



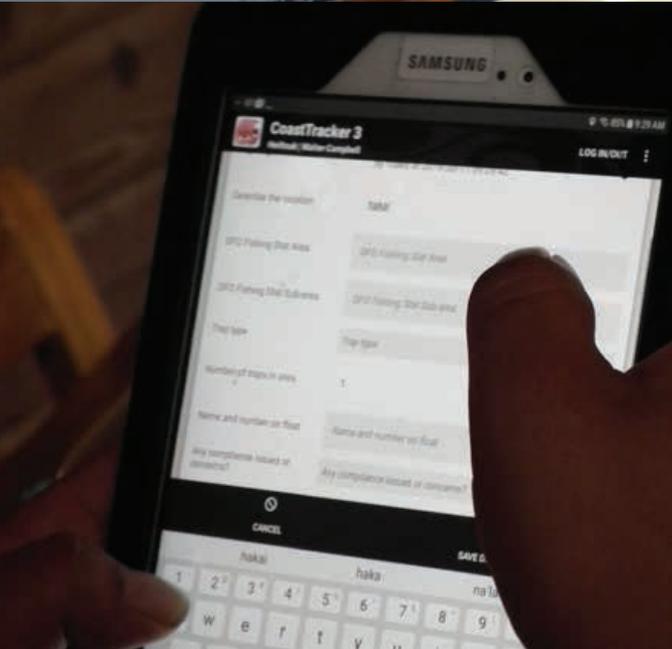
COASTAL STEWARDSHIP NETWORK



**COASTAL
FIRST NATIONS**
GREAT BEAR INITIATIVE

ABOUT

The Coastal Stewardship Network is a program of Coastal First Nations - Great Bear Initiative (CFN-GBI), an alliance of First Nations on the Pacific North and Central Coasts and Haida Gwaii. Our team of trainers, developers and facilitators supports the Nations' stewardship offices, including directors, managers, Coastal Guardian Watchmen and other field staff who work together to protect these coastal territories, and maintain the region's rich ecological and cultural heritage.



PROTECTING THE COAST

Known today as the Great Bear Rainforest, these coastal mountains, lush valleys and interlocking waterways form the largest and most intact coastal temperate rainforest on Earth. Influenced by the ocean and abundant rainfall, the region supports diverse ecosystems and thriving human communities that have existed here for at least 14,000 years. The cultures, language and livelihoods of coastal First Nations are inextricably linked to these ecosystems; for people here, protecting cultural heritage and preserving ecological integrity go hand in hand.

WHAT WE DO

- Advance the work of the **Coastal Guardian Watchmen**—the frontline stewards who monitor and protect their Nations’ cultural and natural resources.
- Provide and coordinate a **Regional Monitoring System**—a standardized, digital approach for collecting data to inform decision making throughout the region.
- Develop and deliver **Training and Professional Development** programs for Coastal Guardian Watchmen and other First Nations stewardship staff.
- Encourage **Networking and Collaboration** throughout coastal territories, by bringing people together to share knowledge and coordinate stewardship efforts.

SUPPORTING THE COASTAL GUARDIAN WATCHMEN

For thousands of years, First Nations people along the Pacific North Coast have cared for the wildlife and ecosystems that are a part of their communities. The Guardian Watchmen are the modern version of that ancient tradition; they comprise people who work together to monitor, protect and restore the cultural and natural resources of their Nations, upholding their Nation’s laws and the traditions passed down from their ancestors.

Today, Guardians across the North Pacific Coast have come together to form the Coastal Guardian Watchmen—a regional group that works collaboratively to steward this entire coastal region. The Coastal Guardian Watchmen play a critical role in ensuring resources are sustainably managed, that rules and regulations are followed, and that land and marine use agreements are implemented effectively. They are the “eyes and ears” coastal First Nations’ territories.

CSN supports the Coastal Guardian Watchmen by helping to produce outreach materials, including flags, uniforms and brochures that highlight rules and regulations within each Nation’s territory, and by providing extensive technical and training support and help with work planning, safety policies and procedures, and team development.



[The Coastal First Nations Guardian Program – Strategic Plan](#) (released in 2020) articulates the shared goals and objectives of Guardian teams within CFN member Nations.



Coastal Guardian Watchmen from the Wuikinuxv First Nation input data into CoastTracker Apps for the Regional Monitoring System.

REGIONAL MONITORING SYSTEM

In 2009, Coastal First Nations developed a Regional Monitoring System (RMS) that ensures a standardized digital approach to data collection for Nations monitoring coastal regions. The RMS encourages collaboration between Nations and provides data for decision-making, while increasing Coastal Guardian Watchmen capacity and encouraging further engagement with resource users through compliance monitoring, education and outreach. The issues currently being monitored reflect priority concerns identified by communities regarding damage to cultural sites, excessive hunting and over-fishing, declining populations of fish and wildlife, and the limited presence and response of other enforcement agencies.

The RMS consists of...

- Standard methodology and guidelines for collecting data;
- "CoastTracker" custom mobile application to collect data in the field;
- Centralized database to store Nations' information on Canadian servers; and
- Web-based Data Management System for data access and analysis, planning and decision making.

Contact us to learn more about the RMS: rms.coordinator@coastalfirstnations.ca

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Taking care of coastal lands and waters is a tradition passed down from generation to generation, and effective stewardship depends on continually updating and enhancing knowledge and skills.

The Coastal Stewardship Network supports these efforts by developing custom training and professional development programs and by facilitating interactions between staff, Elders and other knowledge keepers that will build capacity for the next generation in stewardship leadership. Our unique training programs, such as the Stewardship Technicians Training Program, emphasize the importance of culture and learning in the field, and whenever possible, encourage one-on-one coaching and follow-up trainings.

Our training programs focus on the following stewardship skills and more:

- Environmental monitoring and data collection;
- Forestry and archaeology;
- Compliance and enforcement;
- Leadership and project management;
- Safety policies and procedures; and
- Emergency response.

Contact us to learn more: training@coastalfirstnations.ca



Students in the Stewardship Technicians Training Program take notes during a field course in Prince Rupert.

NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

We support the stewardship offices of Coastal First Nations by coordinating monthly meetings for stewardship staff across the Network, including monthly video calls for the Coastal Guardian Watchmen.

Coastal Stewardship Network Annual Gathering

Since 2008, CSN has held an annual gathering where Coastal Guardian Watchmen and other stewardship staff can come together, and share stories and ideas about regional stewardship efforts across the North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii. The gatherings feature a unique mix of hands-on field training, such as environmental monitoring techniques and communications training for compliance and enforcement, along with high-level discussions about shared priorities and belief systems that guide stewardship work. The gatherings involve participation from community Elders, who share knowledge and wisdom with all participants.



Gitga'at scholar La'goot (Spencer Greening) shares his insights and background on Indigenous Laws at the 2019 CSN Annual Gathering.

LEARN MORE

Visit the CFN-GBI website to see videos highlighting our work. Sign up for our e-newsletter, which features stewardship and other stories from across the North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii.

coastalfirstnations.ca



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