step" explained Larry Swan, supervisor for this dig and employee of the Ahousaht Fisheries Department. "We are just starting out. It is a learning process for our band. We are getting our feet wet."

For more information on any of these projects contact [info@uuathluk.ca](mailto:info@uuathluk.ca) or Don Hall at 724.5757

# NUU-CHAH-NULTH INITIATIVES

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

### DITIDAHT

Updates continued on page 8.

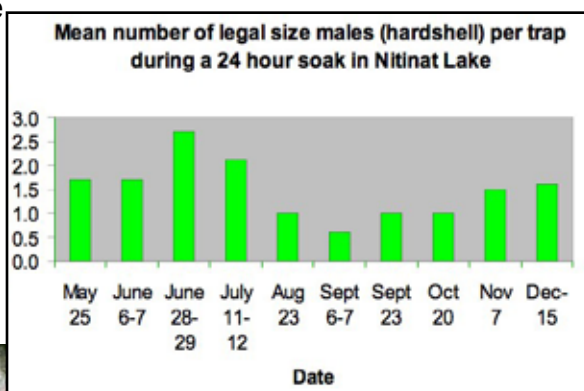
## DITIDAHT: TAKING A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO THE CRAB FISHERY

Ditidaht First Nation is conducting an ongoing survey of the crab fishery in the Nitinat Lake area with the assistance of Uu-a-thluk Regional Biologist Jim Lane. The objectives are to gather information on recreational, commercial, and food, social and ceremonial crab fishing activities in Nitinat Lake. The information will be used by the Ditidaht Nation to take a proactive leadership role in the management of their resources and to develop a crab management plan for the Nitinat area.

To carry out the survey, the crew fish 10 commercial stainless steel wire mesh traps. Each of the 10 traps are fished for 24 hours every two weeks from May until the end of October, and then once per month from November through to March. Each crab caught is identified for species and gender,

be estimated from fishermen interviews and effort. The food, social and ceremonial catch will be estimated by gear counts, conducting interviews, and catch sampling with fisherman during the survey periods.

The survey will also identify the proportion of legal to sub-legal sized males in the area and how they may be affected by fishing effort throughout the year. In addition, the survey will identify the molting periods of the adult crabs, as well as the size and sex structure of the Nitinat Lake crab population throughout the year.



Philip Edgar, Ditidaht Fisheries Supervisor.

then measured and assessed for shell condition and any missing or regenerated appendages. The locations of all traps are mapped at the end of each survey with each trap identified as either commercial, recreational, or food, social and ceremonial.

Some of the information that this survey will provide is the fishing effort over time for all sectors, trap distribution over time (where the traps are in the lake), and catch. Commercial catch data comes from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans catch statistics. Recreational catch will

In the long term, Ditidaht First Nation hopes to increase the survey area to cover the entire lake and the other crab fishing areas in Ditidaht's territory. The present survey is the first step toward developing their own crab management plan for the Nitinat Lake area. Ditidaht wants to develop a crab management plan to best meet their community crab fishing needs, (i.e. when their community members put a trap down, that they will be able to take home something that they can eat), and how to best manage the recreational and commercial fisheries in harmony with Ditidaht's food, social, and ceremonial requirements.

**In memory and recognition of Archie Thompson's lifelong commitment to Nu-u-chah-nulth sea resources.**

**"This time of year, during the month of January" said Thompson, "we would have been fishing winter springs." Archie also mentions that codfish, rockfish and bottom**

**fish were also commonly fished during January.**  
- Excerpt taken from an interview with Archie Thompson, Toquaht Elder and speaker for the Tyee Ha'wilth.

## POLICY ISSUES

There are currently three policy issues proposed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada that have come before the Uu-a-thluk Council of Ha'wiih for information on Nov. 29, 2005. These issues are extremely important to Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations as they all could have a significant impact on Nuu-chah-nulth rights and title. The Uu-a-thluk Council of Ha'wiih presented a six-stage consultation protocol to DFO laying out a process for discussing and meaningfully accommodating Nuu-chah-nulth interests about these three policy issues. The consultation protocol reflects current Supreme Court rulings on Aboriginal rights and title. DFO and Uu-a-thluk representatives will be looking at Uu-a-thluk's consultation protocol.

### Policy Issue #1: Groundfish Integration

At the request of DFO, the commercial groundfish industry has put together a proposal to reform groundfish fisheries. DFO's goals for reform were to conserve rockfish, reduce the number of fish that are caught and thrown overboard, improve fishery catch monitoring, and address concerns arising from the Species at Risk Act.

To understand the proposal, it is important to know that fish are caught and thrown overboard when a fisherman does not have a licence to catch that kind of fish, but catches it accidentally while trying to catch the fish for which they have a

licence.

The proposal has five main parts. The first is that fish will only be re-allocated from one licence holder to another if the first licence holder is willing to sell it at prevailing market rates. Fish will not be re-allocated from the commercial sector to First Nations, recreational, or other interests without compensation at prevailing market rates and amounts agreed to by industry for the amount of fish transferred. Fish can only be transferred if First Nations, recreational, or other recipients will fish under the same standards as the commercial sector.

The second is to make all groundfish licences into individual transferable quota licences (ITQ). This would affect rockfish, dogfish, and lingcod. (Halibut, black cod, and trawl fisheries are already in the ITQ system). This means that a licence holder is given a percentage of however many fish DFO says are available for that fleet to catch. The licence holder can then sell or lease his or her percentage.

The third part is to set up an annual trading system where each fleet outlines how much of its total allowed catch it will make available for other commercial sectors, and how much of other sectors' total catch it needs as by-catch. The fleets then negotiate with each other about the amount of fish they need in order to have a fishery that year. At the end

of the negotiation, each fleet will have an overall number of target and by-catch fish that its licence holders are allowed to catch.

The fourth part of the groundfish proposal is that each fleet will figure out how it plans to distribute the overall number of by-catch fish between its licence holders. The licence holders will get their portion of the non-target species they

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need during the season by leasing it from those licence holders in other fleets who have quota and are willing to lease it. The lease cost is negotiated between the person who has it and the person who needs it.

The fifth part of the proposal is to put electronic monitoring in all groundfish fisheries.

### **Policy Issue #2: Fisheries Renewal**

In April 2005, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans announced a vision for pacific fisheries. The five main parts of the vision were:

- Define conservation objectives for salmon through the Wild Salmon Policy.
- Work with partners to strengthen programs to protect habitat, assess stocks, monitor catches, and enforce the rules of the fishery.
- Increase First Nations access to economic fisheries through voluntary licence-retirement programs.
- Improve the fishery's economic performance and give all the users more certainty and stability.
- Work with First Nations and other resource users to develop a flexible management regime that makes co-management a top priority.

The Department released a Wild Salmon Policy in June

2005 and put in place several individual transferable quota 'pilot projects' in commercial salmon fisheries during the summer.

In September 2005, DFO released a 'Fisheries Renewal' discussion document. This is a document about future directions for fisheries generally, but especially the salmon fishery. The document talks mostly about commercial fisheries, but mentions the need for change in First Nations food, social, and ceremonial fisheries, and in recreational fisheries. With commercial fisheries, the document outlines types of possible changes about:

- The duration of fishing licences
- Personal versus vessel-based licencing
- Defining catch shares or quotas
- Transferability of licences and shares
- Co-management

The discussion document is presented to provide information and alternatives and encourage First Nations and others to put forward other suggestions and proposals. DFO held some public open houses in November regarding the discussion document and met with Uu-a-thluk to present information at the end of November.

### **Policy Issue # 3: Changing the Fisheries Act**

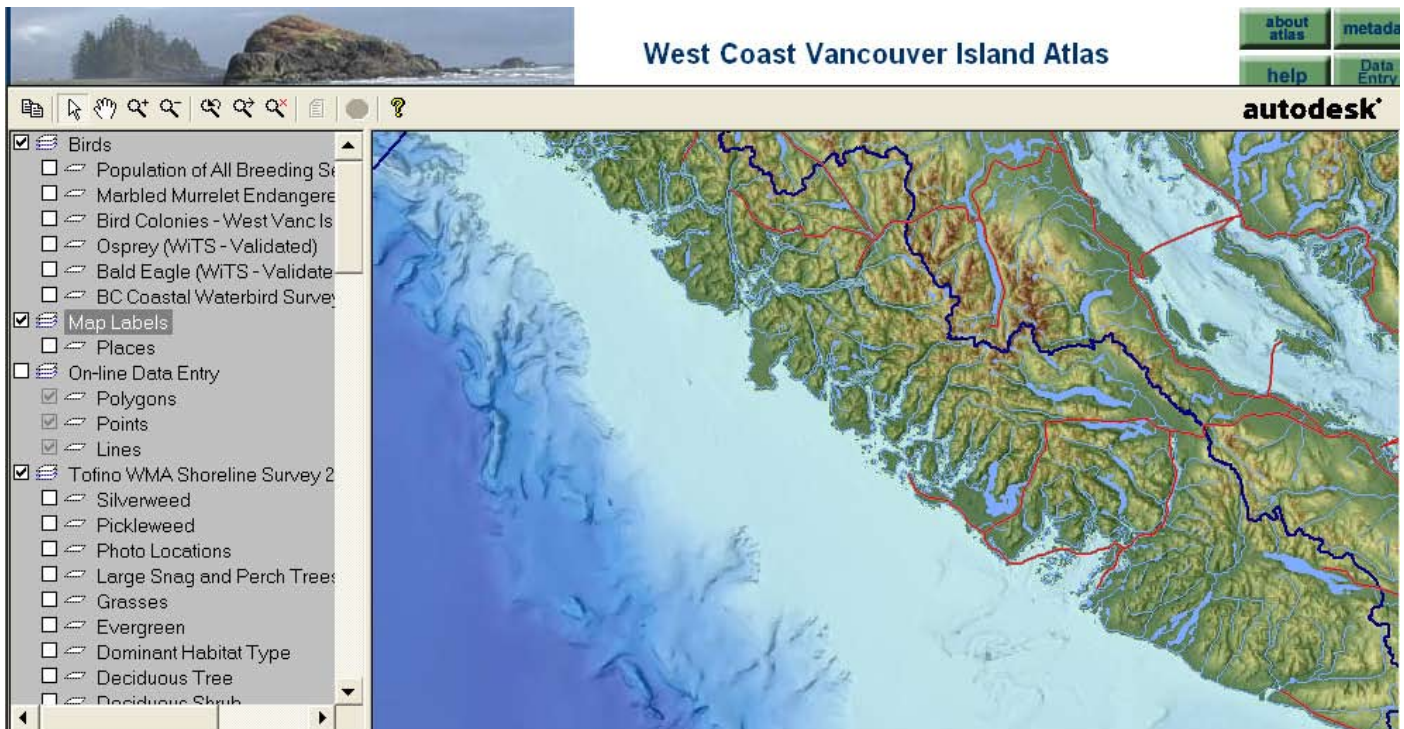
In October 2005, DFO put out a slide presentation about reforming Canada's Fisheries Act. The intention behind changing the Fisheries Act is to allow the Minister to carry out some of the 'Fisheries Renewal' directions described above. DFO states that a renewed Act could include five main elements:

- Principles that will guide decision making.
- More clarity to how the Minister will allocate fish to fleets and sectors, and for how long
- New licensing rules
- A co-management tool allowing DFO to share more authority with responsible groups of resource users
- More clarity to habitat protection provisions and infractions by licence holders, including alternatives to proceeding with charges/fines in court system.

You can get copies of these proposals from Val Gallic at the NTC office (724-5757), or: [http://www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/consultations/consultation2005/main\\_e.htm](http://www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/consultations/consultation2005/main_e.htm) or phone Jay Hartling DFO, at (604) 666-7013.

**The Uu-a-thluk Council of Ha'wiih will be meeting on February 8th and 9th to continue discussions on these policy issues along with other business.**

# THE WEST COAST VANCOUVER ISLAND INFORMATION SYSTEM



Example view of the atlas information, showing the overview WCVI map and names of map layers.

Uu-a-thluk, the West Coast Vancouver Island (WCVI) Aquatic Management Board, and the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust have joined efforts in building a web-based information system for the west coast of Vancouver Island. The groups see the need for a 'one-stop-shop' for information about the ecosystems, uses, and communities in the area.

"Right now, information is in hundreds of agencies and groups' hard-drives, filing cabinets, and websites, making it very hard to find or use," says Caron Olive, Uu-a-thluk's Information Manager. "We are pulling it together so that people can see the bigger picture and assist in making decisions about recreation, business,

education, managing resources—whatever they are interested in."

Don Hall, program manager for Uu-a-thluk, says that information is key to a better future on the west coast. "Uu-a-thluk and the AMB are both about new ways for people and governments to relate to each other and resources, using hishukish ts'awalk [everything is one] and isaak [respect] as the foundations. Sharing information is a good place to start."

Over 100 map layers show features such as fish stream information, eelgrass, biogeoclimatic zones, parks, and fault lines, all of which can be browsed on the internet on

Combining quality information with experience gives us knowledge.

Combining knowledge with commitment gives us the power to achieve our goals.

Combining commitment and knowledge with awareness of interconnection gives us wisdom and respect.

Wisdom and respect gives us the power to know what goals to achieve.

Continued on the next page...

# THE WEST COAST VANCOUVER ISLAND INFORMATION SYSTEM

the WCVI Web Atlas. Built in cooperation with the BC Community Mapping Network, more layers will be continuously added to expand geographic knowledge of the region.

On the Web Atlas, users can turn different map layers on and off, zoom into places, and print maps. Go on-line and explore!

A second feature of the WCVI Information System is a documents database that can be searched to locate existing information on topics of interest. The database also links documents to streams and watersheds, so that users can find things more easily and so that information can be more strongly connected to place. "The WCVI Information System is like a highway, water system, library, or other key piece of infrastructure," says Hall.

While the design and some initial building blocks have been put in place, the information system will continue to grow

PLEASE SELECT A RECORD TO VIEW.

<a href="#">View</a>	Title:	The diet of birds as a tool for monitoring the biological environment.
	Date:	1991
	Author:	Kees Vermeer
	Description:	

Documents listed as a result of a database search.

the more that people use it. "Our next step is to continue to fill it in by working with communities, governments, businesses and other groups," says Olive. Other future features will include things like a statistics database (i.e. how many fish were caught in an area), and summary information about research and projects in the area.

The WCVI Information System can be accessed through the West Coast Aquatic website at:

<http://westcoastaquatic.ca/RIS.htm>

For more information, comments or suggestions for the WCVI Information System please contact [info@uuathluk.ca](mailto:info@uuathluk.ca) or Caron Olive at 250.725.1248.

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## DFO DECIDES AGAINST NUU-CHAH-NULTH SPAWN-ON-KELP FISHERIES

DFO has decided not to allow the four Nuu-chah-nulth commercial Spawn-On-Kelp (SOK) license holders to operate in 2006. The four First Nations that hold SOK licenses are Ka:'yu;'k't'h'/Che: ktles7et'h', Ehattesah, Ahousah, and Toquaht.

DFO forecasts that there will not be enough herring in Nuu-chah-nulth territory in 2006 to allow both commercial roe-herring and SOK fisheries. DFO determined that if the WCVI herring forecast is below 18,800 tons there should be no commercial roe herring or SOK fisheries. The WCVI herring forecast for 2006 is 18,400 tons, only 400 tons below the DFO cutoff level. SOK operators would likely only harvest ~200 tons total.

DFO will allow Nuu-chah-nulth food and ceremonial fisheries for herring and herring spawn (kwaqmis, siihmuu) to proceed as usual.

The Uu-a-thluk Council of Ha'wiih recommended to DFO that there was enough herring forecast for all Nuu-chah-nulth SOK and food and ceremonial fisheries. Previously DFO has allowed commercial SOK fisheries when the abundance of herring has been at levels similar to this year. Uu-a-thluk staff wrote to DFO in late November that the many benefits associated with allowing the Nuu-chah-nulth SOK fisheries to operate far outweigh the barely measurable benefit of not allowing the harvest of ~200 tons of herring that the SOK operators might harvest.



## 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, Uchucklesaht, Tsesah, 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

## MEETING NOTICE

Uu-a-thluk Council of Ha'wiih  
meeting February 8th and 9th.

## NORTHERN REGION PROFILE: CONTINUED...

had any skills in grading," states Edwin. With the buyers being particular about size and quality, learning these skills proved to be a priority.

In addition to bringing another site into full operation in the near future, the Ous site will increase to 18 rafts this coming spring. Assistant Manager Rudy Dick, Sam Johnson, and the crew of up to 6 members will continue making the trip to the site several times per week on the "Up-c-yin," which means abalone in their Nuu-chah-nulth dialect.

There are still many challenges ahead, with a need for skills in how to market their product, increase sales, and decrease the overhead to make the operation a viable business for the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation. In the two short years of operation, however, the site has received accolades from many, including the Ministry of Food, Fisheries, and Agriculture stating it was one of the 'cleanest and most well run operations' they had seen.

## CELEBRATING NUU-CHAH-NULTH SUCCESS ON THE JOB

Throughout Nuu-chah-nulth territory, people are incorporating traditional knowledge with careers related to resource management. To celebrate their achievements and to spread the word about their chosen careers, Uu-a-thluk is partnering with School District #70 to profile role models and bring them into the schools. In early December, Uu-a-thluk spoke with some of these individuals to hear what advice they had for youth:

"One of the challenges is to stay positive... There are lots of obstacles you have to overcome, but it's not to get overburdened by the number of them, but to turn them around one by one so that you can stay positive—that's the goal."

-- Nadine Crookes, First Nations Program Manager, Pacific Rim National Park Reserve

"Do something that you love. Do something that you really enjoy doing, and if you're going to start a business, try to think about what your goals are with that business... There will always be stress on the job and there will always be challenges, but when you get discouraged, you can look at what your goals are and say, "Hey, I'm actually accomplishing a lot."

--Giselle Martin, Owner and Operator, Tla-ook Cultural Adventures, Tofino.

"Take pride in the work that you do. Don't do your homework five minutes before the class. Take ten minutes instead of two and a half—that's the difference between a C+ and an A, and the same individual can get an A by taking time."

--Saya Masso, Treaty Negotiator, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation.

## FROM THE SEA

Quasiip • Starfish



Husmin • Kelp



Cuw'it • Coho Salmon

