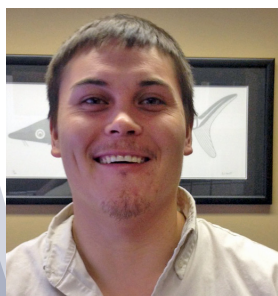


## Uu-a-thluk Interns at Work



Traditional Nuu-chah-nulth halibut hook



Since joining Uu-a-thluk in November, 2014, interns Joshua Charleson, Stephenie Charleson and Kadin Snook have collectively performed simulated rescues in moving water, carved a traditional halibut hook, collected data on krill, and researched the business side and viability of community based fishing.

More than halfway into their internship Uu-a-thluk caught up with them for a report on what their experience has been like so far.

### Joshua Charleson

Supervised by Jim Lane, Uu-a-thluk biologist for the Southern Region, and working out of the Port Alberni office, Joshua Charleson

from Hesquiaht First Nations literally got his feet wet soon after joining the team. His first day on the job began with a three-day swiftwater rescue training course in Squamish that included performing rescues in moving water—both for self-rescue and for rescuing others.

Before being hired as a fisheries intern, Joshua worked as Hesquiaht fisheries manager, and has lived on the water his whole life.

“Fish have always been a big part of my life,” he says.

So far, his experiences at Uu-a-thluk have included identifying escapement counts and attending meetings with the Island Marine Aquatic Technical (IMAT) working group. Joshua researched how Nuu-chah-nulth ancestors fashioned halibut hooks from wood before metal was introduced, and carved his own traditionally made halibut hook. Another on-the-job assignment included sampling steelhead at Robertson Creek Hatchery and then releasing them.

“They were released on Service Lake Road,” he says, adding that, “It was raining so hard the road became a river.”

Joshua looks forward to continuing work at the Nitinat River Hatchery where he helps with daily operations such as ponding fish and cleaning fish ponds.

“I’m interested in all aspects of fisheries and am excited to have the opportunity to do many different things that improve my skills and knowledge.”

To contact Joshua this winter, email him at [Joshua.Charleson@nuuchahnulth.org](mailto:Joshua.Charleson@nuuchahnulth.org) or call 250-724-5757.

### Stephenie Charleson

Working from the Tofino office, Stephenie is helping to deliver the Nuu-chah-nulth fisheries program a second time to Central Region Nations. Soon after starting with Uu-a-thluk she participated in the

three-day Swiftwater Rescue training course that is offered by Raven Rescue.

“Their courses are sector-specific, which means I can get the skills I need, delivered in a way that is relevant to the work I do,” she says. “I was grateful to gain some knowledge and more confidence to work in or near swiftwater.”

Growing up in Port Alberni, she spent many days on her family’s boat, Fairview II, where they fished for salmon, tuna, prawns, and some halibut along Vancouver Island’s west coast. For the past 18 years she has lived in Ucluelet where she acquired her T’aaq-wiihak fisher’s card.

As part of her fisheries training at Uu-a-thluk, Stephenie looks forward to taking a Small Vessel Operator Proficiency (SVOP) training course. This course will make her familiar with navigation, vessel construction and stability, collision avoidance and navigation safety, along with geography and chart construction, tides and currents.

Currently Stephenie is researching community-based fisheries as viable businesses, or more specifically the T’aaq-wiihak fisheries in light of the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision to recognize the five Nations’ right to fish and sell fish.

“I see fishers struggling to run the business side of fishing,” she says. “I’d like to understand more about what makes a fishery successful for the community.”

To contact Stephenie this winter, email her at [Stephenie.Charleson@nuuchahnulth.org](mailto:Stephenie.Charleson@nuuchahnulth.org) or call 250-266-0578.

### Kadin Snook

Kadin Snook is stationed in Uu-a-thluk’s office in Gold River. He is from the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations in Gold River and his grandfather is Larry Andrews. Kadin has worked in fisheries as a sport fishing guide and in various positions related to resource management.

“I have always wanted to work with fish and wildlife to both preserve and utilize these resources,” he says.

In his previous internship, also under the supervision of Uu-a-thluk Biologist for the Northern Region, Roger Dunlop, Kadin gathered raw data for many different projects. This time, he says, he is not only collecting data but also learning how to

read it.

“I’m using mathematics to interpret the swim surveys on the Burman River from previous years into a usable estimation of total population for Chinook salmon for each year,” he says.

He admits that one of his favourite activities when working with data is finding numbers that are missing.

“I enjoy solving a mystery,” says Kadin.

So far his internships with Uu-a-thluk have included using telemetry on the Conuma River, fence-building for salmon at Dunlop Creek, constructing fences for sockeye at Henderson River, and much more. He sees working in different areas of fisheries as giving him the skills he needs to pursue his long-term goal of becoming a biologist.

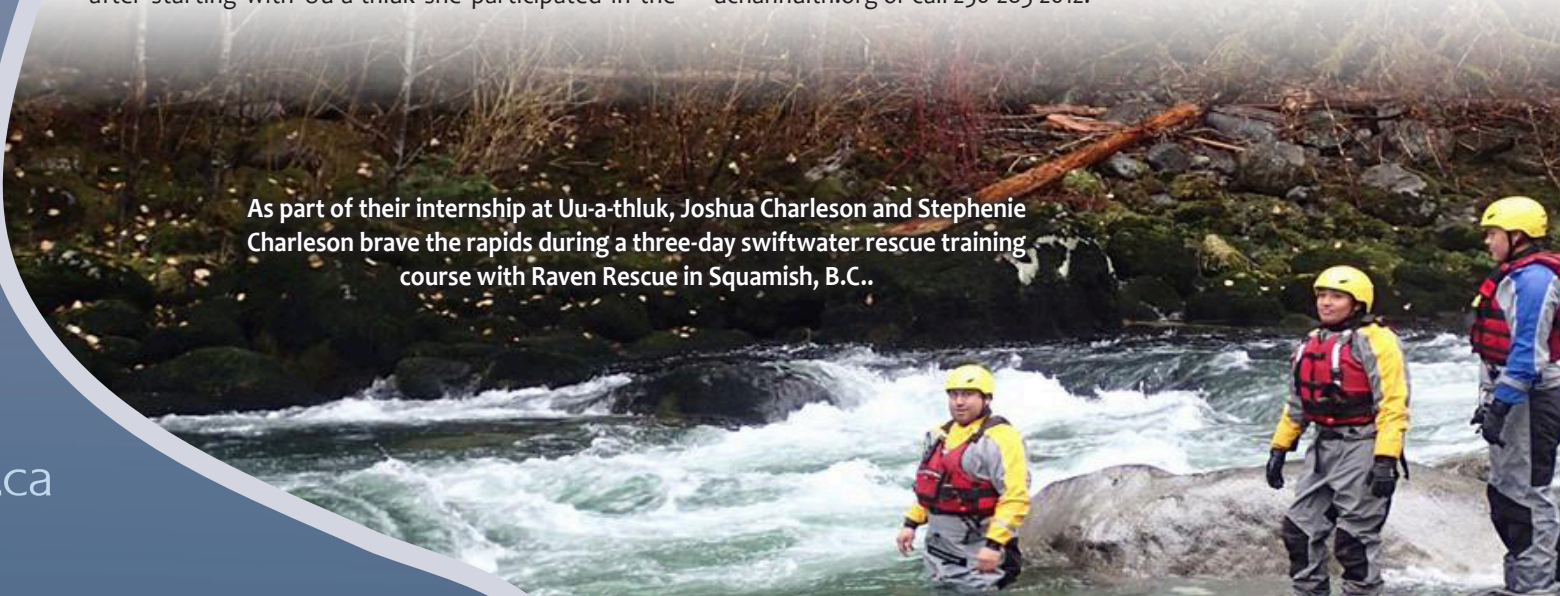
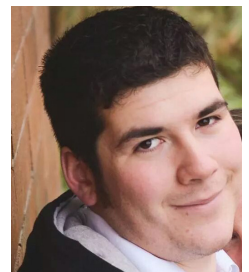
“I have other wishes to add to my fisheries ‘wish list’ such as receiving more education in proposal writing,” says Kadin, “but ultimately, I wish for a viable career in fisheries so I can pursue my passion for First Nations fisheries.”

To contact Kadin this winter, email him at [Kadin.Snook@nuuchahnulth.org](mailto:Kadin.Snook@nuuchahnulth.org) or call 250-283-2012.



*“I’d like to understand more about what makes a fishery successful for the community.”*

—Stephanie Charleson,  
Uu-a-thluk Intern



As part of their internship at Uu-a-thluk, Joshua Charleson and Stephenie Charleson brave the rapids during a three-day swiftwater rescue training course with Raven Rescue in Squamish, B.C..