



**COASTAL
FIRST NATIONS**
GREAT BEAR INITIATIVE

Coastal Stewardship Network Annual Gathering
Indigenous Governance for Stewardship Authority
July 8-12, 2019 – Hakai Institute, Calvert Island



Overview: The 11th Coastal Stewardship Network Annual Gathering was held from July 8-12, 2019, on Calvert Island at the Hakai Institute.

The conference occurred significantly later in the field season than previous gatherings due to the availability of Hakai's facilities. Although the mid-season date did have an impact on participant attendance—no Haida or Gitga'at Guardians were able to attend due to monitoring responsibilities in community—the small group of participants created a very welcoming environment for teambuilding and introducing new Kitasoo/Xai'xais, Metlakatla and Wuikinuxv Guardians who had just started their roles as Coastal Guardian Watchmen a few days and weeks prior. Based on feedback from Stewardship Directors and Stewardship Offices, the CSNAG Agenda focused on Indigenous Governance for Stewardship Authority, broken into three main areas: Indigenous Law for Stewardship, Tactical Communication Skills and Kelp Monitoring.



Agenda in Summary:

Monday July 8	Tuesday July 9	Wednesday July 10	Thursday July 11
	Community Presentations	Hakai Presentation on Water Sampling Project	RMS training Using kelp protocol and the new CoastTracker App (Lara Hoshizaki)
Arrivals	Indigenous Laws Workshop Spencer Greening (Gitga'at) and Georgia Lloyd-Smith (West Coast Environmental Law)	Tactical Communications for Compliance & Enforcement Steve Hodgson (BC Parks)	MaPP Overview & Kelp Monitoring Workshop Markus Thompson- (MaPP)
Welcome and Introductions	Barter Night		Reflections and Closing

Participants:

Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation

- Chantal Pronteau
- Brady Stjerneberg
- Quinton Edgar

Heiltsuk Nation

- Richard Reid
- Josh Vickers
- Walter Campbell

Metlakatla Nation

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

Speakers and Presenters

- Steven Hodgson (BC Parks)
- Markus Thompson (Mapp, Thalassia Environmental)
- Georgia Lloyd-Smith (West Coast Environmental Law)
- Spencer Greening (Gitga'at Nation)

Nuxalk Nation

- Charles Saunders
- Roger Harris
- Keith Windsor
- Blair Hans

Coastal First Nations

- Lara Hoshizaki
- Elodie Button
- Dana Holtby
- Anton Pitts
- Bessie Brown



Wuikinuxv Nation

- Lena Collins
- Chelsea Walkus
- Patrick Johnson
- Ted Gladstone
- Adam Nelson

CCIRA

- Michael Vegh

Session Summaries:

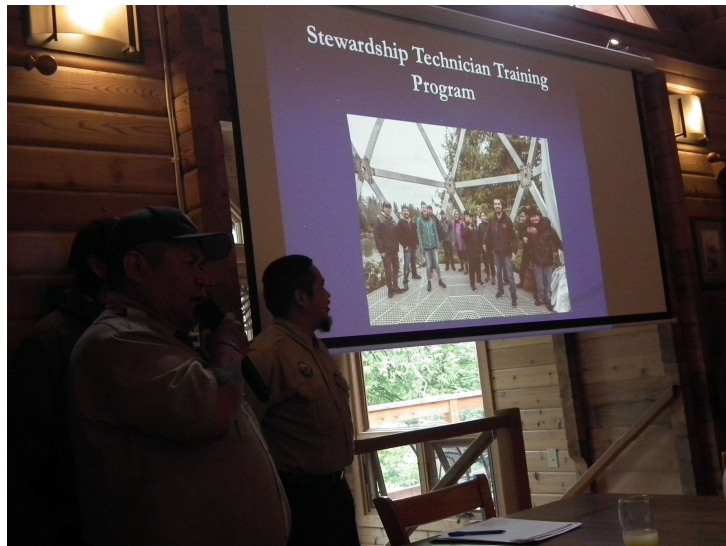
Monday July 8

Participants arrived and settled into their rooms at Hakai. Introductions were held after dinner, including territorial welcomes from the Wuikinuxv and Heiltsuk Nations. Fanny Nelson, Metlakatla Elder, spoke about her hopes for the gathering, and each participant introduced themselves. Participants received a CGW dry bag and CFN hat as welcome gifts.

Tuesday July 9

Community Presentations: Each participating CGW team (Nuxalk, Kitasoo/Xai'xais, Metlakatla, Wuikinuxv, Heiltsuk) presented on their successes from the last field

season and their priorities for this field season. Each team spoke of the training programs they have participated in and their ongoing monitoring work—including crab surveys, bear monitoring, creek walks, fish counts, eulachon monitoring, lodge visits, and seaweed surveys. The Nuxalk and Heiltsuk spoke of working alongside the SEAS and Rediscovery programs, as



well as presenting in schools. While many of the Guardians in attendance have been working multiple seasons, there were a number of new Guardians as well: Metlakatla has an entirely new team of three Guardians, Kitasoo/Xai'xais has three new Guardians and Wuikinuxv has two new Guardians as well.



Indigenous Laws Workshop: Spencer Greening, a member of Gitga'at First Nation and PhD Student in Indigenous Law and Anthropology, along with Georgia Lloyd-Smith, a lawyer with West Coast Environmental Law, created a custom workshop on Indigenous Laws for Stewardship for the Annual Gathering.

Spencer and Georgia led the group through a series of lessons, stories and discussions about:

- Indigenous Laws
- Colonial Laws
- Important questions, such as: Who decides the laws? Who are the authority figures? Who enforces the laws in both systems?
- Brainstorm about what laws the participants would like to see enforced



In addition, Georgia shared a recording, with permission, of Chief Gabriel George's testimony from the TMX NEB hearing, which includes a Tseil-Waututh story about salmon and the laws regarding responsibility to salmon. This encouraged conversations about key laws in each community and the overlap across Nations.

Barter night: A huge success as always, with many people bringing foods, crafts, home-made goodies and clothing to trade with one another over much laughter.

Wednesday July 10

Hakai Presentation on eDNA sampling: Hakai staff Sue Velazquez, head of eDNA sampling under the Hakai ICO program, presented about sampling techniques used by different groups and participants at the Citizen Science level. Hakai is hoping people will take water samples following their simple protocol and return them to Hakai, primarily to identify fish species in selected locations. Hakai supplies the kits and training, plus all the data once results come in.



Tactical Communications for Compliance & Enforcement: Stephen Hodgson from BC Parks facilitated a two-part workshop on communication skills for compliance and enforcement. Based on the training BC Parks provides their Rangers, Stephen adapted the curriculum to fit the context of Coastal Guardian Watchmen. The first part of the workshop involved reviewing basic verbal and non-verbal communication skills, including conflict de-escalation, removing oneself from dangerous situations and assessing scenarios prior to approaching.

The second component of the workshop involved a variety of role-playing scenarios in which Guardians approached resource users who were compliant with regulations to varying degrees. Guardians supported and coached



one another through their introductions, explanations of the work that they do, and interactions with the people visiting their territories. With scenarios ranging in difficulty—from compliant and cooperative to belligerent and aggressive—Guardians had the opportunity to work within their teams to practice these important and challenging communication scenarios.

Thursday July 11

RMS Training - Coast Tracker 3 Updates:

Following extensive work to review the existing CoastTracker app, CSNAG 2019 presented the perfect opportunity to unveil CoastTracker 3. Conference participants had the opportunity to test the new app, review the web-portal, sign up for an account or edit their password, connect with Kelly Squires to get maps of their patrols. The changes to the app were highlighted and feedback was very positive. CSN Program Manager Lara Hoshizaki and RMS Technical Coordinator Anton





Pitts presented on behalf of Kelly Squires, RMS Coordinator, who was unable to attend.

MaPP Overview, Kelp Monitoring Demonstration and Hakai Species Demonstration:

Environmental monitoring and data collection along on the coast is an important factor in asserting Indigenous Authority and Governance. Given the priority of CFN member Nations with respect to kelp monitoring, biologist Markus Thompson—from the Marine Plan Partnership for the North Pacific Coast (MaPP)—shared the most recent kelp monitoring protocols through a hands-on, field-based presentation.

Lara Hoshizaki delivered a short presentation on the history of MaPP, which provided context for the kelp monitoring demonstration. This overview offered participants some background on why certain species and habitats have been prioritized for data collection, including kelp, and how that helps Nations track ecosystems and inform regional management decisions.



After highlighting the differences between bull kelp and giant kelp, and reviewing the crucial ecological importance of the species, Markus outlined the ways Guardians are expected to monitor kelp beds: by kayak. Participants then hiked to West Beach, where Markus had laid out kelp on the beach to simulate a kelp bed. Guardians

practiced monitoring the kelp bed following the protocols in their Nation teams. Hakai staff Margot Hensing-Lewis provided a number of intertidal species of sea stars and urchin for monitoring simultaneously. Whether Guardians are able to paddle out to kelp beds in kayaks to monitor the health of the plants is unknown, but providing people with the opportunity to experience the monitoring protocol was very useful for everyone involved.

Closing, Evaluation and Feedback: Participants formally thanked Fanny Nelson as the Elder delegate for CSNAG 2019 and shared in a circle their final thoughts and



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appreciations regarding the gathering. The CSN Team presented Hakai staff with dry bags and hats, and provided Eric and Christina with a thank you gift.

Feedback from evaluation forms suggested that participants really enjoyed the Indigenous Laws workshop, the tactical communications scenarios and the kelp monitoring, in equal measure. Participants would like to introduce guest speakers in the future, would like more time outside and the opportunity to learn traditional crafts and cultural sharing. A few people expressed that they really enjoyed the Coast Guard training from CSNAG 2018 and would like to experience that again—something that could perhaps be paired with Raven Rescue training. It was suggested by CSN staff that a counsellor or support person be available on-site next year, as challenges to well-being were very present at the conference this year.

Some key questions for moving forward include the question of location, whether Stewardship Directors will attend future CSNAGs, and whether we are able to accommodate youth participants at the conference. Although there were no Haida or Gitga'at Guardians present at CSNAG 2019, the small number of participants did create a warm and intimate environment to welcome to new Kitasoo/Xai'xais, Metlakatla and Wuikinuxv Guardians. In addition, many participants and Hakai staff requested that CSNAG 2020 swag be t-shirts.

Summary:

The intention for this gathering was to focus on various aspects of Indigenous Governance for Stewardship. The foundation was laid on the first day with Spencer Greening and Georgia Lloyd-Smith's workshop on Indigenous Laws. Each participant articulated their understanding and commitment to the laws of their Nation, as well as the many commonalities between Nations. In recognition of the priority to move toward the enforcement of Indigenous Laws, Wednesday's workshop focused on building foundational communications skills. In the skill-building scenarios, participants truly came together as a network of Guardians—working to support, mentor, coach and build one another up in the face of often challenging interactions with resource users. Thursday, the newest version of the CoastTracker app was unveiled—a unique, one-of-a-kind tool that was designed based on user feedback and specific needs of Guardians as they collect data through the Regional Monitoring System (RMS). Finally, we explored the ways MaPP brings together Indigenous governance, knowledge and data, and how data monitoring skills such as kelp surveys help support that work.

We give thanks to the Wuikinuxv and Heiltsuk for welcoming us to their territories, to our CSNAG 2019 Elder Fanny Nelson for bringing her knowledge and experience to the gathering, to the Hakai Institute for their generous hospitality, and to the many guest speakers and presenters who helped make this conference such a success.