



Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

AHOUSAHT
DITIDAHT
?IIHATIS/ČIINA?INT
HESQUIAHT
HUPACASATH

HUU-AY-AHT
KA:'YU:'K'T'H'/CHE:K:TLES7ET'H'
MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT
NUCHATLAHT
TLA-O-QUI-AHT

TOQUAHT
TSESHAHT
UCHUCKLESAHT
YUULU?IL?ATH

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An Open Letter to BC Commercial Herring Fishermen

Nuu-chah-nulth Nations understand that the Fisheries Minister is considering commercial herring fishing on the West Coast of Vancouver Island in 2014. WCVI has been closed to commercial herring fishing since 2006 due to low herring abundance. Our Nations think that it is premature to open WCVI up to commercial fishing in 2014. Since last fall we have been trying to work with DFO to plan how WCVI fisheries will reopen in future years when herring stocks are more abundant.

Nuu-chah-nulth Nations are not opposed to commercial fishing when WCVI herring rebuild to sufficient abundance. We have proposed to work with the herring industry and DFO to reopen orderly fisheries when there are enough WCVI herring. Unfortunately, 2014 is not the year, and so far DFO and the Herring Industry Advisory Board (HIAB) have not yet changed their position on re-opening WCVI to commercial herring fishing.

We want to make sure that commercial herring fishermen are aware of these issues. Our Chiefs, communities, and fishermen have stated clearly to DFO and HIAB that commercial herring fisheries are not welcome on the WCVI in 2014. We have asked for assistance from DFO and HIAB to inform commercial fishermen who are selecting their herring fishing areas.

Nuu-chah-nulth Nations respectively request that commercial herring fishermen DO NOT select WCVI as a herring fishing area in 2014. If you choose to fish WCVI in 2014, you make this area selection knowing the risk that there may not be enough herring to conduct viable commercial fisheries, and that Nuuchahnulth Nations will continue to be active in seeking to protect WCVI herring.

We are working with the Heiltsuk Tribal Council (Central Coast) and Council of Haida Nation (Haida Gwaii) who share similar concerns with Nuuchahnulth Nations about protecting herring stocks and allowing herring rebuilding in their areas. We support Heiltsuk and Haida Nations and also urge you not to select the Central Coast or Haida Gwaii as fishing areas.

We look forward to abundant WCVI herring stocks and orderly commercial fisheries in future years, and wish you good fishing in the Strait of Georgia or Prince Rupert area in 2014.