Uu-a-thluk
TAKING CARE OF
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Youth, Elders, and Haay̓ištuup Get Reacquainted During Uu-a-thluk's Summer Programs

Kyuquot
Nootka
Clayoquot
Barclay
Nitinat
San Juan

Anacla Feasting Project: harvesting and project participants

Uu-a-thluk wrapped up the last of three science camps in August during Mowachaht/Muchalaht's annual Summerfest campout. Among the tents and tarps erected by families taking part in the Yuquot event, children and teens stalked insects with homemade bug-catchers, explored marine wildlife on nearby beaches, and learned how to clean up oil spills.

"I think it's an exciting opportunity for kids to change their perceptions about science," said instructor Cameron Adam. "There is a difference from other camps because we focus on experiential tasks. Kids remember what they learn and become familiar with concepts that might otherwise seem intimidating."

Over 40 children and teens enthusiastically took part in the weeklong program designed to interest kids in science, math, and engineering concepts using hands-on activities and games.

The camps were part of Uu-a-thluk's capacity building program, aimed at increasing Nuu-chah-nulth skills and education in areas related to resource management. This summer, the program also sponsored 11 students to attend Future Leaders on the Water (FLOW)—a weeklong camp delivered by Vancouver Island University's Centre for Shellfish Research—and 25 students to attend the Clayoquot Field Station's Sustainability Camp. Both camps introduced students to adult mentors and helped Nuu-chah-nulth youth build leadership skills.

In addition to summer camps, Uu-a-thluk's capacity building program sponsored traditional harvesting exchanges between youth and elders in three communities. During July, the Anacla Feasting Project saw Uu-a-thluk pairing up with the Huu-ay-aht Youth Program to deliver four days of family and youth activities surrounding the harvesting and preparation of traditional foods. Elders like Angie Joe of Sarita were pleased with the youth interest.

"It's really great to see them interested in what we know. We don't do this kind of thing very often," she said.

Three weeks later in Yuquot, the program saw Mowachaht/Muchalaht teens learning about harvesting haay̓ištuup (chitons) from John Amos.

"I learned from my grandparents—Francis and Margaret Amos—back in the 80's," Amos said.

A final series of youth-elder exchanges happened in Itattsoo in late August. The weeklong program included home canning, fishing, and building a community smokehouse.

Overall, Uu-a-thluk's capacity building program touched the lives of more than 200 youth and adults this summer. Capacity building coordinator Norine Messer is enthusiastic about the organization's activities. "These programs are a big hit because they combine learning about science with fun…They also respect Nuu-chah-nulth's unique cultural context and incorporate that into programming."

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

For more information about Uu-a-thluk's education and training programs, contact Norine Messer at 250-735-4111 or norinemesser@hotmail.com. Special thanks to the B.C. Capacity Initiative for making these programs possible.

Uu-a-thluk's 2009 Summer Program

Camp	Location/Date	Numbers
Sustainability Camp	Clayoquot Field Station, Tofino—Maaqtusiis and Wickaninnish students (June)	25
Science Venture Camps	Anacla (July 13 – 17) Yuquo. (August 10 – 14) Kyuquot August (3 – 7)	17 40+ 30
Future Leaders on the Water (FLOW)	Moorecroft Camp, Nanoose (July 2-7)	11
Anacla Feasting Project	Anacla (July 20-23)	15
Itattsoo Feasting Project	Itattsoo (August 25 – 29, October 17)	100+

Nuu-chah-nulth Initiatives Updates

Sea Lice Monitoring

After five years of sampling juvenile wild salmon in Clayoquot Sound for sea lice, The Clayoquot Sound Sea Lice Working Group has released its findings in a public report. The report is a collaborative effort between salmon farmers, local First Nations, and Uu-a-thluk. Monitoring the prevalence and density of sea lice on juvenile wild salmon in Clayoquot Sound since 2004, the Clayoquot Sound Sea Lice Working Group captured and analyzed mainly chum salmon due to sufficient juvenile chum abundance in the area. The results of the studies revealed that the presence of sea lice on chum salmon fluctuated between 7% and 20% from 2004 to 2007, and overall, the presence of sea lice in the Clayoquot Sound did not vary significantly from year to year. To see a copy of the report, visit www.uuathluk.ca. For more information, contact Katie Beach at 250-726-5229 or katie.beach@nuuchahnulth.org.

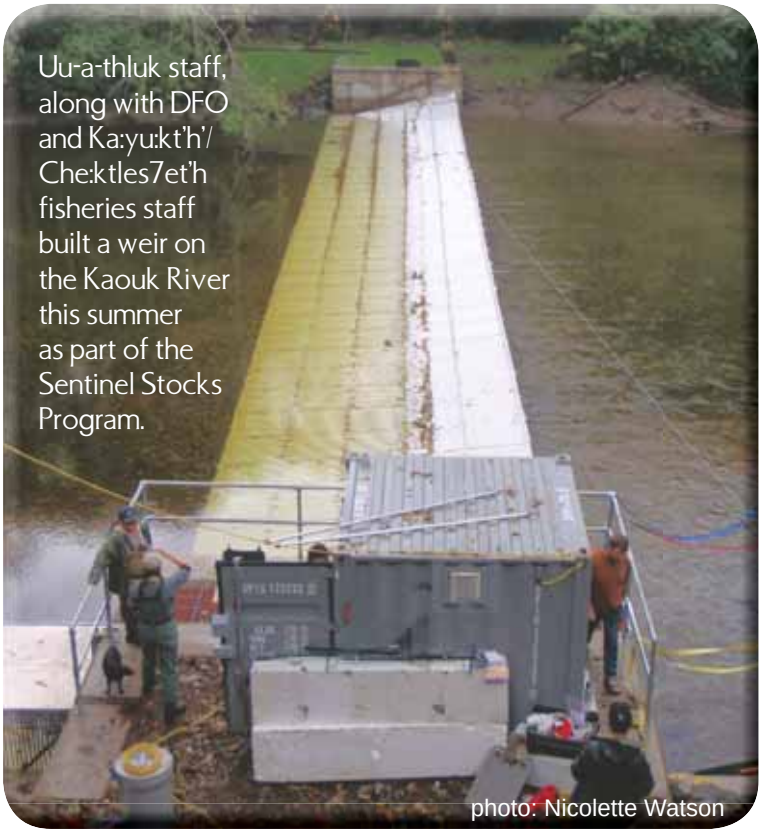
Juvenile chum salmon sampled for sea lice

Pacific Salmon Treaty

The 2008 Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiated between Canada and the US includes substantial reductions to chinook catches in Nuu-chah-nulth Ha-houlthee. Uu-a-thluk staff and NTC President Cliff Atleo Sr. have been participating in a West Coast Aquatic (formerly Aquatic Management Board) sub-committee, along with Area G fishermen, local governments, processors, Ecotrust, and others. To date, members of the sub-committee have 1) done a thorough analysis of all options presented to DFO and participated in DFO meetings, 2) developed recommendations and further details on a WCVI strategy addressing impacts on fishermen, support industries, communities, and First Nations, and 3) met with a variety of parties, including DFO Minister Gail Shea, to discuss the WCVI strategy. DFO's Minister and the Treasury Board will make a decision this fall about the mitigation strategy. For a copy of the report summarizing recommendations and analysis, contact Don Hall at 250-724-5757 or don.hall@nuuchahnulth.org.

Sentinel Stocks Program

Working collaboratively with DFO staff, Uu-a-thluk biologists and Ka:yu:kt'h'/Che:ktles7et'h Fisheries staff upgraded an overgrown road and built a counting fence on the Kaouk River. Uu-a-thluk, DFO, and Ka:yu:kt'h'/Che:ktles7et'h staff will use the weir to count chinook, backing up their census with a mark-and-recapture estimate of the total return using radio tags. Funded by the Pacific Salmon Commission's Sentinel Stocks Committee, the project is part of a 5 year, $10 million program to assess chinook escapements to rigorous standards under the new Pacific Salmon Treaty. A second mark-and-recapture project on the Burman River will continue work done by Uu-a-thluk staff and Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation using visual tags to estimate escapement and compare results to swim surveys. If successful, both projects are eligible for funding for five years. For more information contact Roger Dunlop at 250-283-2012 or roger.dunlop@nuuchahnulth.org.



Uu-a-thluk staff, along with DFO and Ka:yu:kt'h'/Che:ktles7et'h fisheries staff built a weir on the Kaouk River this summer as part of the Sentinel Stocks Program.

photo: Nicolette Watson

Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable

Tla-o-qui-aht, DFO and Uu-a-thluk will host the first in a series of meetings to develop a forum for local interests to deal with management and recovery issues for Clayoquot salmon. The meeting will place this fall and will include representatives from local First Nations, enhancement, and recreational and commercial fishing. For more information, contact Katie Beach at 250-726-5229 or katie.beach@nuuchahnulth.org.

Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI)

The six Nuu-chah-nulth Nations who developed a joint business and training plan under PICFI to access licences and quota submitted further clarifications and revisions this summer at DFO's request. Those Nations (Ka:yu:kt'h'/Che:ktles7et'h, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, Hesquiaht, Huu-ay-aht, Ditidaht, and Uchucklesaht) are now awaiting approval from DFO before moving ahead. Other Nuu-chah-nulth Nations are at various stages of accessing PICFI. For more information, please contact Don Hall at 250-724-5757 or don.hall@nuuchahnulth.org.

Crab Reform

Representatives from DFO's Crab Working Group (which includes First Nations, the commercial and recreational sector, and the Province) have developed recommendations on crab reform. Incorporating the ideas and principals of Working Group representatives, DFO has drafted two documents: 1) an action plan outlining how to move the crab reform process forward, and 2) a draft recreational closure framework outlining the process to get an area closed to commercial fishing for increased recreational (and sometimes First Nation) access. Nuu-chah-nulth representatives have specifically provided input to the plans through the Nuu-chah-nulth Crab Working Group meetings, DFO's Crab Working Group meetings, and by subsequent discussions with DFO. The representatives (including Larry Johnson, Carl Edgar, Phillip Edgar, and Jim Lane) generally feel positive about the crab reform work done to date. DFO will present the two draft documents to the Crab Sectoral Committee at a September 23 meeting in Nanaimo. For more information on the crab reform process and Nuu-chah-nulth involvement, contact Jim Lane at 250-724-5757 or jim.lane@nuuchahnulth.org.

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, Ehattesaht, Mowachaht/ Muchahtlaht, Hesquiaht, Ahousaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Ucluelet, Toquaht, Uchucklesaht, Tseshaht, 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.

Haaýištuup · Chitons

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Uu-a-thluk Learns From Makah

Left: Makah fisherman Rollie Gagnon stands in front of his fishing boat; Right: A deckhand unloads Makah fisherman Roger Bain's catch of yellowtail rockfish during the 2009 fishery.

Members of the Uu-a-thluk team saw the results of hard-won success recently when visiting Makah territory in Northern Washington. During a staff trip to Neah Bay in July, biologists, administration, and other team members met and exchanged information with employees from the Makah Tribal Council's fisheries department. Some also toured the Nation's thriving fishing fleet—70 boats fishing over 20 species, all managed by Makah.

"One of the purposes of going to Neah Bay was to learn how the Makah have handled things that potentially Nuu-chah-nulth are going to have to deal with," said Uu-a-thluk biologist, Jim Lane, referring to Makah's activities following their 1974 court victory against the State of Washington. Also known as the "Boldt decision," the landmark ruling affirmed the treaty rights of most coastal Nations in Washington State to continue to harvest fish for economic purposes.

That victory is one Nuu-chah-nulth hope to replicate this fall, when the judge in the Nuu-chah-nulth fisheries litigation against Canada and B.C. announces her decision. But when and if victory comes, Nuu-chah-nulth Nations know there is much work to be done to recreate the success enjoyed by Makah.

"Between 1974 to 1982, that was our major battle," said Russ Svec, Fisheries Manager for the Makah Tribal Council. "And then in 1982, it evolved into intertribal allocation…We had very good attorneys who quickly became experts in fisheries."

The end result of Makah's persistence is visible today. With the largest treaty fishery in the US, Makah fishermen enjoy a good living. They also work closely with Makah fisheries biologists to keep their fishery healthy.

"We're about 2300 strong…and about 50% of our economy is derived from the ocean," said Svec. "The community relies on what we do here and we take it very seriously…Personally, I go back to the signing of the treaty [in 1855] and try to understand what our ancestors wanted to maintain, knowing that things were going to change. I work really hard to keep that the focus of what we're trying to do here."

To see more photos of Uu-a-thluk activities, including this summer's harvesting exchanges between youth, elders, and community members, become an Uu-a-thluk Facebook fan. Login to your personal Facebook account and visit Uu-a-thluk: Taking Care Of.