

STÁUTW FIRST NATION

NEWSLETTER

www.tsawout.ca

August 2025



STÁUTW WELCOMES NEWLY ELECTED CHIEF & COUNCIL

HÍSWKE HÁLE to all community members, leaders and guests for joining us to witness the swearing-in ceremony of our newly elected Chief & Council, and to honour the outgoing members for their years of dedicated service.

HÍSWKE everyone for coming to celebrate this important occasion, and we look forward to the work ahead. More photos p.3.

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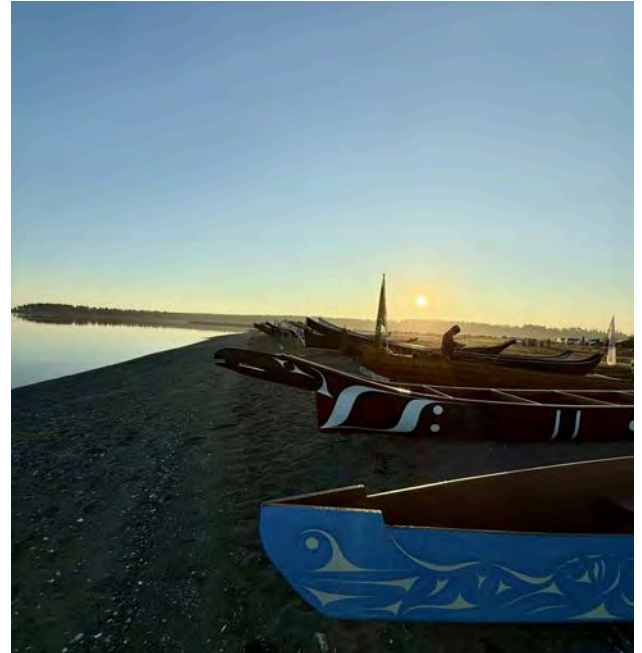
Community News

STÁUTW Tribal Journeys

The Tribal Journeys have begun and STÁUTW paddlers have experienced a remarkable journey with the resilient young people. Despite facing a tsunami warning, high winds, and dense fog, they persevered.

However, due to safety concerns, a difficult decision was made to vacate their canoe home and forego paddling to Elwha.

The youth will still participate in the trip, but without paddling. Safety of the crew is the top priority. Although they have demonstrated exceptional pulling skills over two days, ultimately, life's journey is shaped by the weather.



Community News

Newly Elected Chief and Council

STÁUTW First Nation had a swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected Chief & Council July 9, 2025, and to honour the outgoing members for their years of dedicated service.

The newly elected leadership are:

Chief: Abraham Pelkey

Council:

- Samantha Etzel
- Wilhemena (Willa) Harry
- George Horne
- Perry Lafortune
- Bruce Underwood
- Mavis Underwood
- Donald Williams
- John Wilson



Community News

Harmful Algae Alert

The Fisheries Team has found harmful algae species in the water and advise against the harvest of shellfish from July 29th to August 6th. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to the Fisheries team at (250)-652-9101 ext. 324

Harmful Algae Detected

if you would like to know more about this project, contact TSAWOUT Fisheries at 250-652-9101 ext. 324

To determine whether dangerous algae is entering our waters, TSAWOUT Fisheries is monitoring the water. because they can result in potentially fatal food poisoning, they are a threat to our community. You will know when it is unsafe to harvest shellfish as we will publish reports of our findings every week



Ways to safeguard yourself against harmful marine pollutions.

- You CANNOT cook or freeze the toxins out of the shellfish.
- Although removing the gills, neck, and siphons from clams and other bivalves is a good idea because these parts tend to concentrate toxins, the meat can still be very toxic. Before cooking, remove the viscera and guts from the crabs, prawns, and shrimp. Throw these away to prevent pets and other animals from consuming them.
- Remember there are no medications to neutralize these toxins, monitored test areas is your best bet to no risks if you do experience symptoms, seek medical care to manage your symptoms. Call BC poison control: 1-800-5678911, explain what you have eaten and how much
- Not all symptoms are caused by toxins like PSP, ASP or DSP. You may also be allergic to seafood and or shellfish, which also requires medical attention. You may feel ill from eating shellfish which happens to be contaminated with Vibrio or other bacteria, and or viruses such as Norovirus. Please notify your health care providers that you are (or have been) sick.

Pauquachin Spirit Days

From August 6-8, come support the Pauquachin First Nation at the Pauquachin Spirit Days. All W̱SÁNEĆ members are invited to attend and don't need to worry about registering.

For more information about the event go to: <https://www.pauquachinmarine.com/2025-gathering>
If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Tsawout Fisheries Department at (250)-652-9101 ext. 324



BOKEĆEN S'uylu Skweyl

(Pauquachin Spirit Days)

Yu sq'uq'a' kwthu xe'xe' smunmeent
(Together with our sacred rocks)

AUGUST 6, 7 & 8, 2025 | 3-DAY GATHERING | COLES BAY, BC

Gathering Contact: adrien@pauquachin.com

Website: www.pauquachinmarine.com

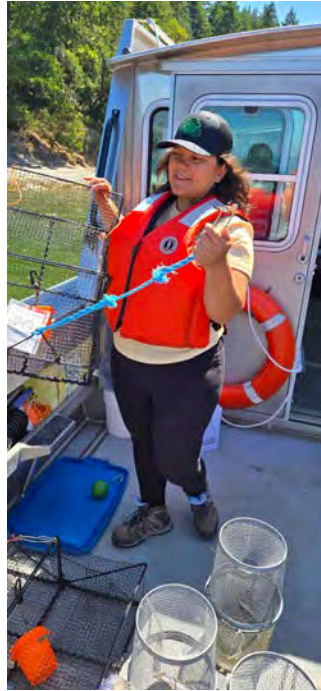
LinkedIn: [Pauquachin First Nation Marine](https://www.linkedin.com/company/pauquachin-first-nation-marine)



Fisheries Update

Green Crab Survey

On July 16-18th, the Fisheries team and interns were performing a Green Crab Monitoring Survey around Prevost Island and Sidney Spit to make sure that the invasive species have not entered QEN,T. The survey ended with great news, as no Green crab were found and quite a few Red Rock crab were caught and released back so they can keep the Green crab away!



Clam Survey

On July 26th, the Fisheries team along with the University of Victoria Scholars and volunteers from Parks Canada went to James Island to perform their monthly survey of various clam species. Cockles, Macoma, Varnish, and Butter Clams were all found! Two more surveys will be performed in August so get in touch with the Fisheries team if you would be interested in volunteering!

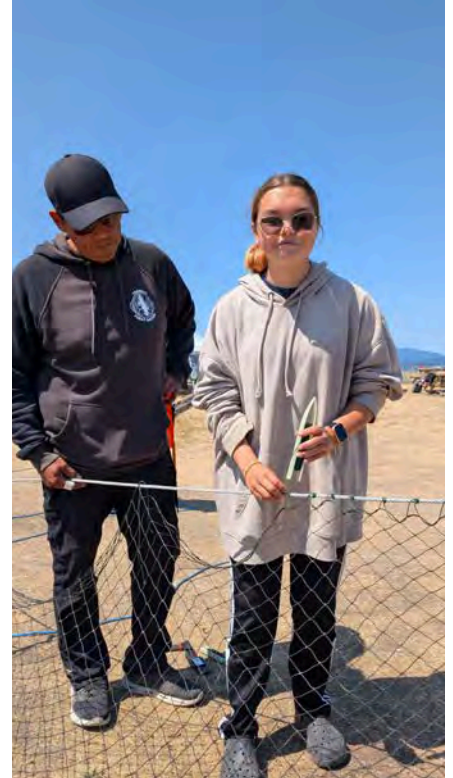


Fisheries Update

Reef Net Building

From July 21–23, STÁUTW First Nation Fisheries, alongside our Lummi relatives and youth interns, came together at TIXEN to successfully build a traditional reef net as part of ongoing efforts to revitalize the reef net fishery. Once central to WSÁNEĆ governance, economy, and cultural life,

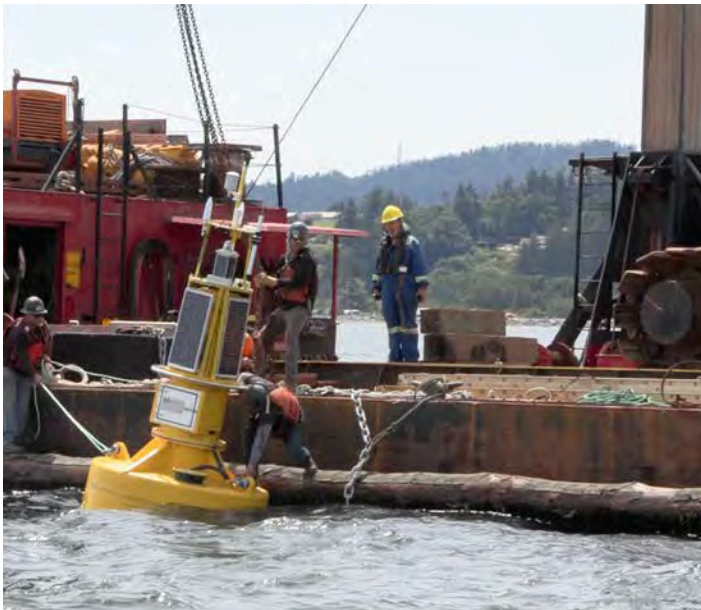
reef netting is a sophisticated salmon harvesting method that was banned in the early 20th century. This build marks another step in reclaiming ancestral knowledge and restoring a vital practice that reflects deep connections to land, water, and community. We are deeply grateful for the support and contributions of every team member, community member, staff, and supporter who came together to make this effort a success.



Fisheries Update

Oceanographic Buoy Deployment/James Island Pier Vessel Removal

July 4th was a momentous day for STÁUTW as the AXYS Oceanographic buoy was blessed and deployed in QEN,T off James Island. The buoy will be operating 24/7 to collect various oceanographic data such as temperature, current direction/speed, salinity and more! This data will be essential in further understanding the health of the ecosystems and the impacts of increased shipping. Additionally, the Fisheries team is working to have an online dashboard accessible for everyone to be able to see the real-time data being collected, so keep an eye for that in the near future! After the buoy was deployed, the crew headed down to James Island Pier to remove the derelict vessel that had been washed ashore back in November. The crew were able to successfully remove the vessel to be taken back to be salvaged helping restore the shoreline.



Fisheries Update - Intern Introductions

Amy Bird

Hi I am Amy! I'm a fisheries youth intern this summer, and I started in June. I'm plains Cree, but I've grown up on the Island for most of my life. It's been an incredible experience so far, and I'm truly grateful to be part of the important work happening here. Spending time in the community and out on the water has been really meaningful and enjoyable. I'm excited to keep learning, gain more hands-on experience in fisheries, and continue connecting with everyone. I've really enjoyed working here and I'm looking forward to the rest of the summer!



Fisheries Update - Intern Introductions

James Ancheta

ÍY SÇÁĆELI am James Ancheta from STÁUTW First Nation. I come from the Pelkey family, and as the summer was coming to a start, I was looking for a good hobby and/or job to keep me busy, as I wait to go back to school. I heard the Tsawout fisheries department was looking for fresh young minds to join their youth internship program this summer. So, I applied and, to my luck, I got the job.

So far, this job has been a really fun and an inviting workspace. It has also given me a little knowledge on what our Tsawout fisheries department does and how they operate. So far, I've gotten to work with crab, and also a little bit of fish, it has also been a good way to connect with our amazing Elders and various community members.



Kaylan Sawyer

ÍÍY, SÇÁĆEL SIÁM K-Man TŦE NE SNÁ, ÓELASEN ET WE WAI KAI E WSÁNEĆ. Jennifer Claxton TŦE NE TÁN, Curtis Sawyer TŦE NE MÁN

My name is K-Man, and I'm proud to have ancestral roots in Tsawout, We Wai Kai (Cape Mudge), Haida Gwaii, and Alert Bay. My mom is Jennifer Claxton and my dad is Curtis Sawyer. I'm currently working as the Fisheries Youth Intern with Tsawout, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to be learning and giving back to the community this summer.


I'm passionate about the outdoors—I love fishing, hunting, and playing lacrosse. I currently play Junior B Lacrosse, and this year our team made it to the BC Provincials. I'm excited to continue growing, connecting with the land and waters, and supporting our community through my work.

Fisheries Update - Upcoming Events

STÁUTW Fisheries Community Dinner

On August 18th, the Fisheries team will be hosting a Community Dinner in the gym, as an opportunity for anyone to come learn about the initiatives that have been done this summer. Additionally, the Youth Interns will be sharing all about what they've learned this summer from the Fisheries team and community members!

Clam Digging Help Wanted



**CLAM DIGGING
HELP WANTED
AUGUST 7, 8:30 AM**

COMPENSATION AVAILABLE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL
MARINEUSEPLANNER@TSAWOUT.CA**

OUTER TIXEN

**MEET AT
FISHERIES OFFICE**

BRING RAIN BOOTS

**LUNCH AND
SNACKS PROVIDED**

Fisheries Update - Upcoming Events

QEN,T IPCA Traditional Knowledge Study

The Tsawout Fisheries Department is beginning to carry out interviews to support the development of stewardship protocols for the QEN,T Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area. We are hoping to start Phase 1 interviews now, focused on the cultural values, teachings, protocols, and laws that are important to caring for the health of our waters, relatives, and communities.

If you hold knowledge that you would like to share through an interview (by yourself or with a small group), please contact the Tsawout Fisheries office to receive more information and schedule an interview time. Elders, knowledge holders, harvesters/fishers, youth all welcome to participate! Honoraria will be provided, and our young STAUTW Fisheries interns will witness this work where/if appropriate.

HÍSWKE

Contact Information:

Phone: Nicole or Lais at (250) 652-9101 ext. 324

Email: marineuseplanner@tsawout.ca and/or n.jung@oceans.ubc.ca



HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

PHASE 1

Tsawout Values, Teachings, and Cultural Protocols

Who: Looking for anyone in the Tsawout community willing to share their knowledge and perspectives about the ocean, cultural laws/teachings, and place-based knowledge

PHASE 2

Dungeness Crab Expert interviews


Who: Looking for anyone in the Tsawout community who has experience harvesting Dungeness crab (past/present) in Tsawout waters

CONTACT US TO PARTICIPATE!

Honoraria provided

 **Lais Chaves**
(Tsawout Marine Use Planner)
(250) 652-9101 ext. 324
marineuseplanner@tsawout.ca

 **Nicole Jung**
(student partner)
(778) 872 6758
n.jung@oceans.ubc.ca



You are invited to participate in the....

QEN,T IPCA Traditional Knowledge Study

WHAT IS A TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE STUDY?

A series of interviews/focus groups that will inform how Tsawout's waters are cared for in the QEN,T Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA)

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM THE TSAWOUT COMMUNITY!

This study is being conducted in partnership with the University of British Columbia (Principle Investigator: Dr. Andrea Reid & Student Researcher: Nicole Jung) | Ethics ID: H24-01921

Fisheries Update

Derelict Vessel Removal



Housing News

24 New Housing Units Coming to STÁUTW

STÁUTW is excited to announce that the Nation is set to build a total of 24 new housing units provided through the Building BC: Indigenous Housing Fund (IHF). This is part of a broader provincial initiative to deliver 1,600 homes for Indigenous peoples in B.C.

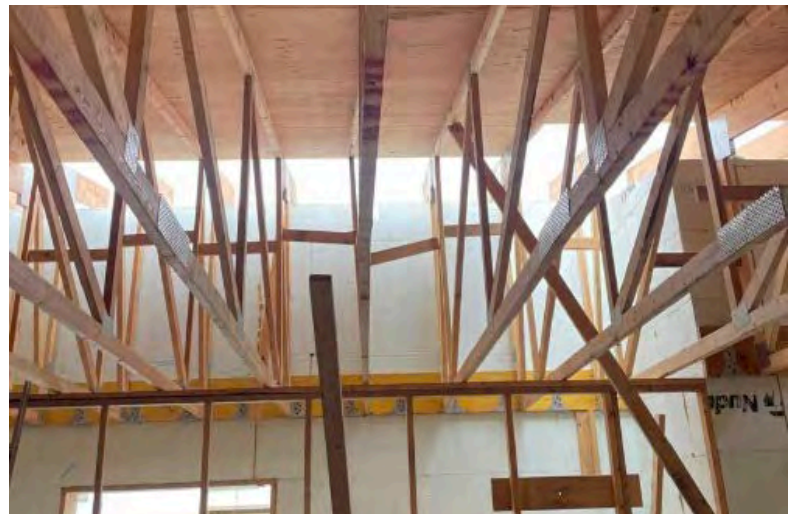
The development will be located at Tetayut Road & Saanich Ridge. This project, which represents a significant increase in the community rental housing stock, will provide much-needed housing, fostering community well-being and cultural support. The initiative aligns with broader reconciliation efforts, helping Indigenous communities across the province build strong, resilient futures.

BC Housing is collaborating closely with Indigenous non-profit housing providers and First Nations to advance these projects through the development stages.

As the plans for this project progress and are finalized, we will share more details regarding the design, the allocated funding and construction timelines.

For more information, please contact:

Monique Horne
STÁUTW Housing Manager
housingmanager@tsawout.ca



Wellness News

Claim Helpers

Claim Helpers are invited to share information on the Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle (FNCFSJP) Settlement presentation, this will be an opportunity to learn who qualifies and what you need for an application.

August 13, 2025 at the Tsawout Wellness Building
10:30 AM – snacks & refreshments provided
5:30pm – dinner served followed with the presentation

Please call or email Shezell if you have any questions, 250 652 8353; wellnessteamlead@tsawout.ca

Time to submit your Claim



WHO CAN SUBMIT

**Removed Child Class**

First Nations individuals who, while under the Age of Majority, were removed from their homes between April 1, 1991, and March 31, 2022, while living on reserve or in the Yukon, and whose placement was funded by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

**Removed Child Family Class**

Caregiving Parents or Caregiving Grandparents of a Removed Child.

WHEN TO SUBMIT

Adult Class Members have until March 10, 2028, to submit their Claim. If the Class Member was a minor when the Claims Period opened on March 10, 2025, they have three years from the date they become an adult to submit their Claim.

Adult Caregiving Parents or Caregiving Grandparents must submit their Claim by March 10, 2028, regardless of the age of the associated Removed Child.

HOW TO SUBMIT



Complete and submit a Claim Form at Portal.FNChildClaims.ca or by email, fax or mail



Include a valid government-issued ID



If you believe you are eligible under more than one Class, submit a separate Form for each Class

**You do not have to do this by yourself.
Contact the Administrator and ask for a Claims Helper.**

SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE

Administrator: 1-833-852-0755
Hope for Wellness: 1-855-242-3310
Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868 or text FIRSTNATIONS to 686868



**SCAN HERE TO
LEARN MORE AND
START YOUR CLAIM**
www.FNChildClaims.ca

Wellness News

Wellness Support Request Form

Getting Started with Wellness Services – Your First Step

At Wellness, we support STÁUTW families, we believe every STÁUTW family has strengths, and they deserve support that honors their unique journey. Completing a Wellness intake Form is a gentle and confidential way to begin connecting with the services and supports available through our department.

The intake helps our team understand how we can walk alongside you and your family, and ensures you're connected with the most helpful programs, services, and resources. Together, we'll create a personalized support plan that reflects your goals, values, and strengths.

Wellness Support Request

Name: _____ Chosen Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ May we text? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Email address: _____ Status #: _____ (if known)

STÁUTW Wellness Services

Family Advocates:

A Family Advocate supports STÁUTW families—particularly those facing systemic or personal barriers—by helping them navigate and access services that promote the well-being of Tsawout children and families. They work collaboratively with organizations such as the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), NILTUO, Jordan's Principle, and other community resources to ensure families receive culturally appropriate support. Their goal is to achieve positive and successful outcomes through advocacy, coordination, and a relationship-based, community-centered approach.

Wellness Counsellor: Our wellness counsellors have experience with working with clients through a holistic approach using mental, spiritual, physical, and emotional modalities. They help achieve goals, while using strategies to help you move forward in your life, whether in person or virtually.

Counsellor Requested: **Yes or No**

Family Advocate Requested: **Yes or No**

You can submit your intake in the way that feels best for you:

- **In person** at the Wellness front desk
- **Online** through the Tsawout First Nation Wellness Department website
- **By email** to Shezell at wellnessteam@tsawout.ca

We're here to support you—**every step of the way**.

Please note our Team Lead will contact you to support you with next steps













Youth Phone Line:
236-638-9732

Call in anonymously to get support.
Call, Text, Chat

**TSAWOUT COUNSELLING
SUPPORT FOR YOUTH**

PHONE IN • EVERY MONDAY & FRIDAY (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS &
STATUTORY HOLIDAYS) • FROM 3:30PM TO 4:30PM

August Garbage, Compost & Recycling

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	 					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	 					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	 					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	 					
31						

Garbage Pickup: Garbage and compost is managed by CCR and picked up every Monday

Recycling (Bi-weekly): If your recycling is missed or not picked up, call Emterra at 250-385-4399. Call by 11:00 AM the next day and they'll most likely be able to do a pick-up. If later, it would have to wait until the next pick-up date.

Reminder that the Heavy Garbage Program has ended. Please do not leave heavy garbage on the side of the road. We continue to clean up the dumpsite on Longhouse Road from the previous years programs. Please discard your heavy garbage at local metal recycle or Hartland Landfill.