



# Sayt-K'ilim-Goot

one heart, one path, one nation



Nisga'a Lisims Government

March 2012

## 2012 Eulachon Project / Preliminary Update



### Overview

The Eulachon fishery began on February 27, 2012 where a total of seven camps are operating at Fishery Bay this season. Three camps, Mitch Steven's, Dirty Dozen, and Doolan's camps were first to begin with preparations for the fishery which included bringing in supplies, bark removal from logs, gathering/placing hemlock branches in bins/pits, boats and nets, etc. Three camps, Walter's, Golden Grease, and Simpson's camps followed later during that week for equal preparations. Leonard Robinson's camp (Oldies but Goodies) was last to begin operations for 2012 and began set up late on March 7, 2012 and fishing by March 8, 2012.

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## RCMP Report

The Lisims/Nass Valley Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) are dedicated to meeting the RCMP's mandate of "Safe Homes and Safe Communities" and committed to working collaboratively with our aboriginal partners to keep Nisga'a Nation safe and healthy.

I am entrusted to keep the Nation safe and secure, a responsibility that I do not take lightly. Upon assuming command of the detachment, I heard consistent themes from Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG), village government officials, chief's & council and community members that the Nation was frustrated with rampant "bootlegging" and "drug dealing" in our neighbourhoods.

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The fishery is still currently in progress and it is anticipated that the fishery will begin conclusion during the week of March 30, 2012.

Early in the season, a few camps reported harvesting to be complete and proceeded into the fermenting process of making Eulachon grease. Food fishing and distribution of Eulachon to Nisga'a communities occurred concurrently. Fishers, Fishery Baby camp leaders and crew, Nisga'a Fisheries staff members (Nicole Morven, April Angus, and Niva Percival), the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife (Harry Nyce), the

the weeks of March 16 to 23, 2012. Below is a table that summarizes total catches in tonnes by year up to March 27, 2012.

**Biological Sampling Goals**

Biosampling procedures will be more detailed in comparison to previous study years. The procedure consists of two parts: primary (direct collection of scales, DNA, length, weight, and sex) and secondary (dissection and fecundity) biosampling on sample date and at a later date respectively. The biosampling goal is to collect a minimum of 300 random

Year	Start Date	End Date	Fishing Days	Fishing Camps (Nisga'a & Tsimshian)	Catch (Tonnes)
1997	14-Mar-97	25-Mar-97	12	5	158
1998	11-Mar-98	22-Mar-98	12	6	296
1999	5-Mar-99	24-Mar-99	20	4	237
2000	7-Mar-00	28-Mar-00	22	4	168
2001	6-Mar-01	22-Mar-01	17	4	150
2002	26-Feb-02	28-Mar-02	31	4	126
2004	3-Mar-04	28-Mar-04	20	4	282
2005	4-Mar-05	25-Mar-05	22	3	240
2006	7-Mar-06	29-Mar-06	23	4	22
2007	5-Mar-07	25-Mar-07	21	5	148
2008	7-Mar-08	26-Mar-08	20	6	209
2009	1-Mar-09	26-Mar-09	26	5	164
2010	6-Mar-10	20-Mar-10	15	7	356
2011	10-Mar-11	29-Mar-11	20	5	318
2012	27-Feb-12	On-going*	31*	7	375
Mean			20	5	217

Executive Director (Cheryl Stephens), and Nisga'a Lisims Government President (Mitch Stevens) were interviewed for an on-line article by Paul Colangelo, a Journalist and Photographer for National Geographic Magazine concerning Nass Eulachon, the Eulachon fishery, as well as the species' importance to Nisga'a Culture and Nation during

and non-random samples (25 to 30 samples per sample session) where each fish will be tagged with a unique number. Biosampling concluded on March 22, 2012 where we exceeded the minimum target and resulted with a total of 329 random and non-random Eulachon sampled.

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It is hoped to determine the sex ratio, size trends, fecundity, and condition throughout the 2012 Nass Eulachon run. From the results of this year's study, it is sought to develop Nass specific length-weight and size-fecundity relationships to document inter-annual monitoring of the health of spawning Eulachon. The driving reason why the study is needed to be more specific is due to the matter of COSEWIC's (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) pressure of listing Nass Eulachon as "Threatened". The primary purpose of this study is to collect more data to determine Nisga'a catch in 2012 and assist in assessing the

overall stock status of Nass Eulachon to refute COSEWIC's initial assessment of the Nass run in July 2011 as threatened. We would like to thank everyone who have participated and supported the 2012 Eulachon project thus far: All fishers, Fishery Bay camp leaders and crew members, Nisga'a Fisheries staff members: Nicole Morven, April Angus, Niva Percival, and Blair Stewart; Nisga'a Lisims Government staff members: Harry Nyce, Cheryl Stephens, and Mitch Stevens; and LGL Limited staff members: Steve Kingshott, Will Duguid, Richard Alexander, and Bob Bocking.

## Report From Finance

As we reported in detail in our Newsletter, Nisga'a Child and Family Services will be increasing their level of delegation to C6 on Nisga'a lands which will provide better care for families and children. We are working on making "Quality of Life" a more prominent initiative. A summit on "Q of L" is expected in the next fiscal attended by Villages, Locals, NVHA, SD92, and WWNI with an emphasis on youth. With regards to the Nass Area Strategy, we continue to work on economic development initiatives and to safeguard and protect our treaty rights. The Nisga'a Elections and Special Assembly will provide accountability and transparency to Nisga'a citizens of Nisga'a Government. General elections are in Nov 2012, and the Special assembly is in May 2012.

The Prince Rupert local has been working hard to renovate Nisga'a Hall, and Nisga'a Lisims Government through the Capital Finance Commission, will be providing financial assistance towards the renovation. There have been requests that NLG assist the churches in the villages to engage in needed repair and maintenance work. They receive no funding from NLG for their operations – this would be a contribution to the work that they are presently doing.

There will be an increase in funding in the next fiscal year in the amount of \$800,000 (3.7%) to the Villages, \$81,000 (3.4%) to the Locals and \$910,000 (6.3%) to the Nisga'a Valley Health Authority.



The members and staff at the detachment have made education and enforcement in these areas a priority in all the villages in a concerted effort with government & community leaders. We have undertaken many investigations, and we continue to gather information and intelligence for further operations. From the search warrants in Laxgalts'ap, to the youth march and foot patrols in Gingolx, the school programs in Gitwinksihkw and the "Problem Property" notices delivered to offenders in Gitlaxt'aamiks, I can assure you that we will continue work tirelessly to secure the health and safety of the Nation. Those who, today, continue to engage in bootlegging, drug dealing and other criminal or anti-social activities in the Nation have been received "fair warning" given the high profile of our recent investigations and the residual effects on those offenders. This includes those individuals suspected of trafficking contraband into the Nation and taking advantage of our vulnerable residents as we have seen with the Canada Post outlet in Laxgalts'ap and most recently in Nass Camp.

There are many unique challenges and dynamics that threaten the safety and security of our residents. The issues are complex and not easily overcome. Enforcement alone is not the solution; it never has been and never will be. Many of our

brothers and sisters, young and old, struggle with severe alcohol and drug addictions. It tears families apart. Bootleggers and drug dealers who provide these poisons to our residents and youth are behaving in manner incongruent with ancient Nisga'a law and the "Ayuuk". These addictions hurt us deeply and have far reaching social and economic effects that go beyond just making "easy money". Families, friends and children all suffer with those who are afflicted with these addictions. Therefore, we are dedicated to reducing the accessibility and availability of drugs and alcohol in the community.

Please take this as an opportunity to have a frank conversation about these issues with your family, children, spouse, co-worker or neighbour. Get familiar with the programs and services offered by NLG or your local village government that can assist in tackling these issues. We have caring, empathetic professionals right here in the Nation poised to give you or your family the support they need.

We need the public's help in reducing harm in our communities. The RCMP cannot do it alone. Your anonymity will be protected. If you wish to report suspicious activity in your neighbourhood or report a crime, please call 250-633-222 or CRIMESTOPPERS at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS). Our door is always open at the detachment, please feel free to visit us and discuss what is going on in your community. The coffee is on!

Sayt-K'ilim-Goot

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# Zoning Laws For Nisga'a Villages

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As part of the Nisga'a Individual Landholding Project, each village government is required to develop a zoning law for its Village Lands. This is because only lands zoned in a village law as being primarily for residential use can be granted in fee simple through the *Nisga'a Landholding Transition Act*.

Each village government has undertaken public consultation to assist it to develop the policies for its zoning law, and each zoning law is required to be the subject of a formal public hearing before the village government can consider adopting it by resolution. So far, both Laxgalts'ap and Gingolx have completed and adopted zoning laws. Gitwinksihlkw has decided to wait for NLG to review its enforcement laws before it adopts its zoning law. Gitlaxt'aamiks has undertaken a more complex process that includes the development of an Official Community Plan as well as a zoning law, so is taking a little more time. Gitlaxt'aamiks has just concluded its public meetings with respect to these planning issues and will be holding a public hearing in the near future.

*You can get copies of the final or draft zoning laws for your Village from your Village Government.*

## Moose Harvest

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Following up on our article in the February newsletter about the concerns regarding the status of our Moose population, NLG Executive has adopted a wildlife management plan that specifies a maximum of 25 moose to be harvested this year.

Applications for hunting permits are due by September 30, 2012. If more than 25 hunters seek permits, recipients of hunting permits will be selected by a lottery. There will only be a one week period for hunting – scheduled to coincide with the provincial moose hunt.



These measures are significant; however, they are also vital to the long term protection of the moose for our future generations. We will continue to explore every avenue to restore our Moose population to healthy numbers.

# Emergency Preparedness Management Plan

## Emergency Preparedness / Risk of Flooding

The BC River Forecast Centre has released its snow report up to date as of March 7, 2012. According to the report, "Snow packs remain higher than normal in the Upper Fraser, Nechako, Peace and Skeena-Nass basins... A number of individual snow survey locations in the Upper Fraser, Nechako and Skeena-Nass basins are above historic maximum levels for this time of year." The following table gives a good indication of just how high in comparison our snow-pack is this year.

BC Snow Basin Indices / March 1, 2012 (excerpt)

Basin	% of Normal	Basin	% of Normal
Columbia	111%	Skeena-Nass	125%
South Thompson	97%	Peace	126%

Based on this information, there is a risk of flooding in the Nass Valley this spring.

To prepare for such an event if it were to happen, Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) will be conducting two Emergency preparedness exercises in the Month of April which will include the four Nisga'a Village Governments Gitlaxt'aamiks, Gitwinksihlkw, Laxgalts'ap and Gingolx, and Nisga'a institutions such as NVHB, School District 92, WWNI, Lisims RCMP, etc.

The purpose of these exercises will be to test our readiness to fully set up our Emergency Operation

Centers (EOC's) within NLG, local communities, and to conduct a table top exercise to test how we would respond to a hypothetical Flooding scenario under the Nisga'a Emergency Preparedness Plan.

The proposed dates of these exercises are:

1. **April 4, 2012** in Laxgalts'ap to test set up an EOC's
2. **April 11, 2012** in Gingolx) to participate in a table top exercise where we will discuss a scenario and develop a plan to respond.

We will also plan further exercises in May. These exercises will include the direct participation of the key non-Nisga'a agencies that would be involved – Provincial Emergency Program (PEP), Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).



# Highlights from NLG Executive Meeting March 21–22, 2012

*Following is a summary (excerpted) from the detailed legislation*

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## **Administrative Review Officer Report / March 21, 2012**

The administrative review officer of the Nisga'a Administrative Decisions Review Board prepared annual reports for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the 2010-2011 fiscal year, and the 2011-2012 fiscal years. Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive moved to receive these Annual Reports, provide them to WSN, and recommend that the reports be forwarded to NLG Committees, Village Governments, NVHA, and Urban Locals for their review.

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## **Draft Provisional Budget / March 21, 2012**

Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive moved to approve the draft provisional budget for the 2012/2013 fiscal year, and directed the CFO to prepare a letter to WSN that includes this recommended provisional budget, a statement of revenues and expenditures, and a copy of the audited financial statements for the Nisga'a Nation for the most recently completed fiscal year.

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## **Amendment To Nisga'a Nation Taxation Agreement / March 21, 2012**

In accordance with Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive Resolution 2011/50, the Nisga'a Nation has proposed to British Columbia and Canada certain amendments to the Nisga'a Nation Taxation Agreement.

The Nisga'a Nation, provincial and federal representatives have prepared an agreement to amend the Nisga'a Nation Taxation Agreement generally consistent with the NLG proposal.

Nisga'a Finance Committee reviewed and approved the March 2012 Amendment Agreement. Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive endorsed the March 2012 Amendment Agreement and recommended its ratification to Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a.

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## **Adoption Of Annual Wildlife Management Plan / March 21, 2012**

Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive moved to approve and adopt the draft Nisga'a annual wildlife management plan for 2012/2013 prepared by the Director and forward the Annual Wildlife Management Plan to the Wildlife Committee.

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**Appointment To Nadrb / March 22, 2012**

Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive has re-appointed Mr. Dave Griffin as chairman of the Nisga'a Administrative Decisions Review Board (NADRB) for a term of three years.

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**Nisga'a Boarding Home Program /  
March 22, 2012**

Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive moved to support the initiative of the volunteer working group on the Nisga'a Boarding Home Program headed by Mr. Reginald Percival. They are preparing an application to the federal Indian Residential School Settlement Compensation Package for inclusion in the Common Experience Payment and Independent Assessment Process settlement process to use surplus funds from the Indian Residential School Settlement Compensation Package.

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**Community Tripartite Agreement  
March 22, 2012**

The Nisga'a Nation, Canada and British Columbia have now agreed to further amend the 2010 / 2011 Community Tripartite Agreement (CTA) to extend its term to March 31, 2013. The CTA concerns policing on Nisga'a lands.

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**Chief Financial Officer /  
March 22, 2012**

The Nisga'a Financial Administration Act (NLGSR 2007/09), and the Nisga'a Interpretation Act (NLGSR 2006/04) were amended to establish the office of the Chief Financial Officer of Nisga'a Lisims Government in place of the office of the Director of Finance. Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive endorsed the enactment of the Nisga'a Financial Administration Amendment Act 2012, and recommended to Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a that the Act be enacted.

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**March 21, 2012**

Pursuant to section 22 of the *Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Act*, the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive must adopt a draft annual wildlife management plan prepared by the Director of Fish and Wildlife .

Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive moved to:

1. approve and adopt the draft Nisga'a annual wildlife management plan for 2012/2013 prepared by the Director.
2. direct the Director to forward the Annual Wildlife Management Plan to the Wildlife Committee; and
3. direct the Director to publish the Annual Wildlife Management Plan in accordance with Nisga'a Law.

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**March 22, 2012**

Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive has re-appointed Mr. Dave Griffin as chairman of the Nisga'a Administrative Decisions Review Board (NADRB) for a term of three years. Mr. Griffin's term had expired, and he agreed to stand for re-appointment.

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**March 22, 2012**

Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive moved to support the initiative of the volunteer working group on the Nisga'a Boarding Home Program headed by Mr. Reginald Percival in its application to the federal Indian Residential School Settlement Compensation Package for inclusion in the Common Experience Payment and Independent Assessment Process settlement process through the utilization of the surplus funds from the Indian Residential School Settlement Compensation Package.

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**March 22, 2012**

The Nisga'a Nation, Canada and British Columbia entered into a Community Tripartite Agreement (CTA) for the 2010 / 2011 fiscal year, the term of which ended on March 31, 2011.

The Nisga'a Nation, Canada and British Columbia agreed to amend the 2010 / 2011 CTA to extend its term to March 31, 2012 (the "First Amendment Agreement").

The Nisga'a Nation, Canada and British Columbia have now agreed to further amend the 2010 / 2011 CTA to extend its term to March 31, 2013 (the "Second Amendment Agreement").

Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive moved to direct the President to sign on behalf of the Nisga'a Nation the Second Amendment Agreement.

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**March 22, 2012**

The Nisga'a Financial Administration Act (NLGSR 2007/09), and the Nisga'a Interpretation Act (NLGSR 2006/04) were amended to establish the office of the Chief Financial Officer of Nisga'a Lisims Government in place of the office of the Director of Finance.

Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive moved to:

1. endorse the enactment of the *Nisga'a Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2012*; and
2. recommend to Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a that the Act be enacted.

# Diksangiik Bridge / Replacement Project

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After review of all tendered bids, a contract is expected to be awarded shortly for the Diksangiik Bridge replacement. A Pre-construction meeting will follow in early April. The contractor will be mobilized to the site by the week of April 16th.

Temporary relocation of hydro poles and construction of a detour road and temporary bridge north of the Bailey Bridge will then begin.

NLG has made available a listing of possible sources/resources for contractors to contact. All major Nisga'a events such as the Special Assembly and the Crab Fest have been scheduled into the project. All aspects of the project with respect to creek fish concerns have been carefully considered and accommodated.

The bridge project is expected to complete in early August, 2012.

## NLG Supports Our Basketball Nation

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**Several young mens and womens teams from the Nisga'a Nation participated in the recent 2012 BC Junior All Native Basketball Championship held March 18-23, 2012 in Port Alberni. The Nisga'a teams participating were:**

- Gitwinksihlkw Athletic Club
- Sons of Gingolx & Ladies Aide
- New Aiyansh YMCA
- Nisga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver
- Greenville Athletic Club

Their participation was supported in part by contributions from Nisga'a Lisims Government through the Sport and Recreation Fund. This fund was also used to support teams that participated in the most recent All Native Basketball Tournament in Prince Rupert.

Nisga'a basketball teams have a rich legacy of participation and excellence and Nisga'a Lisims Government congratulates all of the teams who represent our Nation at these tournaments.



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