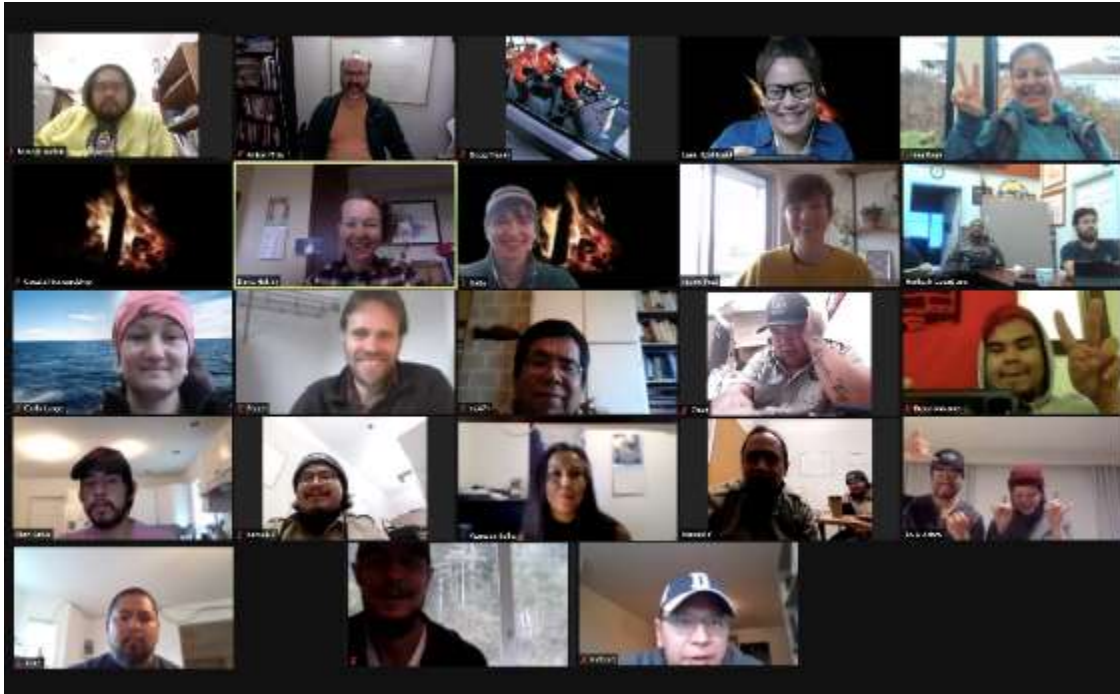


Coastal Stewardship Network Annual Gathering
Gathering Online to Celebrate Stewards
October 29th, 2020 – via zoom



Context:

We had hoped to host CSNAG 2020 in Klemtu, Kitasoo/Xai'Xais territory. However, with the onset of COVID-19 travel to communities was deemed too great a risk and the in-person gathering was postponed. Following a field season marked by delays, interruptions and the disruptions of COVID lockdowns, CSNAG 2020 was held online. The gathering brought together Guardians from six of the CFN member Nations to connect, celebrate, and unwind after a difficult year.

Objectives:

- Create a space for Guardians to network
- Celebrate individual and team accomplishments
- Share challenges and success from the field



Agenda at-a-glance:

Thursday Oct 29th, 9 am – 12 pm
Guardian Team Presentations
CSN Video
Break Out Groups Discussion were held on the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How Culture and Traditions Shape the Work• Staying Connected• COVID-19 Response• Stories from the Field
Celebrating Stewards: Team accomplishments, uplifting Guardians who have worked for over 5 or 10 years.
Guardian Shout Outs: to honor and uplift each other as Guardians.
Thank you and Goodbyes

Participants:

Council of the Haida Nation

- Vanessa Bellis
- Rob Brown
- Evan Edgars
- Dion Lewis
- Ben Penna
- Richard Smith

Heiltsuk Nation

- Rich Brown
- Jacey Humchitt
- Max Johnson
- Doug Newman
- Richard Reid
- Josh Vickers

Kitasoo/Xai'Xais Nation

- Victor Reece
- Medrick Robinson
- Doug Fraser

Wuikinuxv Nation

- Adam Nelson
- Bo O'wadi

Metlakatla Nation

- Carla Lange
- Clifford Ryan
- Tina Ryan
- Brandon Nelson

Coastal First Nations

- Lara Hoshizaki
- Dana Holtby
- Fraser Los
- Anton Pitts
- Jackie Peat
- Kelly Squires

Nuxalk Nation

- Charles Saunders
- Roger Harris
- John Sampson
- Ernie Tallio
- Alec Willie



Summary:

Guardians from 6 of the 7 CFN member Nations met on the morning of Thursday October 29th. While we were unable to meet in person, the CSN team did their best to create an atmosphere of connection and sharing. Prior to the meeting, Training Coordinator Jackie Peat mailed a care-package to each team with gathering swag (CGW branded face masks), a tea light and a smores kit. To open the session Guardians were asked to light their candles and 'sit around the fire' to chat and connect with the other teams.

During the first session, each Nation took a turn introducing their team members and outlining their past season. Many Guardian teams had new members, and most expressed the difficulty of getting out into the field/on the water given the restrictions imposed by COVID-19.



Following a short break, the group was brought back together to watch the newly released CSN video. The video highlighted the Guardians and the importance of their work in advancing the sovereignty and stewardship of the Nations.

The group was then divided into Zoom break out rooms to discuss pre-assigned topics. Most groups discussed more than one topic, highlighting amazing stories from the field, the ways in which their cultural traditions shape their work as Guardians, how their communities have responded to COVID-19, and the ways in which Guardians can stay connected throughout the season (highlighting in particular the newly created CGW Facebook group, and the monthly CGW video calls).

Following the discussion groups, the call turned its attention to highlighting the accomplishments of each Nation. The teams were recognized for the following:

- CHN: Protecting the community during COVID-19 by standing up to the Queen Charlotte Fishing Lodge
- Metlakatla: Supporting the Essential Services crew in supplying the community with essential goods during the COVID-19 outbreak
- Gitga'at: Building a cabin on the Gitga'at traditional seaweed harvesting grounds
- Nuxalk: Members of the Nuxalk team worked at the COVID-19 roadblock, protecting the community during the outbreak
- Kitsoo/Xai'Xais: The team received their level 2 whale disentanglement certification from the Blue World Research Institute



- Heiltsuk: The Guardians' work on the Dungeness crab surveys – these surveys have greatly contributed towards securing commercial and recreational fisheries closures
- Wuikinuxv: The new team was uplifted for the enthusiasm and passion they've brought to the job.

We also recognized the following Guardians with patches for their longstanding work:

Gitga'at

10+ Years

Robin – 2011

5+ Years

Donald – 2014

Bruce -- 2012

Nicole -- 2015

Archie -- 2012

Wuikinuxv

5+ Years

Patrick – 2015 – Hold on sending

Kitasoo

None

Metlakatla

None

Heiltsuk

5+ Years

Josh – 2015

Richard – 2013

Nuxalk

10+ years

Ernie - 2010

John – 2010

5+ years

Roger - 2014

Charles - 2016

Alec – 2015

CHN – Fisheries

5+ Years

Robert Brown 2015/16

Evan Edgars 2014/15

CHN – HNRD

10+ Years

Jeremy Calhoun – 2006

CHN – PA

5+ Years

Len Arens – 2016

We finished off the online gathering by providing a space for Guardians 'shout-outs'. Guardians were given space to thank those who had supported them, to recognize the accomplishments of their teammates and uplift those who have found themselves in a time of need. Guardians openly shared their thanks, making clear the support and love they have for one another.

Although 2020 was a difficult season for many, CSNAG 2020 online successfully brought Guardians together to connect and learn, and most importantly, to lift one another's spirits. We look forward to future CSNAGs and the opportunity to be together in person.