



# THE NUCHATLAHT TRIBE NEWSLETTER

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## **Nuu-chah-nulth Herring Perspectives – A survey in collaboration with NTC**

The outputs of Nuu-chah-nulth Herring Perspectives will provide NTC fisheries managers with a clearer end goal for herring management. The results will help the NTC further represent the community's interests while they work with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to develop objectives and a new management plan for the WCVI herring fishery. The survey will also provide a method to include the wider community in the discussion surrounding goals and objectives for the Pacific herring fishery.

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## **Report from the Office of Nuchatlaht Waters, Lands and Cultural Resources**

March saw herring return to the Nuchatlaht Territorial waters to spawn in good numbers. Hemlock trees placed in Nuchatlitz and Rosa provided more roe on boughs this year than has been seen in about a decade. We harvested roughly a pickup truck-load and half with up to 6 layers, and staff and community members at Home worked two days to process the bounty.

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## **Nuchatlaht Family Gathering**

On March 24th the Nuchatlaht Tyee and Council hosted a Nuchatlaht Family Gathering that was attended by around 70 people. Nuchatlaht families traveled from all around Vancouver Island and BC to reconnect with each other and to talk about reconnecting with the Nuchatlaht Ha-houlthee (Lands, Waters and Resources). The gathering was at the Port Alberni Friendship Centre to make sure Elders were able to attend. Hakum Rose Michael was overjoyed to be surrounded by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

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## **Nuchatlaht Tribe's Boat Naming Contest**

At the end of March, we had created a contest for the Naming of Our Tribe's boat. So that members could engage in naming of it. In 3 weeks, members had submitted names, and voted on what they wanted the boat to be called. We had 6 names and out the 6 names submitted, one was ultimately chosen! We are proud to announce that: Nuchatlaht Hucum" will be the official name of our boat.

## Nuu-chah-nulth Herring Perspectives – A survey in collaboration with NTC

*By: Claire Menendez*

My name is Claire Menendez, and I am a Master's student in Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University. From March 12th-14th, I had the privilege of exploring Nuchatlaht's beautiful traditional territory and learn from community members about herring spawn. Thank you to the Oclucje community and Karenn Bailey for being such welcoming hosts.

For my Master's project I am working in collaboration with the Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council to develop a survey to better understand the Nuuchah-nulth communities' goals for the management of Pacific herring in their traditional territory on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. Specifically, the survey Nuuchah-nulth Herring Perspectives, hopes to better understand the characteristics of a healthy herring population.



Over the past 4 months I have been meeting with NTC fisheries managers and community members to design a survey that describes the herring system from a Nuuchah-nulth perspective. My time in Oclucje helped me gain important hands on experience to better understand the herring spawn season.

The outputs of Nuuchah-nulth Herring Perspectives will provide NTC fisheries managers with a clearer end goal for herring management. The results will help the NTC further represent the community's interests while they work with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to develop objectives and a new management plan for the WCVI herring fishery. The survey will also provide a method to include the wider community in the discussion surrounding goals and objectives for the Pacific herring fishery.

Nuuchah-Nulth Herring Perspectives will be available to the community in early May, and is open for any member of a Nuuchah-nulth Nation to complete.

## **Report from the Office of Nuchatlaht Waters, Lands and Cultural Resources**

*By: Karenn Bailey*

March saw herring return to the Nuchatlaht Territorial waters to spawn in good numbers. Hemlock trees placed in Nuchatlitz and Rosa provided more roe on boughs this year than has been seen in about a decade. We harvested roughly a pickup truck-load and half with up to 6 layers, and staff and community members at Home worked two days to process the bounty. This quak'mis was also shared with the community members who attended the recent Family Gathering in Port Alberni. We harvested what we needed and left the rest to grow into fish that we hope to see return as adults.

It was a busy season. Nuchatlaht also participated in the collection of scientific data for herring collaborating with DFO and other contractors. In addition we were pleased to have had a university Master's student, Claire Mendez join us for two days on the water. A post-season debrief is scheduled and discussions on an expanded herring roe program for next year are taking place. If you would like you chat about the herring season or receive a copy of the 2018 Nuchatlaht herring season report please contact me.

Since our last newsletter, the Waters, Lands and Resources department has grown. Curtis Michael applied for the Trainee position posted in March and was hired on April 3rd. I am pleased that he has joined me and can say that together our skills and experiences complement each other very well.

In our last newsletter I gave you an overview of fisheries. In this issue I would like to talk about land and specifically forests. As some of you are aware much of Nuchatlaht Territory, Nootka Island's west side, has been logged. Current estimates of recently harvested trees (cut within the last 25 years) on Nootka account for approximately 70% of the land.

This means that even in ideal condition the trees planted in these areas will not be available for harvest again for 80-100 years and much of the natural diversity and old cedars are gone. Within 2 km of Oclucje a second-growth cut block examined last month showed the first cut stumps two to three times that of the new stumps at less than 70 years old. Seventy years old is just barely within the harvest guidelines as these trees would not have reached their maximum growth rate yet at this age. This is what industrial logging looks like and the state for forested land on Nuchatlaht Territory.

Nuchatlaht Tribe has received little benefit from these activities over the years and has not been formerly consulted. The Band does receive money annually from the Province related to tree harvest, and in the coming year it is expected to be roughly enough to cover my salary. The government calls this Nuchatlaht First Nation Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing

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## **Report from the Office of Nuchatlaht Waters, Lands and Cultural Resources**

*By: Karenn Bailey*

It is possible to obtain ancient cedars for tribal use from logging companies, and also to influence how logging is conducted. Several First Nations have Monumental Cedar (older than 200 years) policies that logging companies must abide by when conducting business on their land, and others for example have successfully challenged and increased the stream buffers established by the Forest Practices legislation.

There are other methods of harvesting trees, such as Ecoforestry which are not as intense, but also not as profitable. Ecoforestry allows an annual cut while maintaining the structure of the forest which for it to function properly. The cost of extracting these trees is expensive but should be considered in light of what the Nation wishes for their lands.

Another option is not cutting trees at all and instead selling Carbon Credits. Carbon credit generally refers to a certificate that allows the purchaser; say an airline or manufacturer to offset the greenhouse gas emissions their business creates by partnering with tree growers so carbon is captured instead of it going into the atmosphere. What this can look like is 700,000 tonnes of carbon credits for \$4 million (2011) old growth conservancy on Vancouver Island.

In addition to storing carbon, forests influence climate by sending molecules into the air that moisture attaches to creating clouds. Big trees can also store enormous amounts of water and help streams be healthy. Old trees often have deep moss on their branches and a form of blue-green algae lives there.

These algae capture nitrogen from the air and rain falling on the trees delivers this fertilizer to the roots of the trees and actually helps the next generation of trees and other plants grow. Dead wood in a forest is important as a nutrient recycler, and in total one fifth of all animal and plant species (roughly 6,000 species) depend on dead wood. In addition to all this, visitors come to the west coast to see big trees and experience our forests.

All of these things I have mentioned are values that are not wholly considered when cut blocks are laid out and I haven't even touched on the values your ancestors placed on their forests. This is something that we will be working on in future, a Traditional Land Use Study and we have been working on a strategic land use plan, and consultant Nornie Mesner will deliver her report to Chief and Council this month.

## **The Nuchatlaht Tribe Family Gathering in Port Alberni – March 2018**

*By: Norine Messer*

On March 24th the Nuchatlaht Tyee and Council hosted a Nuchatlaht Family Gathering that was attended by around 70 people. Nuchatlaht families traveled from all around Vancouver Island and BC to reconnect with each other and to talk about reconnecting with the Nuchatlaht Ha-houlthee (Lands, Waters and Resources). The gathering was at the Port Alberni Friendship Centre to make sure Elders were able to attend. Hakum Rose Michael was overjoyed to be surrounded by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Laughter and lively conversation filled the room throughout the day and evening.

The day started with early risers gathering for coffee and breakfast, prepared by Joan Dick and her crew from Tsessaht, who fed everyone well throughout the day. Archie Little was the Master of Ceremonies. He started the day by introducing Ron Hamilton who welcomed Nuchatlaht families to the shared territories of Hupacasath and Tsessaht First Nations. Archie and Tyee Walter Michaels then welcomed all to the gathering and let everyone know how happy they were that so many had come together.

Norine Messer, the Lands and Resources Planning Project Coordinator then shared the goals of the Family Gathering. Through the Lands and Resources Planning Project one of the main priorities identified for the strategic plan was to bring back the Nuchatlaht seasonal rounds and get the community involved in harvesting, preserving and preparing traditional foods. Nuchatlaht leadership, staff and community members believe that bringing back these cultural practices is the key to community health and unity. This goal has also been identified by Audrey Smith in the Health department. Nuchatlaht members have very fond memories of living at Nuchatz when the community would work together to harvest foods, cut and smoke fish and to distribute food to those in need. Working together and eating together brought everyone together. The Tyee asked Norine and Audrey bring the community together to focus on healing, unity and reconnecting to the Nuchatlaht Ha-houlthee.

Everyone then came together in a circle and each person was given the opportunity to check-in and talk about community unity and how they would like to connect with each other and the Nuchatlaht lands, waters and traditional foods. This circle lasted throughout the morning. There was much laughter and some tears as everyone shared how happy they were to be together, how much they meant to each other and how they can connect through traditional foods and cultural activities in the future. After the circle lunch was served including herring harvested in the Nuchatlaht Ha-houlthee. This year Helena and Holly Michael learned how to jig herring and Audrey Smith taught the Nuchatlaht Staff how to clean and prepare herring and kwakmis.

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## The Nuchatlaht Tribe Family Gathering in Port Alberni – March 2018

*By: Norine Messer*

In the afternoon there were many cultural activities. Nuchatlaht member, Andrea Little and Chaya Rampenan, a young girl with Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht roots taught cedar weaving. Any people learned to make their first cedar headband. There was also a beading station where many beautiful creations were made. Nitanis Desjarlais, an expert in traditional plants use for food, medicine and tools was at the event with a table set up to teach about different plant uses. Everyone had the opportunity to make their own herbal tea made from different traditional plants. There was also an opportunity to fill out a Nuchatlaht Ha-houlthee Survey to provide input into the Lands and Resources Strategic Plan (See below). Throughout the whole day child care and children's activities were also provided by trained Early Childhood Educators. There were smiling faces all around as families and friends created, learned, shared and chatted.

The Tyee's family also gathered in a family circle to focus on healing, wellness and unity as they prepare for important work as a family for their community. Throughout the day kwakmis was distributed to the community on behalf of Tyee Walter Michaels. Loud crunching was heard in all corners of the room.

The day ended with celebrations, songs, dancing and a feast. Archie Little and Audrey Smith held up and honoured community members who had survived hardships and were on a healing path that had a positive impact on the community. All families were also given a gift of Nuuchah-nulth Ocean Cards and thanked for joining the gathering. Tim Sutherland and a Port Alberni Cultural Group honoured the Nuchatlaht families by sharing songs and dances. The Tyee then gifted the group with some Kwakmis. Everyone then sat down for a wonderful feast of healthy traditional seafoods. All agreed that the Gathering was a great success and many look forward to gathering in Oclucje to harvest and prepare traditional foods together.





Nuchatlaht Tribe Newsletters  
*Bringing our members community news*

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Ph: 250-332-5908  
Fax: 250-332-5907  
www.nuchatlaht.com

### Nuchatlaht Tribe Sport Fishing

We have established a new Sport fishing company; where we will offer services like: Sport Fishing, Water Taxi, and potentially, a whale watching service. Contact us or find out more on our website!

P.O Box 40, Zeballos, BC  
V0P 2A0  
250-332-5908

## Community Calendar & Staff Days Away

### MASON

April 20<sup>th</sup> – C.R for C&C Meeting  
April 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> – In Vancouver for NT Court Hearing / Workshop

### AUDREY

April 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> – In Vancouver for NT Court Hearing  
April 25<sup>th</sup> – Day Off  
April 27<sup>th</sup> – Day Off

### Karenn

April 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> – Day Off

## Staff Hours

Audrey Smith – 8:00am - 3:30pm  
(w/ 30 min lunch at 12:00)

Rest of staff – Regular business hours  
(8:30am - 4:30pm)

## Crisis and Support Numbers

Kuu-us crisis / support: 1-800-588-8717  
USMA after hours: 1-800-633-9122  
Vancouver Island Crisis line: 1-888-494-3888  
911: Immediate concerns

## Zeballos area Clinic and Doctor hours

### Doctor Dates

(Please note: schedule is based on physician availability and may vary daily)

April 16<sup>th</sup> (MON) Dr. Whittaker – 10:00pm until 11:00pm

April 23<sup>rd</sup> (MON) Dr. Armogam – 12:00pm until 2:00pm

April 30<sup>th</sup> (MON) Dr. Mijares – 12:00pm until 2:00pm

**For Appointments Please call: 250-761-4274**

**24 hour Nurse Helpline: 811**

**Emergencies: 911**

**The Clinic Nurse is available Monday to Friday from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
(Closed for Lunch from 12:00pm to 1:00pm on Non Doctor Days)**