

HA'OOM FISHERIES SOCIETY

Implementing Rights-Based Fisheries on Behalf of Ahousaht, Ehattesaht/Chinehkint, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, Hesquiaht and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations



FAREWELL, ALEX!

On behalf of the Ha'oom Fisheries Society Board of Directors, we'd like to thank Alex Gagne for all of her tremendous hard work and dedication to the Five Nations for the past decade. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours and hope to see her back with us soon!

- HFS Board Co-Chairs Elmer Frank and Errol Sam



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HA'OOM
FISHERIES SOCIETY

OUTGOING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE



Hello! Spring is here, and so are some exciting changes here at HFS. In early April we welcomed Howie Wright into the role of Executive Director. Howie and I will transition the role for a 2-month period, and I will 'officially' be stepping down as Executive Director June 4, 2022.

I began working for the Five Nations in the summer of 2012 – when DFO had authorized the first “demonstration” fishery for chinook salmon. This was almost 3 years after the historic affirmation of aboriginal rights in the 2009 Ahousaht et al. court ruling. At that time, it was myself and Katie Beach (former NTC Central Region biologist) bombing to your communities in the black bombard zodiac, young and excited to actually be supporting the Nations in setting up a fishery that was long overdue and showed so much promise.

Over the past decade, the people I have met, the stories I have heard and the teaching I have learned have shaped who I am as an individual and a professional. I have had the pleasure of experiencing amazing moments – like being on the Court House steps when the Nations were victorious in their legal case, witnessing countless landings where fishers came in with their kids and grandkids, their coolers full of fresh fish for sale. I have seen the fleet grow, and the number of fisheries expand. I have witnessed the strength of your muschim and leadership against a government that has fought against you every step of the way, and tried every play in the book to keep the Nations boats tied to the dock. The leadership of your Nations have taught me patience, perseverance and that culture and connection to land and water can never be beaten down by government policies and systemic oppression. The Nuu-chah-nulth system of governance and drive of the muschim is just too strong to allow that to happen.

From all this, I say thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to learn, grow and for shaping into the professional I am today.

After June, I will remain connected to the fishery, Ha’oom and your Ha’houlthees– I will continue to contract with the Ha’oom and provide support in whatever ways I can, as I truly believe in the work. I will continue to reside in Tofino, where I am very happy to be raising my two kids.

So as I hand over the proverbial wheel to Howie Wright – I do with a full heart and nothing but optimism. The future is a strong, vibrant, Nuu-chah-nulth fishery – where fishers can once again make a living off the sea resources in your territories. Thank you for letting me be part of the journey.

- Alex Gagne, Advisor (Outgoing Executive Director)

INCOMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE



I am from the Gitksan Nation in northwestern BC on the Skeena River near Hazelton, BC. My mom is from the Gitsegukla community, and my dad is from the Gitanmaax community. I currently hold the name Waga Ts'iwaal, a hereditary wing chief name in the house of Nisto'o in Gitsegukla. I grew up in Vancouver after my parents moved there in the late 60s.

I completed my undergrad and graduate schooling at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, ending with a Master of Science degree in fisheries in 2005. I focused on the interactions of sockeye, kokanee, and mysis relicta in Osoyoos and Skaha Lakes in the Okanagan basin. I have been in the Okanagan Valley since 1995 and currently live in Westbank, BC. I have four children, all boys, who also live in the Okanagan.

Previously, I worked with the Okanagan Nation Alliance in their fisheries department. I started working with them in 2002 and became their fisheries manager in 2007. During that time, I helped them build themselves into one of BC's largest First Nations fisheries organizations. Today, they have a complement of 40-45 full-time staff and their own hatchery, virology lab, and habitat training course. I hope to bring my experience in organizational development, capacity building, and fish management to Ha'oom.

Fisheries-wise, my parents worked up in Prince Rupert in the 60s. My dad was a gillnetter, and my mom worked in the cannery in administration. As I grew up, we would travel up to Hazelton to fish with family every summer, even though we lived in Vancouver. We still do this to this day.

I bring some experience in commercial fishing (gill netting, trolling table seine, and beach seine), processing, logistics, and procurement through working with the Okanagan Nation Alliance. I hope to bring this experience to Ha'oom.

I look forward to being part of the Ha'oom team and as part of the exciting work of implementing the Five Nations' rights-based fisheries.

- *Howie Wright, Executive Director*

HA'OOM FISHERIES SOCIETY STAFF AND CONTRACTORS

- Alex Gagne, Advisor
- Audrey Adelinet, Program Coordinator
- Byron Charlie, Research Technician
- Candace Picco, Biologist
- Colton Van Der Minne, Student
- Howie Wright, Executive Director
- Izzy Ahmed, Finance and Business Development Manager
- Jessica Edwards, Associate Biologist
- Kadin Snook, Fisheries Coordinator
- Kayla Lucas, Research Technician
- Lacey Adams, Tla-o-qui-aht Community Fisheries Liaison
- Lauren Dean, Communications Specialist
- Saul Milne, Strategic Advisor
- Stevie Dennis, Research Technician
- Vanessa Buchanan, Fisheries Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Wally Samuel, Ahousaht
- Georgina Amos, Ehattesaht/Chinehkint
- Victor Amos (Treasurer), Hesquiaht
- Patrick James, Mowachaht/Muchalaht
- Elmer Frank (Co-Chair), Tla-o-qui-aht
- Errol Sam (Co-Chair), Ahousaht
- Simon John (Secretary), Ehattesaht/Chinehkint
- Constant Charleson, Hesquiaht
- Michael Maquinna, Mowachaht/Muchalaht
- Joseph David, Tla-o-qui-aht

LEAD NEGOTIATORS

- Cliff Atleo, Ahousaht
- Francis Frank, Tla-o-qui-aht
- Victor Amos/Constant Charleson, Hesquiaht
- Simon John, Ehattesaht
- Michael Maquinna, Mowachaht/Muchalaht

MEET JULIA BINGHAM - A HFS RESEARCH PARTNER

Julia is a PhD candidate in Marine Science and Conservation at Duke University. She specializes in studying the intersections of environmental values and knowledges, power, and equity in coastal governance and management, especially fisheries. Julia's dissertation work is about the role of multiple knowledge systems in informing salmon management and the implementation of First Nations' fishing rights in Clayoquot Sound. In her work with Ha'oom, Julia supports work that considers how science, experience, and traditional knowledges can be used together to support Ha'oom's mission to provide fishing opportunities for future generations through sustainable harvest and stewardship. Julia works with Ha'oom's administrative staff and Board of Directors, and conducts interviews with T'aaq-wiihak salmon fishers in order to support management from HFS that can best address fishers' needs and achieve Ha'oom's visions. Julia's broader research goal is to support prosperous current and future human-nature relationships through ethical, equitable governance and management that recognizes the rights, interests, and knowledge of local communities.



Julia Bingham

Julia is originally from the Humboldt coast in California and spent much of her childhood and her past academic research in the Pacific Northwest of the U.S. Her advisor, Dr. Grant Murray, has worked with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations for 15 years and brought Julia on to his research as an assistant in 2017. Julia has worked with Tla-o-qui-aht since 2018, and officially began work with Ha'oom Fisheries Society in 2020. Her research methods are centered on an ethic of respect, reciprocity, and care for relationships guided by the generous permission and leadership of her collaborators at Tla-o-qui-aht and Ha'oom. You can read more about her research at juliaabingham.com.

SCIENCE UPDATE

Pacific Salmon Commission Funding for Kennedy Smolt Surveys

The Ha'oom science team was successful in securing funds from the Pacific Salmon Commission this year carry out some work in the Kennedy watershed. The team will use our new Biosonic Echosounder to conduct salmon smolt population surveys in the lower Kennedy river. We hope to be able to estimate the number of all salmon smolts leaving the Kennedy watershed. This funding will support Colton Van Der Minne, Tla-o-qui-aht and student supervised by Dr. Andrea Reid at the University of British Columbia. We also have funding to hire a TFN member as who is interested in working on this project. Learn more about Dr. Andrea Reid and her team on the next page.

The project set to begin in mid-April, will involve: the Echosounder, recording salmon smolt out-migration, using fyke nets, a beach seine, and a camera system to find the best method of determining the species proportion of salmon that we see in the Echosounder data. In addition to the work done in the lower river, we will do plankton tows and beach seining for smolts in the estuary to better understand what food is present and which species of salmon are in the estuary.

This project is an exciting first step in to better understand the productivity of rivers in the Five Nations' territories. Please contact Ha'oom if you are interested in working with us on this project – info@haoom.ca.

– *Candace Picco, Biologist*

SCIENCE UPDATE - CONT'D

New Partnerships

Ha'oom is very excited to introduce our new partners at the Centre for Indigenous Fisheries (CIF), University of British Columbia! Ha'oom began working with Dr. Reid at the CIF in the summer of 2021, this partnership will greatly increase Ha'oom's capacity to do a wide variety of fisheries research.



Dr. Andrea Reid

Dr. Andrea Reid is a citizen of the Nisga'a Nation and a new Assistant Professor with the University of British Columbia's Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries. She is helping to launch and lead the Centre for Indigenous Fisheries, working to build a national and international hub for the study and protection of culturally significant fish and fisheries.

Her research program adopts highly interdisciplinary and applied approaches to improving our understanding of the complex interrelationships between fish, people and place. Reid's PhD in Biology (Governor General's Gold Medal; Carleton University '20) centered on multiple stressor effects on Pacific salmon, using tools and insights from Western and Indigenous sciences in tandem. Reid is a cofounder of Riparia, a Canadian charity that connects diverse young women with science on the water to grow the next generation of water protectors. She is also a National Geographic Explorer and a Fellow of The Explorers Club.



Colton Van Der Minne

Colton Van Der Minne is from the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and is currently in the fourth year of his undergraduate degree studying marine biology at the University of British Columbia. He will be working with the Ha'oom Fisheries Society this summer as part of his Honours thesis. Outside of school, Colton enjoys reading, music, and spending time around the ocean.



Nicole Jung

Nicole Jung is a settler-descendent of Chinese immigrants and is completing a double major in marine biology and Indigenous studies at the University of British Columbia. She currently works in partnership with the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council and Ha'oom Fisheries Society for her practicum and honours thesis research. Some of her best teachers are the children/youth from Tsawout First Nation, where she currently lives with an elder.

HFS PROGRAMS UPDATE

Safety Training

In June, Ha'oom Fisheries Society is offering free safety training, open to all Five Nations fishers!

The training will take place on the fisher's vessel and will be provided by fisher safety advisors. They will help organize the crews' onboard safety procedures, demonstrate how to use safety equipment, and help put together an emergency plan to use in the event of an emergency at sea. Emergency drills will be done on the vessel with the crew. The training will also focus on teaching the fundamentals of vessel stability and on the different ways to maximize chances of survival in cold water.

When?

Tofino: March 30 and March 31, 2022

Ahousaht: June 1 and June 2, 2022

Hot Springs Cove: June 3, 2022

Gold River: June 7 and June 8, 2022

Campbell River: June 9, 2022

Port Alberni: June 10, 2022

We also have two free training workshops happening at end of June and July, open to all five Nations members:

- Fish Handling and Processing Workshop - this workshop, through practical applications, will demonstrate the best practices for handling and processing fish.
- Boat Maintenance Workshop - this workshop will demonstrate how to carry out basic DIY maintenance on your boat, how to do the servicing, and how to prepare your boat for winter. Also covered during this workshop will be the most common causes of breakdown at sea and how to avoid them.

HFS STAFF UPDATE



Byron Charlie

We'd like to welcome Byron Charlie to the team as our newest research technician! Byron comes from the Ahousaht and Hesquiaht Nations and has an extensive commercial diving and fishing background. He has experience in resource management and biology tech and over 20 years experience in a variety of areas related to marine and freshwater fisheries, wildlife, forestry, traditional knowledge mapping, environmental monitoring, natural resource management, and ecotourism/adventure tourism. Byron has been involved with many different governmental and private sector projects within the Haahoulthee of the Nuuchah-nulth Nations, including restoration on various salmon bearing rivers in the Ahousaht Haahoulthee and developing new habitat and spawning areas in conjunction with traditional knowledge and western science provided by local Elders and other restoration NGO's.

Byron comes from a multi-disciplinary training background and holds a number of different accolades, specializing in coastal and marine management. He has also worked as a professional wilderness guide, is a Red Seal Carpenter, Boat Captain, recreational fish guide, crane and pump operator and Native Arts apprentice. He has a strong passion for the natural environment, Indigenous cultures and language.

HFS PROJECTS UPDATE

In 2018 the Five Nations and DFO agreed to a hasaamac (Dungeness crab) population survey contract in the territories of Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, and Mowachaht/Muchalaht. The court determined that those three Nations did not have sufficient hasaamac access. However, DFO decided that the high abundance of sea otters in the area causing low numbers of hasaamac was reason enough to not provide the three Nations with access. Instead DFO provided small number of traps for an “exploratory fishery” for crab. This was met with discord by the Nations and staff. In subsequent meetings with DFO, the three Nations' fisheries managers decided they wanted a comprehensive hasaamac population survey plan for their territories to get a better picture of the population health in general, rather than just the commercial potential. The first surveys took place in 2021.

In early March, 2022, Dani Robertson (NTC Northern Region Biologist) and I traveled to Ehatis, staying in the community, to complete some training for the hasaamac surveys. There we met with two DFO scientists who have been working with Ha’oom and the fisheries managers over the last year to plan and implement this project. The first day consisted of preparation, including launching the DFO vessel and prepping the traps for the next day’s work.

The next day on the water we enjoyed a sunny trip by boat to Espinosa Inlet, where we set a total of 27 traps at 3 different sites. The traps were in sets of 3 to cover different depths and then soaked for 24 hours using herring as the standard bait. The purpose of this is to ensure the experiment is repeatable and can be compared across other sites.

On the second day, we set out to sample the previous day's traps. As each trap is pulled, we collect data for each crab caught, such as: sex, shell age, shell health, and overall length of the “notch” (the area between the points at the longest length of the shell of the crab). This gives us the necessary information to develop an understanding of a population’s sized distribution, health, and reproductive success. After all the traps were sampled, we threw in some new bait and set them in a new location.

On the final day, we focused on sampling the last series of traps and removed all of the gear from the water. With the crab population study officially in full swing, we drove home from Ehatis reflecting on what we had learned and discussed how excited we were to continue to work with Ehattesaht and Mowachah/Muchalaht over the next few years to complete this work.

Interested in participating in the hasaamac surveys? Shoot us a message at info@haoom.ca.

-Kadin Snook, Fisheries Coordinator



Ross Wilcox (Technician, DFO) and Kadin Snook dropping traps.
Photo: Danielle Robertson, NTC



Dan Curtis (Biologist, DFO).
Photo: Danielle Robertson, NTC

A NOTE FROM ECOTRUST

Ecotrust Canada welcomes our 2022 dockside monitoring team!

We are introducing two fisheries staff who will be working from the traditional territory of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations. We are thrilled to be welcoming Shelby Huebner and Brooke Rollins back to the team.

Shelby Huebner is the new Fisheries Project Coordinator and Deployment Supervisor. Previously, she was a dockside monitor for the T'aaq-wiihak Fishery from 2015-2019. Shelby, who loves fishing and hunting, is from Ahousaht First Nation where she's known for helping her parents operate her late grandfather's general store.

Brooke Rollins is the new Assistant Coordinator. She has worked for Ecotrust Canada since 2020 as a dockside monitor for the Five Nations' fishery. Brooke, who is an outdoor enthusiast (surfer, boarder, hiker), hails from Calgary, Alberta.

Shelby and Brooke will be coordinating the dockside monitoring program for the Multi Species Finfish Fishery in Tofino, Zeballos, and Gold River. You will find them either answering the hail phone, coordinating offloads, or down at the docks!



Shelby Huebner, Fisheries
Deployment Supervisor



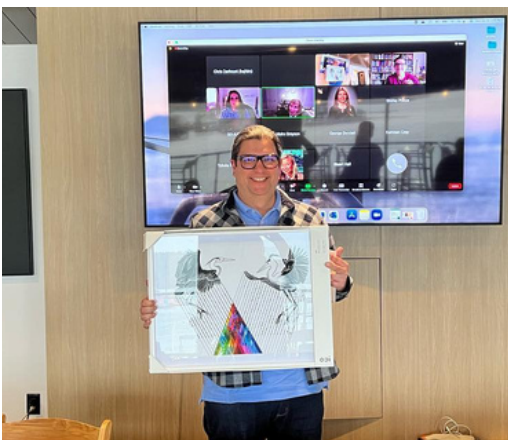
Brooke Rollins, Assistant
Coordinator

CONGRATULATIONS DR. SAUL MILNE

On April 20th, HFS staff were pleased to witness the impressive and successful defense of Saul Milne's Ph.D dissertation. Congratulations Dr. Saul!

His dissertation is titled - *Ḥaaḥuupa* and fisheries: an indigenous methodological approach to Tla-o-qui-aht knowledge systems in support of community renewal.

An excerpt from his dissertation abstract: "Indigenous research methodologies encourage Indigenous scholars and allies to re-make research. Deliberately positioning academic inquiry as part of a research design, research can sustain and renew a community's ability to engage their political priorities while fostering a transition to community-based knowledge production. In this dissertation, I report on two research projects I was involved in that were led by Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations. Both examine Tla-o-qui-aht knowledge systems and values. I document how the Tla-o-qui-aht community and I, as a researcher, together navigated a series of existing institutional and community-based ethical processes and were able to create new ones that would guide our research as well as research in the future."



Dr. Saul Milne

COMMUNICATIONS

Keep Up to Date with HFS!

Ha'oom Fisheries Society sends out updates, requests for bids, workshop information, fishery notices, and much more through e-mail, Facebook posts (both the HFS page and T'aaq-wiihak account), Instagram posts, and posts all notices to the www.taaq.ca website.

The best way to ensure that you're receiving important information is to sign up to receive our email newsletters. Please visit <http://eepurl.com/helRDp> to sign up or email info@haoom.ca and ask to be added.

Not a fisher but want to still be connected? Sign up for our HFS newsletter here: <http://eepurl.com/hOXmR9> or email info@haoom.ca and ask to be added.

Still need to register? Don't wait!

Please register as soon as you can. Wait times will vary and will become longer as we head further into the season. You do not have to wait until your fishery is opening to register.

Visit www.taaq.ca/register-for-taaq-wiihak/

Engage with Us



websites: www.haoom.ca,
www.taaq.ca



twitter: [@haoomfisheries](https://twitter.com/haoomfisheries)



facebook.com/haoomfisheriessociety,
facebook.com/taaqwiihak.fisheries



instagram: [@haoomfisheriessociety](https://instagram.com/haoomfisheriessociety)



email: info@haoom.ca

Current and Historical Fisher Resources

Looking for a specific reference document? Registration information, application forms, COVID-19 Safety Plans, links to external agencies, fish vendor license applications and much more are located here:

<https://taaqwiihakfisheries.ca/resources/>

HAPPY FISHING!

HFS Staff and Contractors

(left to right):

Alex Gagne, Advisor

Jess Edwards, Associate Biologist

Candace Picco, Biologist

Vanessa Buchanan, Fisheries Coordinator

Tessa Saxby-Jones, Program Coordinator
(maternity leave)

Stevie Dennis, Field Technician

Audrey Adelinet, Program Coordinator

Saul Milne, Strategic Advisor

Lauren Dean, Communications Specialist

Kadin Snook, Fisheries Coordinator

Not pictured:

Howie Wright, Executive Director

Kayla Lucas, Research Technician

Izzy Ahmed, Business and Finance Manager

Byron Charlie, Research Technician

