



T'AAQ-WIIHAK FISHERIES NOTICE
K'waqmis (Herring Spawn on Kelp)
February 28, 2026 - April 15, 2026

The Ha'wiih of the Five Nations are authorizing a fishery to open on the terms set out in this notice. Fishers must be aware that DFO is imposing some licence conditions on this fishery opening that the Ha'wiih are not including as requirements for the Aboriginal rights-based fishery. Fishers should be aware of these conditions. Fishers who choose not to follow licence conditions imposed by DFO may face potential ramifications, including charges and prosecution from DFO, for violations of the Fisheries Act and other regulations.

OPENING TIME: **Start:** February 28, 2026 **End:** April 15, 2026 or earlier – based on harvest rates.

FISHING AREA:

Area 124, Area 125, Area 24, Area 25, and Area 26-1: Shore areas where spawn occurs (see map on page 5).

GEAR: Kelp strings marked with a buoy with T'aaq-wiihak number and vessel decal

SPECIES ALLOWED FOR SALE (Size Limits & Trip Limits):

Species	Size Limits and Restrictions	Allocation
k'waqmis (Spawn on Kelp)	husmin (giant kelp) only	5,000lbs per fisher

Hail Requirements for Spawn on Kelp	
Hail out contacts	Start of fishing reports must include:
1. Hail phone: (250) 266-0418 2. Online at www.taaqwiihak.ca herring page	1. Fisher name and T'aaq-wiihak number 2. Vessel name and decal number 3. Intended landing date and location 4. Intended fishing area(s) 5. Intended buyer

DESIGNATION:

Participating fishers **MUST:**

- have a valid 2026 T'aaq-wiihak card, **AND**
- **MUST** be fishing on a registered T'aaq-wiihak vessel with a valid 2026 T'aaq-wiihak decal.

Participating vessels **MUST:**

- fly a red T'aaq-wiihak flag while on a T'aaq-wiihak fishing trip, **AND**
- **MUST** hail out for each trip **AND** hail in before each landing.

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ALL FISHER AND VESSEL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE VALID FOR 2026

Registration can be completed online at www.taaq.ca.

HAIL OUT PROCEDURES (FOR THIS FISHERY ONLY):

Fishers are required to hail out for each trip. "Hailing out" (start fishing report) occurs when a participating skipper communicates that they are heading out into a T'aaq-wiihak fishery to Ecotrust Canada at 250-266-0418. Hail-outs can be made up to 12 hours before leaving the dock. Landings will not be authorized if you do not hail out. Hail outs can be made 24 hours/day using our website (www.taaq.ca) or by calling or texting the Ecotrust from 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

LANDING / HAIL IN PROCEDURES:

Fishers **MUST HAIL IN (stop fishing report)** to Ecotrust Canada to confirm a landing time at least **24hrs in ADVANCE** of landing to arrange for a designated monitor (J.O. Thomas) to be present at your landing. Please understand that the monitors need time to arrange this. The hail phone is monitored seven days a week, 9:00 am-5:00 pm. There are no scheduled offloads at this time.

Please note:

- A designated J.O. Thomas validator must be present at all landings.
- A J.O. Thomas validator will validate your catch.

Landings can occur only at the designated landing sites outlined below:

	Location	Information
Zeballos	Ehattesah Ice (Mid- <u>Island</u>)	Buyers need to be pre-arranged by the fisher before landing. Contact Ehattesah for Operation details
Gold River	Gold River Dock/Ahminaquis Boat Launch	Buyers need to be pre-arranged by the fisher before landing.
Tofino	4 th Street Dock Lions Gate	Buyers need to be pre-arranged by the fisher before landing.
Ucluelet	Tinlet	Buyers need to be pre-arranged by the fisher before landing. Please contact facility ahead of landing

SOK MONITORING PROCESS:

1. There will be 100% dockside validation with plant verifications of harvested weights. Fishers must provide J.O. Thomas full access to their harvest of **k'waqmis** for validation and sampling.
2. J.O Thomas will mark each fisher's harvest with an ID tag for the secondary weight assessment at the plant.
3. SOK will be measured at your buyer's plant. **It is required that your buyer and processing location are identified prior to verification of product.**
4. J.O Thomas will be doing samples at each plant to estimate the 12-hour drained weight recorded for sale.

NEW FISHER REQUIREMENTS FOR SPAWN ON KELP:

- Fishers are required to secure their own brine for their spawn on kelp.
- Kelp is the responsibility of each fisher to harvest and set.

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- Fishers are required to adhere to the conditions and restrictions defined in the T'aaq-wiihak Requirements & Responsibilities Agreement with their Ha'wiih.
- Fishers are required to ensure their vessels comply with Transport Canada, CFIA, and WorkSafeBC regulations.

BUYERS:

It is the business of each fisher who they sell to and at what price. Fishers must secure their own buyers ahead of time. **Please see the website for a list of buyer contacts.**
<https://taaqwiihakfisheries.ca/buyers/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT TAAQ.CA OR CONTACT:

Five Nations Fisheries Managers	
Hasheukumiss Richard George (AFN)	250-266-1438 (office)
Tyler Hanson (ECFN)	250-761-4155 (office)
Rufus Charleson (HFN)	250-670-1122 (office)
Justin Blondeau (MMFN)	250-283-2015 (office)
Andrew Jackson (TFN)	250-725-3350 (office)
Ha'oom Fisheries Society	
Office Location: 200 Grice Rd, Tofino BC (old Icehouse Restaurant)	250-725-2802 (office)
Olivia Currie (Ha'oom Fisheries Coordinator)	250-204-9948 (cell)
Kadin Snook (Ha'oom Fisheries Coordinator)	250-204-1522 (cell)

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Court Defined Area Boundaries		
Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	49° 55.428'	-127° 12.185'
2	49° 55.523'	-127° 15.150'
3	49° 48.213'	-127° 25.125'
4	49° 47.167'	-127° 23.161'
5	49° 55.150'	-127° 12.469'
6	49° 54.425'	-127° 12.156'
7	49° 53.939'	-127° 11.837'
8	49° 53.394'	-127° 11.282'
9	49° 52.781'	-127° 00.964'
10	49° 51.458'	-127° 09.546'
11	49° 51.131'	-127° 08.198'
12	49° 51.073'	-127° 07.599'
13	49° 51.122'	-127° 07.027'
14	49° 51.370'	-127° 05.634'
15	49° 51.390'	-127° 04.510'
16	49° 50.559'	-126° 59.950'
17	49° 50.553'	-126° 58.915'
18	49° 51.417'	-126° 55.452'
19	49° 52.077'	-126° 50.679'
20	49° 53.496'	-126° 47.910'
21	49° 53.579'	-126° 47.333'
22	49° 53.425'	-126° 46.796'
23	49° 52.269'	-126° 44.458'
24	49° 51.970'	-126° 43.609'
25	49° 52.072'	-126° 43.497'
26	49° 52.078'	-126° 43.221'
27	49° 52.026'	-126° 42.917'
28	49° 51.775'	-126° 42.516'
29	49° 51.644'	-126° 41.072'
30	49° 51.637'	-126° 40.721'
31	49° 51.512'	-126° 40.476'
32	49° 51.438'	-126° 40.475'
33	49° 39.562'	-126° 50.683'
34	49° 31.844'	-127° 01.427'
35	49° 21.283'	-126° 49.027'
36	49° 18.344'	-126° 45.585'
37	49° 16.641'	-126° 43.409'
38	49° 15.956'	-126° 42.386'
39	49° 15.250'	-126° 41.054'
40	49° 12.233'	-126° 34.324'
41	49° 00.323'	-126° 07.711'
42	48° 54.451'	-125° 53.981'
43	49° 02.307'	125° 43.228'
44	49° 02.340'	-125° 41.631'

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