

HA'OOM FISHERIES SOCIETY

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



CHRISTMAS WISHES

On behalf of the Ha'oom Fisheries Society Board of Directors, we'd like to wish all of our fishers, their families, our Nation members, and supporters a joyous holiday season and a Merry Christmas. We'd also like to wish you all a safe and prosperous New Year. See you in 2022 out on the water. Be safe!

- from HFS Board Co-Chairs Elmer Frank and Errol Sam



Moyeha River

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HA'OOM
FISHERIES SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

This year we had many successes and some challenges! We welcomed some new team members - Audrey Adelinet in the role of Program Coordinator (covering for Tessa Saxby-Jones who is on maternity leave), Harinder Singh in the role of Finance and Business Development Officer, and Vanessa Buchanan who has joined Kadin Snook in the role of Fisheries Coordinator. We also said goodbye (temporarily) to Kara Anna Adams, who also has departed on a maternity leave. The Nations had another big legal win in April – with the BC Court of Appeal ruling affirming what the Nations have always known about the integral nature of the fishery to Nuu-chah-nulth culture. This court ruling was yet another strong recognition of the Nation's aboriginal right, re-setting the understanding of the scope of the right to the 2009 decision and removing many of the qualifiers added in (erroneously) by Justice Humphries in her 2018 ruling.

The fisheries this year were the largest since the court ruling in 2009 – with almost 1000 landings! Fisheries occurred for halibut, salmon, lingcod, sea cucumber, prawn, crab, and sablefish. As an organization, we continued to learn and grow together - something that we commit to doing into the new year, and the years ahead.

This year we also started various science projects, towards the shared priority of the Nations to build our own science to inform management, and to reduce our reliance on DFO science as the priority source of data. This work has been exciting and allowed us to get out into the Nation's ha-houlthees (while respecting COVID-19 safety measures). We hosted our first Annual General Meeting as a new society in September of 2021. This is an exciting milestone that marks our one year as an organization! Unfortunately, due to COVID 19 restrictions, this meeting was virtual. We look forward to getting together in a good way once we can with COVID – there is so much to be gained from sitting together, sharing a meal, and hearing from each other face-to-face. We are also overdue for a celebration after the last victory in the courts with the Appeal decision. For 2022, we will see expansion in the crab fishery and the chinook fishery. As well, potential increases to the prawn, coho, and sea cucumber fisheries are on the horizon.

I have had the pleasure of working for the Five Nations for the past ten years, and although at times progress has felt slow (or even that we were going backwards!) - reflecting on this year, I can honestly say the winds of change are here – 2022 is shaping up to be the biggest year of fishing opportunities yet, and I look forward to seeing more fishers out on the water with greater allocations to support their viability.

- Alex Gagne, Executive Director

HA'OOM FISHERIES SOCIETY STAFF AND CONTRACTORS

- Alex Gagne, Executive Director
- Candace Picco, Biologist
- Jessica Edwards, Associate Biologist
- Kadin Snook, Fisheries Coordinator
- Vanessa Buchanan, Fisheries Coordinator
- Lacey Adams, Tla-o-qui-aht Community Fisheries Liaison
- Lauren Dean, Communications Specialist
- Harinder Singh, Finance and Business Development Officer
- Saul Milne, Strategic Advisor
- Stevie Dennis, Fieldwork Technician
- Audrey Adelinet, Program Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Wallace Samuel, Ahousaht
- Georgina Amos, Ehattesaht
- 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
- 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



Salmon being offloaded

2021 FISHERIES RECAP

The 2021 fishery was opened for over 300 days. While activity can be isolated to roughly a third of that time, it was the longest-running fishery to date, closing December 7th, 2021, in preparation for the 2022 season. There were many challenges this season, but it was not without its incremental successes.

Most of the multi-species finfish fishery allocations were obtained this season, and where the allocations weren't obtained, they were still at their highest recorded catch levels. One example of that is the túskuuh (lingcod) catch. The 2021 fishery also saw the most landings thus far and nearly tripled the landings from 2020. This can be attributed to the fleet's recovery from COVID-19. During the 2021 season, a total of 74 fishers participated in the fishery, compared to 28 fishers in the 2020 season. This is a positive sign of adaptation to the challenges created by the pandemic. This also shows the continual growth of the fleet.

A fundamental shift was when the Ha'wiih moved to assert their rights in the T'aaq-wiihak Rights-Based Fishery. This led to a series of challenges with buyers, monitoring, and development plans to support fishers on the water required active management. In saying that, overall, this fishery, with hard work from diligent fishers, provided an opportunity to explore access outside the DFO regime and help the Nations support their right to self-governance.

Looking back, the season provided new opportunities in a rapidly changing environment and lessons from 2021 will help shape 2022. From the team at Ha'oom, we would like to extend our gratitude to the fishers who made this year possible and look forward to the 2022 season.

LOOKING TO 2022

The multispecies fisheries are planned to open in February for the winter suuhaa with groundfish anticipated to start at the beginning of March. On the invertebrates' side, there is going to be increased opportunity in this area, particularly in crab. Ha'oom staff will be reaching out in the new year to share this opportunity and seek feedback on the ways to best implement it.

Operationally, staff are working to wrap up the post-season and continue the pre-season planning. We are also starting to initiate the changes that will occur from the BC Supreme Court Appeal decision that occurred in April of 2021. We are working to develop plans for implementation in line with the right and from the feedback provided by the communities. 2022 will prove to be an interesting year forward in the fishery as there are many changes coming.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to stop by the office in the new year or contact the fisheries coordinators, Kadin and Vanessa. Until then, have a great holiday and we look forward to continuing to work with the Nations to support and grow the fisheries in 2022.

- *Kadin Snook, Fisheries Coordinator*

NEW FISHERIES COORDINATOR

After a busy summer of dockside monitoring and a rained-out snorkel survey season on the Tranquil this fall, I am thrilled to be joining Ha'oom as a fisheries coordinator! Over the past five years, I have been working closely with the Five Nations in a variety of fisheries-related roles and feel very lucky to be part of protecting and sustaining salmon resources for the Nuu-chah-nulth Nations.

For the last three years, I have been working for the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council as the crew lead for Uu-a-thluk's Suuhaa Mark Recapture study at the Tranquil, in the Tla-o-qui-aht territory. Throughout my time on this project, I have developed an incredibly strong passion for the conservation of wild salmon and habitat restoration. This project has also given me a deepened understanding of the value of the local salmon stocks, seeing firsthand how the current state of declining salmon populations is affecting the local fishing communities. My experience as a monitor for Ecotrust the past two seasons has given me the chance to get to know many of the participants in this fishery, and it has been the highlight of my summers to be a part of the action down at the 4th Street dock offloads.

My experience as a monitor over the years has also allowed me to see the many positive impacts the Five Nations' fishery has on the Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht communities.

In this role, I hope to provide an added Ha'oom presence down at the docks, strengthen communication with fishermen, provide more frequent in-season updates on closures, present live total remaining TAC counts, and ensure that fishermen have a consistent and available contact point to direct their questions and concerns. With COVID-19 restrictions (hopefully) lifting more in 2022, feel free to drop by the office anytime to chat with me! I am looking forward to learning more on how to best support the Five Nations in this new position, and to another busy season down at the docks in 2022!

- *Vanessa Buchanan, Fisheries Coordinator*



Vanessa with the Ha'oom Provider



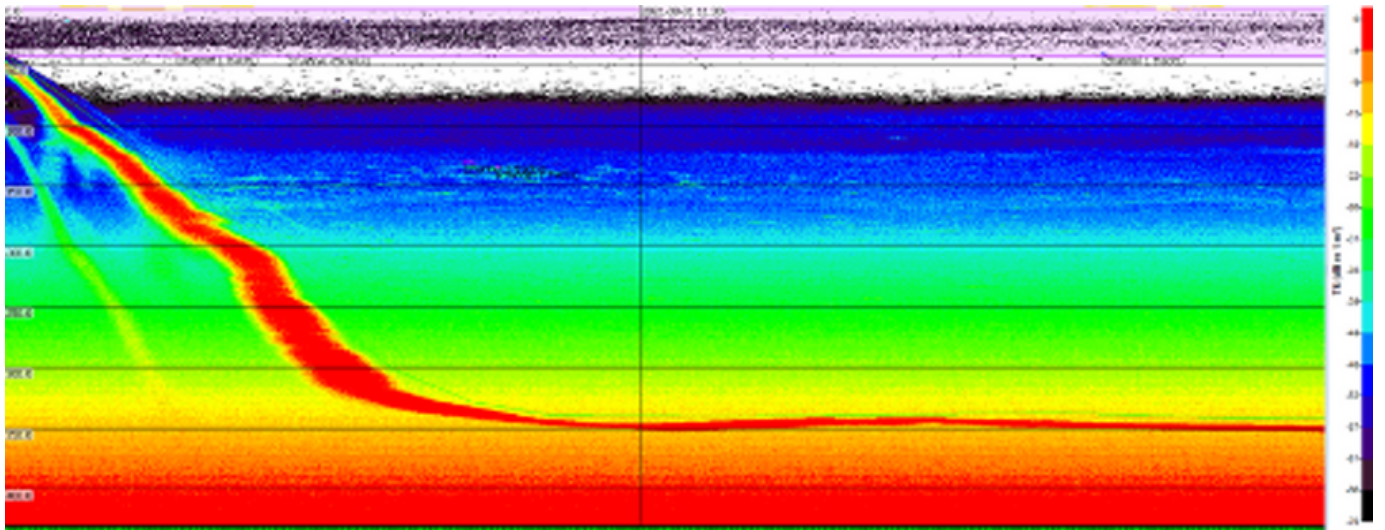
Offload at the 4th Street Dock

SCIENCE UPDATE

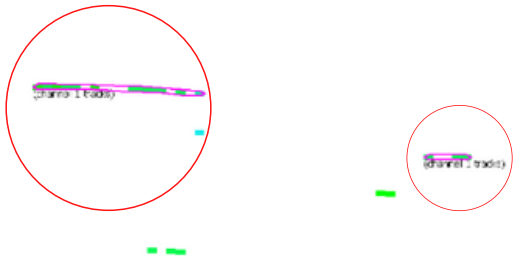
The New Biosonic!

In the spring of 2021, Ha’oom acquired a hydroacoustic echosounder – in other words a very fancy fish finder! This device is used by governments and NGOs alike to conduct surveys of fish populations and habitats. HFS has plans to use it for rockfish surveys, escapements and smolt outmigration surveys, and a tool for in-season management of nearshore fisheries in Nootka Sound.

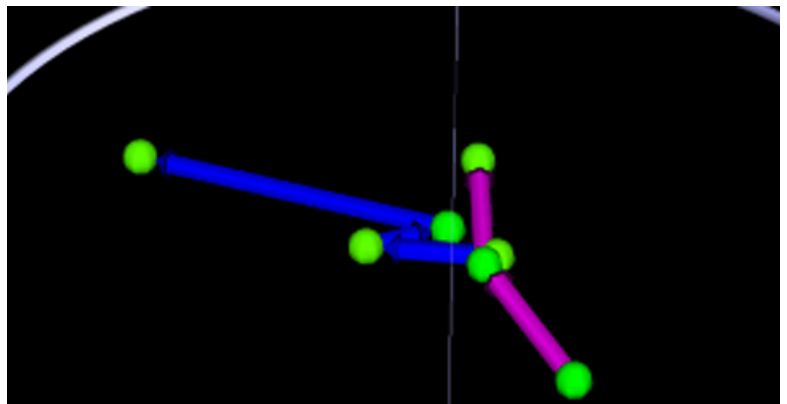
Similar to a fish finder, the echosounder sends a sound pulse through the water and when it hits an object (fish, kelp, zooplankton, or bottom) it sends a sound pulse back to the device. Depending on where that sound pulse hits the object and what the make-up is of that object (air bladder or not, sand bottom versus bedrock, or fin versus body of the fish) the returning sound pulse will be at different levels. We then use very fancy analysis software to determine, based on the direction and speed of the object, whether it is a fish or not. The device cannot tell between different species of fish, but it can give an indication of the size of that potential fish. To determine the species composition of the sample we will use secondary methods such as baited drop cameras, swim surveys, fish traps, and test fishing.



The above image is an echogram for our first survey in Muchalat Inlet near Gold River. The dark red line is the bottom, and the different colours represent the different sound levels being returned to the device. This fjord is so deep, just over 350m, the strong green layer here could be a colder water sitting at the bottom. When you begin to process the echogram, you can change the colours to highlight the sound levels you are interested in.



Here you can see that the echogram has been processed to detect targets of interest and those inside the red circles have been chose by the algorithm to be fish tracks.



Looking closer at the fish tracks you can even create a 3D model which shows the direction of travel which can help to better understand behaviour of your targets of interest.

Staff look forward to working with managers and fishers to use this device to answer important questions surrounding the Nations’ science priorities.

-Jess Edwards, Associate Biologist

Microtrolling Update

As technical staff at Ha'oom, we hear a lot of questions about the impacts of fish farms on wild salmon. While we don't specifically target the impacts of finfish aquaculture in our research, as the matter touches on economic and political issues that go beyond the scope of our work, we do look at the greatest impacts to salmon survival in the territories, and beyond, so impacts from aquaculture do present in the results. In particular, the tissue samples and observations from the microtrolling project are examined for stress signals from environmental stressors such as disease and sea lice infestation but also stresses from temperature and food availability. An unnaturally high density of fish in an area will lead to greater incidences of lice and disease which will spread to the wild fish that are adapted to living in an environment with fewer sea lice and less disease than is currently present. In 2020, there were 4.5 farmed salmon in Clayoquot sound to every 1 wild salmon fry in the region.

To date, there are some results from the microtrolling sampling. We do not yet have any DNA results which will tell us which stocks overwinter along the WCVI as juveniles each year, or the results on infectious agents or the level of stress the fish are experiencing. We do have a comparison of the proportion of fish infected with sea lice in the sounds along the WCVI, however, each area has a different number of samples and so more samples and years of data are needed to say anything definitive about the results.

In the 2020/21 season, in Clayoquot Sound, out of the 264 juvenile suuhaa sampled with microtrolling, 56% of the fish had between 1 to 10 sea lice that were motile, or visible to observers. The Cedar Coast Field Station crew conducts a smolt beach seining project every spring in Clayoquot Sound. Of the 991 smolts Cedar Coast sampled, 48% of the fish had sea lice that were both visible, motile, or smaller life stages that require a magnifying scope to see. In Nootka Sound, only 28 suuhaa were sampled through microtrolling, and of those 21% had between 1 to 5 visible sea lice present.

We are continuing to participate in the juvenile suuhaa microtrolling sampling program in 2021/2022 and look forward to presenting the results from previous years when they become available. This project is done in collaboration with Uu-a-thluk, Cedar Coast Field Station, MHSS, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, Central Westcoast Forest Society, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

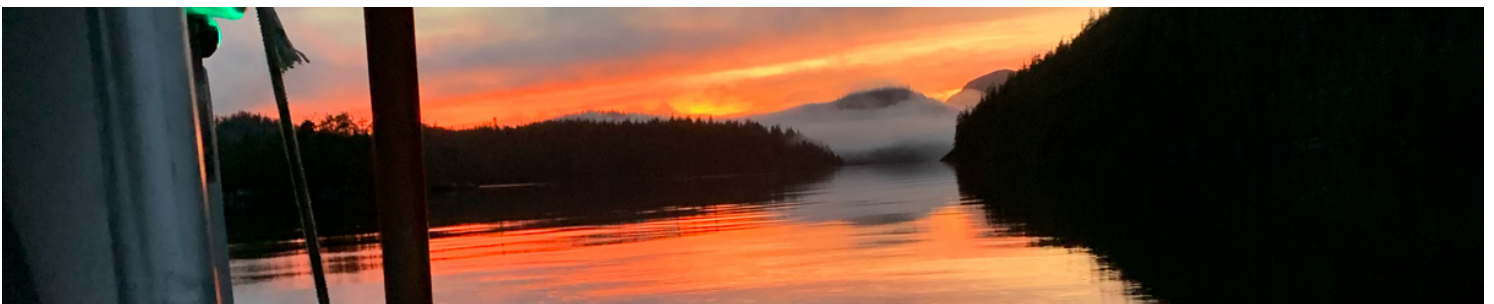
- *Candace Picco, Fisheries Biologist*



Microtrolling



Sampling



HFS PROGRAMS UPDATE

For 2022, Ha'oom is planning to organize different workshops to build the capacity of our communities and fishers:

Boat Maintenance and Minor Repairs Workshop

This workshop is aimed at fishers with little mechanical knowledge but an interest in taking a more active part in the upkeep of their engines. It will demonstrate how to carry out basic DIY maintenance, servicing, and winterizing. Also covered will be the most common causes of breakdowns at sea, how to avoid them, and what emergency items to take on board in the event of a breakdown. Learning routine engine maintenance, problem troubleshooting, and minor repair procedures could save fishermen a lot of money in servicing and repair bills.

This workshop would be organized in each of the Five Nations and would be open to all who want to learn about boat engine maintenance and minor motor repair. If you are interested to register for this program, please contact Audrey Adelinet at audrey@haoom.ca or at 604.719.2506.

Fish Handling, Quality and Processing Workshop

This workshop, through practical applications, will demonstrate the best practices for good fish handling and processing to get the best price for your fish on the market.

The workshop would be organized in each of the Five Nations and be open to all interested individuals from the Five Nations who would like to learn about good fish handling practices. If you are interested to register for this program, please contact Audrey Adelinet at audrey@haoom.ca or at 604.719.2506.

Safety Training

This 3-day program will have 3 main components: onboard safety procedures, vessel basic stability, and cold-water survival. On the 1st day, the workshop will focus on teaching the fundamentals of vessel stability, how to minimize vessels stability threats, and the different ways to maximize chances of survival in cold water.

On the 2nd and 3rd days, Safety Advisors will provide the owner and crew of a fishing vessel with all the tools needed to ensure they are safe at sea and that they are prepared in an emergency. This program would take place on the vessel and Safety Advisors will help organize the crews' onboard safety procedures as well as demonstrate how to use all the safety equipment on the vessel and put together an emergency plan in the event of an emergency at sea. Crew practices will be done in the form of emergency drills, all done on the vessel.

This 3-day training program would be organized in each of the Five Nations and be open to all. If you are interested to register for this program, please contact Audrey Adelinet at audrey@haoom.ca or at 604.719.2506.



Stevie using great fish handling skills!

HFS PROGRAMS UPDATE (CONTINUED)

Clam Garden

In partnership with interested schools in the Five Nations, clam gardens would be created with the direct participation of our Five Nations youth.

Guided by Five Nations' knowledge holders and HFS biologists, students will scout various locations that are ideal areas for shellfish, like clams, and other small marine life to nestle and flourish in what is referred to as clam gardens. Once a location has been selected, the students will help build rock walls near low tidemarks, which in turn traps sediment and sand to create terraces to cultivate intertidal ecosystems. The project will involve activities ranging from moving large boulders to assessing the health of the intertidal ecosystem using scales and gauges. Students during the school year will be able to follow the garden growth and the direct positive impacts on the surrounding environments.

Information sessions about clam gardens will also be organized during the project for students, parents, and community members. If your school is interested in this program, please contact Audrey Adelinet at audrey@haoom.ca or at 604.719.2506.

Fisher Mentorship

We are working to establish a mentorship program to facilitate and support professional training for all individuals from the Five Nations whose interests fall within the fields of fisheries. This would be achieved through a mentor-mentee pairing process, which works to connect individuals from the Five Nations seeking boat experiences and professional training with experienced fishers. The program is open to all individuals from the Five Nations with interests in fisheries.

If you are interested to become a mentee or a mentor, please contact Audrey Adelinet at audrey@haoom.ca or at 604.719.2506.



A beautiful ́uu?i (halibut)

JOB POSTING

Project Coordinator at Ecotrust Canada - The posting is closing on January 15th, 2022.

The Project Coordinator will be leading the team of dockside monitors located in Tofino, Gold River, and Zeballos. The candidate will be conducting dockside monitoring services for the Five Nations fishery such as training dockside monitors, coordinating the hail phone, organizing monitors when landings occur, and managing the sampling program.

The position will be based out of Tofino, as the employee will need to get into Tofino on a daily basis. For more information on this job posting, please visit: <https://ecotrust.ca/careers/project-coordinator-fisheries-2/>

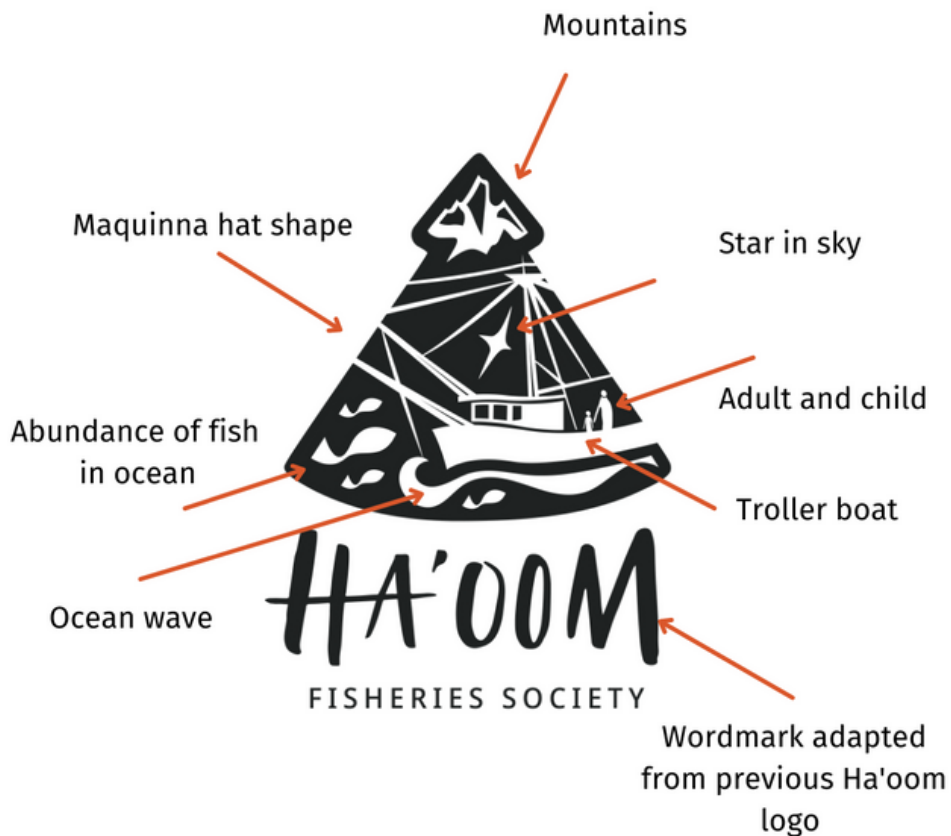


HFS REBRAND

Over the past year, Ha'oom Fisheries Society has been working to rebrand itself. Previously, the Ha'oom brand was intended to be for marketing seafood to customers. On January 15th, 2014, representatives from the Five Nations involved in the T'aaq-wiihak Fisheries decided that their consumer brand would be named "Ha'oom" meaning "food." When HFS was formed as an organization to implement Nuuchahnulth rights-based fisheries, the direction of the brand needed to change. Our new logo reflects the direction of the organization and we are very proud to share it with you.

THE LOGO

Working with the board of directors and staff, the logo was created to reflect the hopes and goals of the organization. The logo is a blend of the logo used by the former T'aaq-wiihak Fisheries, the former Ha'oom logo, and new ideas that represent Nuuchahnulth fishers and culture. One element, particularly of note, was the inclusion of an adult and child on the boat into the logo. The future of Nuuchahnulth fisheries is the youth and the transfer of knowledge from our seasoned fishers to the next generations to come. By including this element in our logo, HFS is communicating its dedication to this process.



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.

2022 Registration

Please watch for registration information! We will be sending out information on registering for the 2022 season as soon as we are able.

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/>

Engage with Us



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



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



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



email: info@haoom.ca

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM HFS!



The staff at HFS will be back in the office at 9am on January 4th, 2022. We look forward to another year of working to implement your fisheries and to get more fishers out on the water.

Please note: our office is located on a pier that is being completely redone. Please call ahead to our office at 250 725 2802 and ensure that it is safe to visit us.

Be safe and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

- *Lauren Dean, Communications Specialist*