

Sustainable Development 9:30min

DALLAS SMITH President, Nanwakolas Council

So we hope to get this plan in place to use that again as a platform to start some high-level government-to-government discussions where we can talk about fishing management, where we can talk about protected areas, we can talk about tanker traffic and we can talk about all the various user groups that they want to use in our territories.

People seem to forget that First Nations people have been here for thousands of years and they're a part of the ecosystems that are here. We're not simply dependent on them, but we're part of the functioning ecosystems. And as you develop and urbanize and talk about liquefied natural gas and all these things, people seem to forget that there's a subset of society that is dependent and part of that ecosystem, and we're only now being seriously taken at the table, and there's a lot of relationship building that has to take place for us to make sure that we have the sustainable cultural economy that goes along with our need for job creation in our communities.

BRUCE WATKINSON Marine Program Coordinator, Gitxaala Environmental Monitoring

it's not just about protecting everything, it's not just about developing everything. It's about a balance, and what governs that essentially is our culture and our way of life.

We need certain areas in the marine environment that are only used for sustain, sustenance purposes. But we also want to have an economy,

We want to benefit from our local resources. We want an economy that's tied to our people and tied to our territory and tied our resources.

We have to be able to give future generations more than what we have today.

Narrator

The marine plans identified places for shellfish aquaculture and marine based renewable energy developments - and strongly support community-based fisheries and marine tourism.

ART STERRITT Executive Director, Coastal First Nations

Certainly we recognize that we're living in a world economy now, but we also know that there are things within that region that are going to be valuable to the world economy. So we're building this sustainable tourism industry. We're building a sustainable shellfish industry, a sustainable salmon industry, a sustainable ground fish industry - but incrementally, building it up slow that you can't tear it down quickly. If you build stuff up too fast, it falls real fast.

Narrator

The development of shellfish aquaculture has been identified as a sustainable economic opportunity in British Columbia's waters. The marine plans designate management zones for shellfish aquaculture in all regions of the planning area.

Vittorio Venturini Vice President Operations, Coastal Shellfish Corporation

This marine planning was developed to identify the best uses of the ocean, and BC, the north coast of BC, has a lot of potential for shellfish industry. We identified many places where the shellfish aquaculture can be developed, as a sustainable business.

It's not only doing tourism or fishing activities, aquaculture has a place here in north BC. We found out that the water quality and the environmental conditions are very, very good for the aquaculture development.

Coastal Shellfish Corporation is a multi-million dollar project. We currently have two sites, with a total of over 200 hectares, so we're gonna put several hundreds of long lines in the tenure.

We are planning to grow many millions of scallops in there. I would say the most important production of shellfish product in Canada.

DOUGLAS NEASLOSS Kitasoo Band Council & Kitasoo/Xai'Xais Integrated Resource Authority Stewardship Director

Here in Klemtu we started up a company called Spirit Bear Lodge, and we've been slowly growing that over the last 15 years. And I was one of the first guides, started taking people out, and we started to realize that people around the world absolutely love bears. So people want to come for the bears, want to come for the culture. This year we're gonna employ about 45 people in my community, and it's now the second biggest industry in my community, and I think it's only going up, so it's been quite positive.

DALLAS SMITH President, Nanwakolas Council

So, it's important for us to do a hard analysis check of the health of our ecosystems so that we can make sure that we're fixing parts of the territory all the way up from our territory up to the Haidas, across to the Central coast guys to make sure that we're not just focusing everything in one area because it's politically convenient.

And, it's really only through coming together and having those discussions with the user groups, with our neighboring Nations that we're able to understand there is a role for us to play, and it's actually incumbent upon us as First Nation's leaders to play that role. To bring that balance to the environmentalists. To bring that balance to the industry. And make sure that they understand that there's a long-term game plan here. It's not about the next quarter profits, or the next fundraising campaign. This is about a long-term plan to bring sustainability back to our communities, as it existed before contact.

**RUSS JONES Hereditary Chief, Haida Nation
Project Manager, Haida Oceans Technical Team**

The vision is founded on respect. Yahguudang is the Haida word, and that means respect for the landscape, it's also a respect for each other, and it's also respect for all the creatures, the living creatures here in Haida Gwaii.

There are several aspects to the vision. One is protection; another one is ensuring that we have appropriate economic development here in Haida Gwaii.

TREVOR RUSS Vice President, Council of the Haida Nation

The world is as sharp as the edge of a knife. There's a fine balance when it comes to resource extraction. We'd love to get our people back onto the water a lot more within the fishing sector, but not at the large industrial scale, which is done more commonly today in other areas. The idea is to have more communal-based fisheries, having the species that are harvested within our territory actually delivered to our docks within Haida Gwaii and processed by, not only our people but other residents that work on Haida Gwaii as well.

That'll really enhance our economy a lot more than it's been in the last few years. In Haida territorial waters, on average annually, there's – the landed catch value is about \$89 million or so. And then, it's a very, very small percentage – I think we'd be lucky if it's even close to 2% of that revenue hits Haida Gwaii. So it comes out of the waters that surround Haida Gwaii, but that revenue isn't hitting where it should, and it's our belief that a lot more of it can come through here and be processed and marketed through a Haida brand.

Narrator

Haida Wild is a part of a longer-term vision for far greater local benefits to be gained from the fishing that occurs in Haida territory. Marine planning is about supporting and growing these opportunities.

SHAWN BAYBUTT Manager, Haida Wild Seafoods

We buy from select commercial fishermen based on their quality and catch, and we process it for value-adding so we do Chinook salmon, Coho salmon. We do ground fish, we do halibut, rockfish, rough eye, some different species, ling cod, we also do some shellfish. We're buying prawns, smoked black cod. We went from a staff, of previous years of about 10 to 12 people, and this year right now we're at 23 people employed here, so we've increased, you know, 13 new jobs this year alone.

LYNN LEE Biologist, MaPP Marine Advisory Committee

I really love this place, and I really want to see the communities and the ecology, like ecological communities and human communities benefit and do well over the long term together. So this place, like many other places on the coast, has a very long history of people being part of the ecosystem, so in this case over 10,000 years with the Haida. And so our society has maybe lost its connection with place, so this is away of reestablishing local communities and their say in what happens to their place.