

Important notice for Gitksan and Gitanyow fishers harvesting salmon at the mouth of the Skeena in the traditional territory of the Lax Kw'allaams First Nation

July 22, 2024

Gitksan and Gitanyow Simgiigyet have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lax Kw'allaams Simgiigyet regarding the harvesting of salmon in their traditional territory. This MOU serves to recognize Indigenous rights and reinforce traditional protocols regarding the section 35.1 right to harvest salmon for Food, Social, and Ceremonial use (FSC). It lays out a process by which Gitksan and Gitanyow fishers may harvest FSC fish in Lax Kw'allaams territory.

The following is the protocol for coastal food fishing.

1. Food fishers from Nations party to this MOU are expected and required to follow the local rules and regulations of the Nation within which they are fishing.
2. Food fishers from Nations party to this MOU will be issued permits by the host Nation that will identify them to the host Nation and its fishery monitors.
3. By requesting and accepting the permit from the host Nation, each fisher agrees to:
 - a. Collect catch data and report this data to the issuing office within the proscribed time on the forms provided;
 - b. Obtain a food fish transport permit from the host Nation prior to transporting the fish home;
 - c. Immediately upon arrival in the fisher's village, the fisher must have his or her own fishery resource manager sign off on the transport permit as evidence that the food fish arrived and was delivered to the fisher's village, and a copy of the slip must be faxed by the Fisheries Department immediately to the Lax Kw'allaams Business Development Office at 250-627-5733; Jay Alexcee and Jim Henry Jr. can issue permits;
 - d. Abide by all rules of the fishery
4. In light of Lax Kw'allaams digital capabilities, permits may be acquired electronically with advanced notice.

The Gitanyow and Gitksan will take a combined maximum of 10,000 pieces of Sockeye and 250 pieces of Chinook from areas 4-12 and 4-15, to be increased if numbers allow. Harvest allocations will be from the Gitksan and Gitanyow allocations for section 35.1. This MOU ensures the correct allocation of section 35.1 fish is caught.

Non-compliance of the MOU will result in the immediate suspension of the permit and no further permits will be issued. The agreement expires August 31st, 2024 even if the participating First Nation's FSC requirements have not been achieved.

For administrative purposes the Simgiigyet request that Gitksan and Gitanyow fishers wishing to food fish on the coast **call in advance 250 627 5733 for permit**. May leave a message with Jay if off hours or email in advance to jay_fisheries@laxband.com or jim_fisheries@laxband.com to obtain a permit. Lax Kw'allaams can send the permit via email or to a cell phone.

Information that may be required; Anticipated Fishing Date(s), Name, Status #, Boat, Vehicle License, Cell #.