



## Media Release

February 3, 2022

### **SṪÁUTW\_ (Tsawout) First Nation Welcomes You to Participate in a Historical Moment**

*On February 25th, Tsawout First Nation will hold a ceremony recognizing the Nation's sovereign rights.*

**W̱SÁNEĆ Territory** — On the 16th of June last year, the elected leadership of the Tsawout First Nation exercised their right to self-govern and enacted a Marine Use Law. As defined and clarified under the Douglas Treaty, the Constitution, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Tsawout First Nation has jurisdiction and authority over Tsawout lands, waters, resources and interests through unextinguished Aboriginal title. In October, under provisions of this new Law, Tsawout issued a license to Cascadia Seaweed to engage in commercial seaweed farming activities within their territorial waters and on Tsawout's behalf. In November, Cascadia Seaweed installed and seeded one of its largest farms to date, with over 20 km of production line in the water.

The typical process to secure a licence from the Province of BC to install a seaweed farm can take anywhere between 8 months to 3 years. Tsawout First Nation recognized the economic and environmental benefit of farming seaweed in their territory and were able to grant a license in under 5 months to what is now the largest provider of ocean cultivated seaweed in North America — Cascadia Seaweed.

Cascadia Seaweed was chosen because they offered the 'greenest of the green projects' said Chrissy Chen, Fisheries Manager for Tsawout. "We are Indigenous People, we are here to conserve and protect the environment while we produce food and create opportunity for our people. Cascadia Seaweed is supporting all of these objectives," Chen adds. Chairman of Cascadia Seaweed, Bill Collins, adds that this is "True reconciliation in action."

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SṪÁUTW\_ Leadership, Cascadia Seaweed Executive, Elected Members of the Crown, and members of the Media are invited to attend a historical signing ceremony at SṪÁUTW\_ (Tsawout) First Nation  
7728 Tetayut Rd, Saanichton, B.C.

**On Friday, February 25, 3:00pm**

*Weather permitting: Short trips to the farm by boat between 4:00 and 5:00pm*

Please RSVP: [erin@cascadiaseaweed.com](mailto:erin@cascadiaseaweed.com)

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