

NISGA'A COAST WATCH

Sayt-k'il im-g_oot

Nisga'a Coast Watch & Youth *By Harry Nyce Sr*

We are proud to continue our issue of "Nisga'a Coast Watch". Nisga'a Fisheries & Wildlife remains dedicated to protecting marine resources (E.g. abalone) from illegal harvest on the north coast of B.C. through patrols, raising awareness of the threatened status of abalone and other species at risk, and encouraging community participation through volunteer and Nisga'a Fisheries staff in "Coast Watch": watching out for and reporting illegal harvest.

Consultation with Nisga'a community leaders and members has identified initiatives centered on building capacity with youth as a high priority. Our hope for a 2009-2010 Marine Youth Stewardship program (Year 1) is to implement a cross-cultural exchange between Nisga'a youth from Vancouver, Prince Rupert, New Aiyansh, Gitwinksilkhw, Lakalzap, and Gingolx to promote Nisga'a connection to the marine environment, protection of marine resources, in addition to promoting a traditional lifestyle 'linked' with technology.

How best to reach our children? Blogs and digital animation are just a few ways Nisga'a youth can tell their story and help plan a stewardship program.

For some, this may be the start of a new career in fisheries. To learn more about this program and get involved call 250-633-2617 (Blair Stewart, NF Coastal Manager).

'COASTAL NISGA'A ENFORCEMENT, CONSERVATION & PROTECTION 2008-2009' *By Leonard Guno*

Fishery Officer, Conservation and Protection, Prince Rupert, BC

The Nisga'a Coast Watch program has been on my radar for over a year now, and appears to be heading in the right direction. This program is one of several community initiatives that are happening up and down the coast, not only in BC but as far away as California. This is not a DFO program, but is intended to be 'owned' and developed by the local community—by you. In order for the Nisga'a Nation to move in the right direction, Nisga'a citizens must receive accurate information—and so, my input on DFO enforcement activities in 2008 were, as follows:

- Patrols: DFO conducted four 9-d patrols from Hartley Bay to Gingol'x between January and March, visited schools, and provided field visits for youth aboard the coast guard vessel, "Arrow Post";
- Outreach: Presenting enforcement information at Crab Fest (Gingol'x), and sharing a booth with Nisga'a Fisheries to exchange information for the Nisga'a Coast Watch Program; and
- Communication: Wrote two letters to the Gingol'x Village Government to schedule community consultation with local community members; however, no reply has yet been received.

DFO has been made aware that there may be some issues in Area 4 and 5, with regards to Abalone in 2008, and we hope to continue a similar program in 2009. I welcome feedback and the opportunity to share information, and look forward to the successes of Nisga'a Coast Watch—especially the youth initiative in 2009. For more information and your input, Nisga'a citizens can contact Clarence Nelson (DFO Enforcement, Prince Rupert) at Tel: 250-627-3419.

Nisga'a Coastwatch Activities — Youth Stewardship & Training Program

By Blair Stewart Nisga'a Coastal Manager

Not only salmon but other Nisga'a fisheries face challenges that require compliance and commitment by our people. I would like to thank all Nisga'a fishers for their actions in 2008 to minimize their fishing impact on sockeye salmon when the best information available was telling us that we were faced with a low return. Your words and actions resonate the same message—that as a Nation we stand together to protect our resources and are willing to act and protect our marine resources for future generations. Salmon aren't the only fish needing our help.

What started out as a pilot study to address threatened northern abalone stocks, may evolve into a larger marine stewardship initiative by our community. Our Community Action Plan to restore northern abalone stocks to a level that supports a community food fishery will continue with **Stewardship and Patrolling** activities, however, we will be placing a greater emphasis towards youth and building a program focussed on **Education**. Our goal is to transfer traditional and scientific knowledge of abalone (and other marine fisheries), and conservation recovery principles to Nisga'a youth. Not only will the program be for the youth, but will be championed by youth to design and implement a program that touches the heart, minds, and spirit of our Nation. Our youth have a story that needs telling.

NEXT STEPS & FUTURE DIRECTION 2009-2010:

Education strategies to raise awareness and engage youth in abalone and marine habitat stewardship include the following:

- Abalone presentations and educational activities in schools and youth forums;
- Pending funding from the Habitat Stewardship Program, Nisga'a Fisheries will design, document, implement and assess an interactive-integrated teacher curriculum guide for elementary teachers in the Nisga'a communities, BC, and beyond. The unit theme will provide student awareness centered on the framework of "Marine Ecosystems, Habitat Protection/Conservation, and Abalone Species at Risk." The learning activities will include journals, posters, video documented field trips, and murals that will be used as media tools to promote the Nisga'a Coast Watch program (included in the web site/newsletter) for building a Nisga'a Youth Marine Stewards Group.
- Linking with other schools and organizations to share knowledge, gain self esteem, and promote a high standard of living through conservation, restoration, and preservation of natural resources (Nisga'a youth link with students in Prince Rupert, and globally (i.e., Hawaii, Australia, California)).
- Integrate core subjects such as Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, Science, and Art with the marine and abalone theme providing meaningful and applicable information (activities: role playing, journals, and posters presented at special assembly).
- Explore, document, and share the natural and cultural history of marine uses by the Nisga'a Nation on a local and global level by engaging elders with youth (activity: creating button blankets and video documenting the process).

Nisga'a Fisheries welcomes your feedback and encourages all Nisga'a citizens to check out our information at

<http://oceanlink.island.net/Conservation/abalone/BHCAP/Nisga/ncw.html>

Climate Change, Marine Predation, Trawl By-catch, and Changing Habitat — *The Fate of Nass Eulachon?*

By Richard Bussanich, Nisga'a Fisheries Stock Assessment

Eulachon are an extremely important food source to many First Nations on the Pacific coast and play a significant role in the cultural heritage of the Nisga'a Nation. Although eulachon were once plentiful in most spawning rivers in BC, their runs appear to have declined in a number of rivers, particularly in southern areas (Klinaklini, Wannock, and Fraser). We hear of stocks on the Skeena and in Kemano showing signs of 'stress'.

Based on available information, concern exists for the long-term sustainability of eulachon runs, worldwide. There may be as few as 30 eulachon runs in the world. Many runs have declined, but the reasons remain unclear. One possible explanation is climate change, specifically a warming of coastal waters where eulachon live, but there are other explanations, including subtle changes in the hydrology of the relatively small numbers of rivers used for spawning. Industrial pollution has affected eulachon in several rivers, and increased marine mammal predation may be partly responsible as well.

Habitat degradation and off-shore trawl fisheries have exacerbated the situation, although measures to reduce the by-catch have been implemented (gear and area closures). Possible remedial actions include protection of spawning habitat, limiting bycatch, and regulating fisheries by conducting assessments and catch-monitoring programs.

What is the fate of Nass Eulachon? To help understand the status of our stocks, future Nass River management will depend on the ability to assess eulachon spawning runs. Nisga'a citizens have provided Nisga'a Fisheries with catch information since 1997. In 2007, DFO restricted trawlers at the mouth of the Nass River during the eulachon run after recommendations from the JFMC addressing citizen's concerns in 2006 that the migration school was affected from two trawlers in the area. While catches have ranged from 30 to 350 tonne since 1997, we know very little about the status of Nass River eulachon.

Get involved with Coast Watch and Nisga'a Marine Stewardship.

Eulachon feedback welcome, please email rbussanich@jgl.com

Coast Watch: Your eyes and ears are needed!

Please help abalone recovery - report any incidents of abalone poaching or selling, to

1-800-465-4336.

1. OBSERVE
2. RECORD
3. REPORT

Coast Watch programs are springing up in many BC coastal communities, inspired by the Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Abalone Project on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Nisga'a Coast Watch was started in 2006 by **Nisga'a Fisheries & Wildlife**, working with other First Nations and stewardship groups.

Abalone Patrols are being conducted on the north coast by **Nisga'a Fisheries**, other First Nations, and the Coast Guard, to watch for poaching and monitor abalone areas.

Help protect abalone on the north coast!

REPORT ANY SIGNS OF HARVESTING OR SELLING of ABALONE to:

DFO Observe, Record, Report:

1-800-465-4336

OR

Nisga'a Fisheries 1-250-633-2617

1-866-633-2145 (message)

Coast Watch

Nisga'a Coast Watch Needs You!

Get involved as a volunteer, develop your career skills, and help to protect our community and our resources. Ways in which you can help:

- Calling all youth (ages 12-20) interested in learning about fisheries resource management and gain fisheries skills—Contact Nisga'a Fisheries and make application for our Marine Youth Stewardship Program. This is a 2-week orientation program available to the first 10 youth to sign up, and learn about our Nass fisheries resources, discover our history (petroglyphs), and have fun visiting various fisheries projects along the lower Nass River and Kincolith River.
- Signage—Are you artistic... can you carve? We are looking for volunteers to help with design and construction of public kiosks throughout the Lower Nass Valley—this is a chance to show off your talent to the community and visitors, for years to come;
- Brochures, posters, and booklets—looking to use your graphic design talents—we are looking for anyone (of all ages) interested in learning MS Publisher to help with layout, design, and content for future newsletters, brochures, posters, and children's books using Nisga'a language and Nisga'a art;
- Workshop—looking for volunteers to help with delivery of community and school presentations;
- Nisga'a Language Translators—looking for Nisga'a of all ages to help with documenting and presenting Coast Watch materials and educational packages in Nisga'a (all media and print material);
- Looking for chaperones and drivers for our Summer Youth Outreach Camp
- If you have other interests and want to get involved, let us know.

NISGA'A FISHERIES YOUTH OUTREACH !

We will be embarking on a new program for our youth. The plan is to run field trips beachcombing the Nass estuary, learning about Lisims, and hopefully developing our next generation of resource managers. The program will be hands-on, and highly interactive with loads of fun. Some of the learning will be web-based, and include a few of the listed sites, below.

To learn more contact Richard at Nisga'a Fisheries.

http://www.pc.gc.ca/apprendre-learn/jeunes-youths/index_E.asp

Do you like adventure, history or nature? Then you've come to the right place! Here you'll have fun and learn at the same time. Parks Canada Youth Zone is a great and entertaining site. Create Virtual Postcards from images across Canada, view photo galleries and familiarize yourself with species at risk. Check out the 3D animated Play 'n Game and rescue abalone unit.

<http://www.vanaqua.org/education/guides.html>

Get current in aquatic education with the Vancouver Aquarium's Educators' Guides. Full of pre- and post-marine field visit ideas, these practical resources help enhance your students' exploration of aquatic animals and their habitats. Each guide provides exciting educational experiences that complement the Ministry of Education's Integrated Resource Packages.

<http://www.secretsatsea.org/tg/>

Teachers and students are invited to log on to the world's first online ocean adventure learning game. Easy to set-up in the classroom and quick to download, Secrets @ Sea is deep with educational content! Ace on the Case: Secrets @ Sea is a curriculum-based adventure story for grade 4-7 students on the World Wide Web. This engaging website game complements ocean-theme units of study in the classroom and enhances students learning experiences using the Internet. Students play the starring role of "Ace".

<http://www.projectwild.org/>

Project WILD is one of the most widely-used conservation and environmental education programs among educators of students in kindergarten through high school. It is based on the premise that young people and educators have a vital interest in learning about our natural world. Project WILD is currently working with writers and early childhood experts to produce a national early childhood guide called *WILD Kids*. The new guide is

well underway, and we anticipate having copies available for distribution by the summer of 2009.

<http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/efc/>

Pretty cool site with Pod cast, Video and Webcams - Watch a kelp forest feeding, listen to a penguinologist or watch a jelly drift—all without leaving home. Pretty amazing multimedia features bring the aquarium to you. The Sea Searchers Handbook, published by the Monterey Bay Aquarium in 1996, provides a treasure of activities, from art to science and from math to language arts. Explore rocky shores, wetlands, sandy shores, kelp forests, the open sea and the deep sea and enjoy over 90 hands-on activities.

<http://www.sciencealive.ca/>

Science ALIVE is a student-run non-profit organization based at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby. They provide opportunities for youth to explore science beyond the textbook through hands-on, interactive discovery which stimulates their interest and fosters confidence.

<http://www.redwiremag.com/>

Redwire is a media and arts organization dedicated to Native youth expression. Redwire Magazine published its first issue in April 1997 with the support of the Native Youth Movement (a grassroots Native youth group) and the Environmental Youth Alliance. Today Redwire distributes 11,000 copies across Canada, four times a year. Redwire is the first-ever Native youth run magazine in Canada, and is committed to operating with Native youth staff, writers, artists and publishers.

<http://www.theleaderinme.org/schools.html>

The world has entered an era of the most profound and challenging change in human history. In addition, studies have identified what is referred to as a “skills gap”—a difference in how students are prepared for the workforce and the skills and character employers are seeking to match the demands of today’s global economy. What if our children could be better prepared to meet the future challenges of our ever-changing world?