



T'aa q-wiihak

Implementing Nuu-chah-nulth Fishing Rights

SALMON FIELD MANUAL

2016

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Visit the T'aaq-wiihak Fisheries Facebook Page for updates.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
SAFETY.....	2
Required Safety Training.....	3
Required Safety Equipment.....	4
Pre-Trip Safety Planning.....	5
Landing Safety Considerations.....	5
Troll Safety Tips.....	6
Hypothermia.....	7
T'AAQ-WIIHAK FISHERIES MANAGEMENT.....	8
Stock Forecasting.....	9
Fishing TACs.....	9
FISHERIES OPENING NOTICES.....	10
WHO CAN FISH?.....	11
Taaq-wiihak Fishing Card.....	11
WHAT VESSELS CAN FISH?.....	12
Taaq-wiihak Vessel Decal.....	11
T'aaq-wiihak Flags.....	12
WHEN CAN YOU FISH?.....	13
WHERE CAN YOU FISH?.....	14
Map of T'aaq-wiihak Fishing Area.....	14
WHAT SPECIES CAN BE RETAINED AND SOLD?.....	15
Target Species.....	15
Minimum Size Limits for Sale of Suuḥaa (Chinook Salmon).....	15
Non-Target Species.....	16
Minimum size limits for sale of P'uuʔi (Halibut) and Tuškuuḥ (Lingcod).....	17
WHAT SPECIES CAN BE RELEASED?.....	18
HOW MUCH CAN YOU CATCH?.....	19
WHAT GEAR CAN BE USED?.....	18
WHERE CAN FISH BE LANDED?.....	20

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHEN CAN FISH BE LANDED?	20
HAIL-IN & HAIL-OUT	21
LANDING PROCEDURES	22
T'AAQ-WIIHAK DOCKSIDE MONITORS	23
Dockside Monitor Responsibilities	24
FISH BUYERS	25
Fish Buyer Responsibilities	25
Fish Buyer Contacts	26
FISHING LOGS	27
LANDING SLIPS	28
SALES SLIPS	29
FISH QUALITY	30
Handling Fish	30
Cleaning & Dressing Fish	31
Icing & Holding Fish	31
Checking for Quality: What does the buyer look for?	32
Common Damage to Meat Quality	33
CATCH VALIDATION	34
MARK RECOVERY PROGRAM (MRP)	34
Biological Sampling	34
Coded Wire Tag Sampling	35
CATCH VALIDATION & MRP PROCEDURES	37
LOST FISHING GEAR	38
OIL OR FUEL LEAKS	39
REPORT SHARK OR TURTLE SIGHTINGS	40
LIST OF FISHERIES INFRACTIONS	43

INTRODUCTION

On November 3, 2009, the BC Supreme Court ruled that five Nuu-chah-nulth Nations (Ahousaht, Ehattesaht/Chinekintaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht and Tla-o-qui-aht) have an aboriginal right to harvest and sell any species of fish found within their ha-houlthee (Chiefly territories). The Nations collectively took on the name T'aaq-wiihak, which means fishing with permission of the Ha'wiih (Hereditary Chiefs) of the Nations.

The BC Supreme Court also found that Canada has a duty to consult and negotiate with the Nations regarding the implementation of this aboriginal right. The next phase of the legal process, the justification trial, commenced March 9, 2015. The T'aaq-wiihak Nations have developed fishing plans that outline their vision for future T'aaq-wiihak fisheries. Until agreement is reached on the T'aaq-wiihak share for all fisheries, the Nations are working with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to test-drive elements of the T'aaq-wiihak management approach.

This handbook has been written to outline for T'aaq-wiihak fishers the procedures and protocols in place for the DFO Demonstration Salmon Fisheries.



SAFETY

The number one priority for T'aaq-wiihak fisheries is safety. It is never worth putting oneself at risk for work, no matter how good fishing conditions or prices may be.



The Captain has the ultimate responsibility for the safety of the crew and the vessel. However all fishers should have the necessary safety training and knowledge to use safety equipment in case of emergency.

***In the fishing industry, the #1 cause of death by drowning is due to not wearing a lifejacket.**

REQUIRED SAFETY TRAINING

In British Columbia, **Transport Canada**, **Industry Canada** and **WorkSafeBC** regulate the safety requirements for commercial fishing. Information and regulations can be found at:



Transport Canada	tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-fishing-vessels-small-menu-292.htm
Industry Canada	ic.gc.ca/
Worksafe BC	www2.worksafebc.com/Portals/Fishing/Home.asp

All T'aaq-wiihak fishers operating vessels less than 15 GT must have certification in:

- **SVOP** (Small Vessel Operator Proficiency) or a Declaration of 7 Fishing Seasons as vessel master.
- **ROC-M** (Restricted Operator Certificate Maritime)
- **MED A3** (Marine Emergency Duties)
- **MBFA** (Marine Basic First Aid)
- Stability Education Course (Recommended)

Your Nation and Uu-a-thluk offer courses various times throughout the year. Please contact Uu-a-thluk or your fisheries manager to learn about upcoming training opportunities. These opportunities will also be posted on the T'aaq-wiihak Fisheries Facebook page.

NETP (The Nuu-chah-nulth Employment and Training Program) can also assist fishers with training needs and financial support.

Contacts for NETP Case Managers:

Gold River/North	Renee Mitchell	250-283-2012
Tofino/Central	Evan Hauser	250-726-7347
Port Alberni/South	Corrine Moore Robyn Samuel Ellie Sampson	250-723-1331

FishSAFE is another excellent safety resource that delivers safety education and training courses, many at no cost to fishers. Please visit fishsafebc.com or call **604-261-9700** for more information.



REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT

All equipment on this list is required for T'aaq-wiihak fisheries. Being prepared is very important.

• 1 approved PFD (lifejacket) for each person on board (reflective and with attached whistle) should be worn at all times
• Two-way radio communication device or an EPIRB
• 1 immersion suit for each person on board (required for trollers)
• 1 lifebuoy attached to a buoyant line at least 27m long
• 1 water-tight can containing 6 approved self-igniting flares
• Navigation lights and equipment that meet the requirements set out in the Collision Regulations.
• 1 4.5 litre foam fire extinguisher or equivalent (if vessel has a motor). A second fire extinguisher is required if cooking/heating appliances are on board.
• Anchor and at least 30m (99 feet) of cable, rope or chain in any combination.
• Sufficient number of lifeboats to accomodate all persons on board (for vessels over 12.2 m or 40 feet).
• Sound-signalling appliance (e.g., an air horn)
• Fire bucket (if vessel is over 5 GT).
• Marine Emergency First Aid Kit
• Re-boarding device
• Watertight flashlight
• Paddle or Oars
• Manual bilge pump
• Magnetic compass



PRE-TRIP SAFETY PLANNING

Before embarking on a trip, fishers should plan for the following safety considerations:

- Weather and water conditions
- Route and expected time of departure and return
- Emergency contact (VHF radio) and how to make distress calls.
- Check-in contact (i.e., who will call Search and Rescue if you are overdue?)
- Hailing-out before going out on a trip
- Emergency equipment in working order and stored in an appropriate location
- Rescue plan for man overboard, fire, vessel damage etc.
- Emergency drills
- First aid training and equipment on-board

LANDING SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

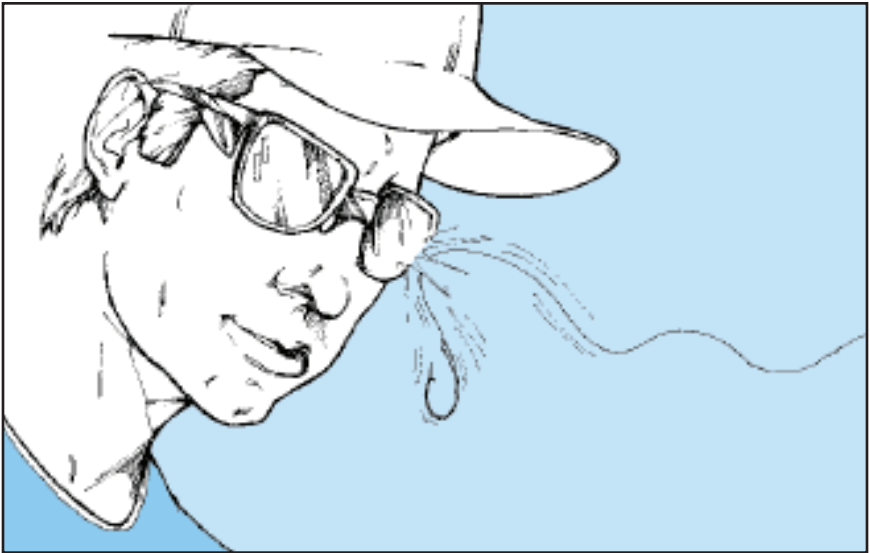
There are many hazards that need to be considered during off-loading such as:

- Slippery decks
- Swinging nets and totes
- Hydraulic arms and hooks
- Hold holes
- Embarking/disembarking procedures
- Offloading machinery
- Hoses, nets, ropes and other ground level obstructions
- Water conditions including waves, changing tides and currents



TROLL SAFETY TIPS

- Wear sunglasses or glasses to protect eyes from fish hooks.
- Wear slip-proof footwear and be alert to slippery decks.
- Gurdy brakes must be in good working order.
- Trolling and paravane stabilizer poles must have devices that lock the poles down and limit their downward travel.
- Be aware of and secure cockpit covers and hold holes.
- Ensure drains to cockpit have one-way valves.
- Inspect trolling wire for kinks and broken strands.
- Throw hooks in water before snapping on trolling wire.
- When lifting cannon balls feather hydraulic lever carefully.
- Don't pick a rat's nest with the cannon ball hanging overboard.
- Ensure gurdy levers are off and brake is on when fishing is over.
- Put reflective tape around boat for visibility.



Safety or sunglasses can prevent damage to eyes

HYPOTHERMIA

The condition in which core temperature drops below the required temperature for normal metabolic and body functions.

Prevention:

- Wear a lifejacket.
- Wear thermal protection (e.g., immersion suit).
- Carry a portable radio or cell phone to call for help.

What to do if you fall overboard:

- Keep as much of your body out of the water as possible.
- Assume fetal position to reduce heat loss (HELP position)
- Huddle with others if possible.
- Remain still.



What the rescuer should know:

- Call for help ASAP.
- Move/handle person gently.
- Remove wet clothing and wrap person in warm blankets (Warm person slowly).
- Ensure open airway, breathing and perform CPR if necessary.

T'AAQ-WIIHAK FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

To ensure the future of all fisheries for generations to come. T'aaq-wiihak and your Nations have collectively developed fishing plans for the species in your territories. The goal of these plans is to balance sustainable harvesting opportunities with conservation goals of **hishukish ts'awalk** (everything is connected) and **iisaak** (respect).



STOCK FORECASTING

For salmon, stock forecasting is done annually based on stock assessments (e.g., spawner escapement surveys, juvenile counting fences, visual surveys, mark recapture programs). A percentage of the forecasted run size is allotted to a Total Allowable Catch (TAC), while the remaining percentage is allotted for escapement to ensure enough salmon will “escape” fishing and return to their natal stream to spawn and maintain sustainable populations.

FISHING TACs

TACs (or Total Allowable Catches) ensure that stocks are not over-fished. The TAC for a fishery is then divided between the various sectors participating in that fishery. For the WCVI wild salmon fisheries, DFO divides the TAC between First Nations Food and Ceremonial fisheries, the T'aaq-wiihak Fisheries, recreational and commercial fisheries along the west coast of Vancouver Island. It is important for groups not to catch more than their share or allocation. This can lead to overfishing and may deplete the stocks to a level that is no longer self-sustaining. Ensuring long term health of the stocks is critical to ensure opportunities for future generations.

FISHERIES OPENING NOTICES

The fisheries notices provide important information and regulations regarding requirements and restrictions for each opening. This includes areas open to fishing, acceptable gear, and information on how to land and sell the fish. All fishers should read the notices for each opening.

T'aaq-wiihak Fisheries Notice 2016-01: Offshore Suuhaa Fishery

WHEN: Friday May 27, 2016 00:01 – Tuesday May 31, 2016 23:59.

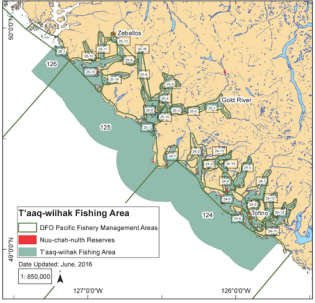
WHERE: Offshore (greater than 1 nm out from surfline) in the T'aaq-wiihak Fishing Area¹ and sub-areas 24-6, 24-8, 24-9, 25-6, 25-7, 25-15, parts of 24-2, 25-13 and 26-1². Rockfish Conservation Areas are closed.

WHO: Participants must be designated and have a valid 2016 T'aaq-wiihak Fisheries Card and be fishing off a registered T'aaq-wiihak vessel.

GEAR: Troll, Barbless hooks.

For this opening each vessel has a cap defining the maximum number of pieces per species that can be sold. The cap is per vessel, not per person. For some species the cap is for the **whole opening**, other caps are **per trip**. A trip is defined as coming in and landing your catch.

Packing, or landing catch for another vessel, is not authorized without written authorization from your fisheries manager. If you need to pack your fish into a landing site, you must contact your fisheries manager and seek written authorization to do so.



T'aaq-wiihak Fishing Area

- DFO Pacific Fishery Management Areas
- Non-shallow Reserves
- T'aaq-wiihak Fishing Area

Date Updated: June 2016
1:800,000

Species FOR SALE – Per Vessel Limits	250 Suuhaa (Chinook salmon) directed fishery (fish over 55 cm) for whole opening.
Non Target Species FOR SALE – Per Vessel Limits	Incidentally caught Puuʔi (Halibut), Tushuuk (Lingcod), Hinkuusas (Chum) and C'aapi (Pink), and Rockfish can be sold to the limits outlined below: Mosquito Fleet: 5 Puuʔi (halibut) for whole opening ; 35 Rockfish for the whole opening ; 60 lbs of Tuskkuuh (Lingcod) per trip . Mid-Sized Trollers: 10 Puuʔi (halibut) for whole opening ; 35 Rockfish for the whole opening ; 175 lbs of Tuskkuuh (Lingcod) per trip .

Offload Procedures:
Offloads can occur only at defined landing sites as outlined below:


Tofino:	4 th Street Dock	Daily while fishery is open 17:00-19:00 & 9:00-12:00 June 1, 2016
	Lions Gate Fisheries	By phone call or 9:00-12:00 June 1, 2016
Zeballos:	Midisland Ice	By phone call or 9:00-12:00 June 1, 2016

Fisher Requirements:

- Fishers are required to retain 100% of the fish they catch (including all rockfish). Fishers can only release undersized salmon, undersized lingcod, and dogfish. All releases must be recorded in the Logbook. Fish that cannot be sold can be retained for home use.
- Fishers are required to fill out logbooks on a daily basis (WHITE PADS) recording all kept **AND** released fish.
- Fishers are required to secure their own fish (salted) ice, and ensure fish are delivered cleaned and properly chilled. Failure to do so may affect price received and/or ability to sell catch.
- Fishers are required to Hall Out to participate in the opening.
- Fishers are required to adhere to the conditions and restrictions defined in the R/R documents.
- Fishers are required to ensure their vessels meet all necessary health and safety standards.

Monitoring:

- 100% of landings and catch must be monitored by T'aaq-wiihak dockside monitor prior to sale.
- JThomas monitors will be present, and fishers must comply with sampling requirements.
- A T'aaq-wiihak Landing Slip is required before any fish can be sold.
- The Fisheries Departments of the Nations and DFO will be doing on the water patrols.
- All halibut being sold will be tagged with a **THIS FISH Orange Tag** prior to sale to support traceability and accountability of T'aaq-wiihak fish and to mark it as unique in the marketplace.



1 CODE THE CATCH
Fish harvesters identify their catch with a unique code using a tag or label.

This information is at the T'aaq-wiihak Fisheries Office, on the T'aaq-wiihak Fisheries Facebook page, distributed to each Nation's fisheries manager, and will be provided to fishers during landings.

Also available from DFO:

- In person: 270 Main Street, Tofino or 501 Muchalat Drive, Gold River
- by phone: 1-866-431-3474
- Online: www-ops2.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fns-sap/index-eng.cfm

WHO CAN FISH?

Only **designated T'aaq-wiihak fishers** may participate in the T'aaq-wiihak fisheries. You must fill out an application each year to be a T'aaq-wiihak fisher. Applications will be available during pre-season meetings or at your Nation's fisheries office. These applications will be shared with your Ha'wiih that has the authority to grant T'aaq-wiihak designation. **Filling out the paperwork does not guarantee designation.**

Only registered members of T'aaq-wiihak Nations (AFN, ECFN, HFN, MMFN or TFN) may apply for this designation.

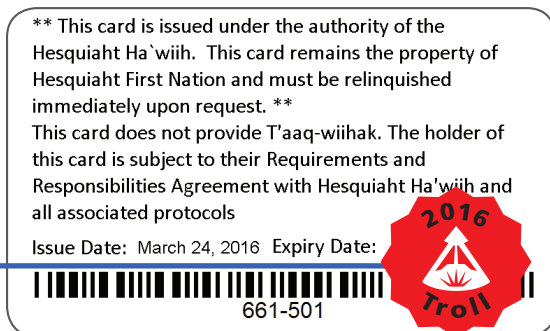
Every designated T'aaq-wiihak fisher will be issued a T'aaq-wiihak Fishing Card with a unique identification number, which must be carried on the person during fishing. These cards must be presented to Nations Fisheries Guardians, DFO Fisheries Officers and Dockside Monitors during landings, if requested.

T'aaq-wiihak Fishing Card

Front



Back



**Expiry Date Sticker
must be current**

WHAT VESSELS CAN FISH?

Only **designated T'aaq-wiihak vessels** may participate in the fisheries. T'aaq-wiihak fishing vessels must be designated each year. You can fill out an application to have your vessel designated as a T'aaq-wiihak vessel at your Nation's fisheries office or by going to the nearest Uu-a-thluk office.

Every designated T'aaq-wiihak vessel will be issued a unique T'aaq-wiihak decal to be placed on the vessel in a location that is visible, and will be checked by Dockside Monitors during landings.

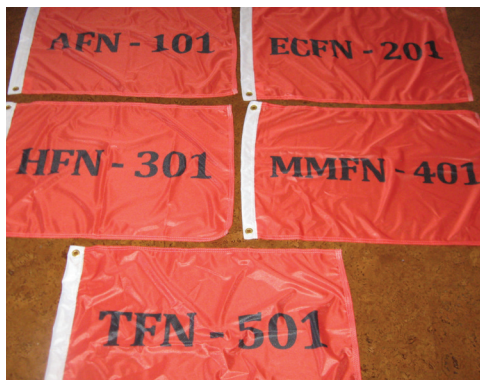
T'aaq-wiihak Vessel Decal



Ensure year
is current

Every T'aaq-wiihak vessel must also fly a T'aaq-wiihak flag in a place that is visible from far away.

T'aaq-wiihak Flags



WHEN CAN YOU FISH?

Fishing may only occur during a T'aaq-wiihak fisheries opening, which will have a specific date and time for opening and closing. Fisheries openings exist to ensure that quotas are not exceeded, and to protect sensitive stocks passing through the fishing area from being caught. Multiple opening and closing dates may be specified for each fishery. A fishery closure may occur earlier than specified if a quota is met before the original fishery closure date.

A new fisheries opening notice will be posted for each opening, and may vary in its requirements. It is important to carefully read each notice, and to only fish during fisheries openings. Failure to do so is considered a fisheries infraction.

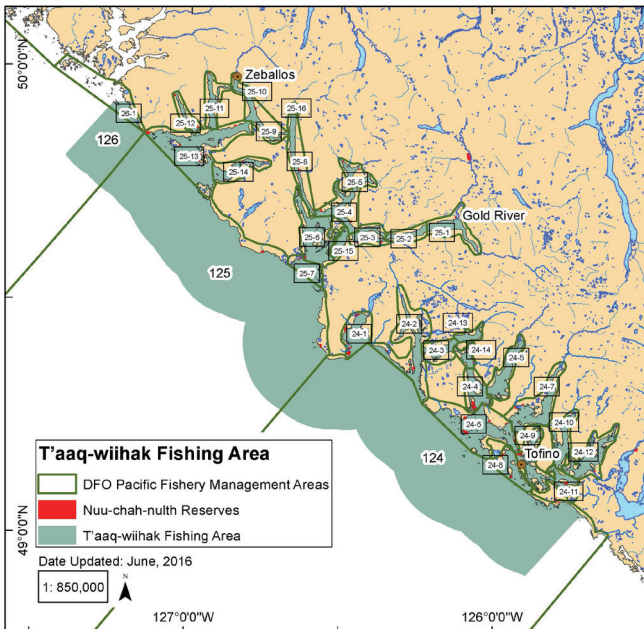


WHERE CAN YOU FISH?

The T'aaq-wiihak Fishing Area (TFA) was defined by the Courts as extending from a southern boundary at the south end of Long Beach (in Tla-o-qui-aht Territory) to a northern boundary line from Mushroom Point to Grassy Island (in Ehattesaht/ Chinekintaht Territory) and within an outer limit of 9 nautical miles offshore from the surf-line. Within this collective fishing area, Ha'wiih will manage some fisheries collectively (e.g., ocean salmon that migrate through the territories en route to their natal streams). Other fisheries will be managed individually, such as the Matchlee Bay Terminal Fishery where salmon have returned to their natal stream and are therefore from the same stock.

The TFA falls within portions of **DFO Pacific Fishery Management Areas (PFMAs): 24, 124, 25, 125, and a small portion of 26 and 126**. The Ha'wiih and/or your fisheries managers may close some areas during fishery openings to protect certain stocks or habitats. It is important to note the area(s) where you are fishing, and to only fish in designated fishing areas to ensure the fish caught are from the same catch allocation they are being managed for. This information can be found in Fisheries Opening Notices.

Map of T'aaq-wiihak Fishing Area



WHAT SPECIES CAN BE RETAINED AND SOLD?

TARGET SPECIES

A fishery will specify the target species (suuḥaa) allowed for sale. Particulars regarding size restrictions and vessel caps will be specified in the fisheries opening notice.

Undersized suuḥaa have not reached their reproductive potential and thus may not be retained for sale in order to allow them to grow to a reproductive age. Undersized suuḥa may be released or retained for home-use.

Minimum Size Limits for Sale of Suuḥaa (Chinook Salmon)

55 cm	Tip of nose to fork of tail
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How to Measure Salmon Length



NON-TARGET SPECIES

ALL NON-TARGET SPECIES MUST BE RETAINED. The only exceptions, that may be released include:

- Yačaa (Dogfish)
- undersized suuḥaa (chinook salmon): under 55 cm
- undersized Tuškuuḥ (lingcod): head on under 65 cm, head off under 50 cm

All released fish MUST BE RECORDED IN YOUR FISHING LOG!

Specified non-target species that are caught as bycatch may also be retained for sale. Particulars regarding size and catch limits for these species will be specified in the fisheries opening notices.



Non-target species that may be permitted for sale during T'aaq-wiihak Fishery openings include:

- **Cuḡit** (Coho salmon)
- **Miṣaat** (Sockeye salmon)
- **H'inkuuʔas** (Chum salmon)
- **Č'aapi** (Pink salmon)
- **P'uuʔi** (Halibut)
- **Tuškuuḥ** (Lingcod)
- **Rockfish**

SIZE LIMITS FOR SALE P’UUʔI (HALIBUT) & TUŠKUUH (LINGCOD)

Minimum size limits for sale of P’uuʔi (Halibut)

Head on	32 inches (81.3 cm)	Straight line passing over the pectoral fin from the tip of the lower jaw with the mouth closed to the extreme end of the middle of the tail.
Head off	24 inches (61 cm)	Straight line from the base of the pectoral fin at its most anterior point to the extreme end of the middle of the tail.

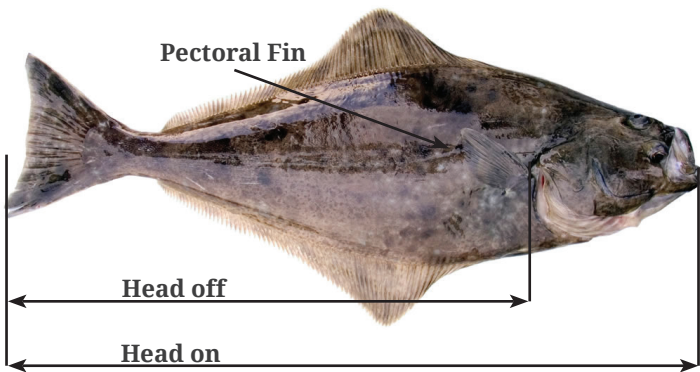


Image credit: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Minimum size limits for sale of Tuškuuh (Lingcod)

Head on	65 cm	Tip of nose to tip of tail.
Head off	50 cm	Along shortest length of the body to tip of tail.

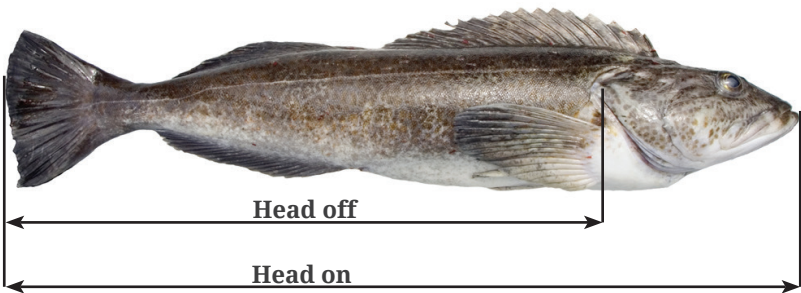


Image credit: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

WHAT SPECIES CAN BE RELEASED

Fishers can release only:

- Yačaa (Dogfish)
- Undersized suuḥaa (chinook salmon): under 55 cm.
- Undersized Tuškuuḥ (lingcod): head on under 65 cm, head off under 50 cm.

All other species must be retained for sale or home-use. By using appropriate gear (e.g., barbless hooks, large lures) you can minimize the event of catching these fish. If caught, these fish have the best chance of survival if handled properly before being released. All fish that are released must be recorded in the **Fisher's Log**.

The following release techniques will help maximize survival:

- Learn to use a gaff hook.
- Never play with a fish; bring it in quickly.
- Use a net with soft knotless mesh to minimize scale loss.
- Avoid bringing fish aboard to minimize handling. When possible release fish at water surface.
- For larger fish too difficult to unhook in the water, bring fish on board and lay on wetted surface to reduce scale loss and protect slimy coating.
- Remove hook quickly with needle-nose pliers while handling fish carefully but securely, then release fish gently back into water. This will cause less stress and damage to fish.
- Do not touch fish near eyes or handle by gills.
- To avoid injury, support fish when lifting by placing one hand around base of tail and the other under belly. Keep fish horizontal and do not squeeze to avoid damaging internal organs.
- Return fish to the water by maintaining a grip on the fish's tail and supporting belly. Help revive fish in water by moving it back and forth slowly to increase water flow over the gills until it can swim out of your hands.
- Some fish may be hooked deep in the mouth. If this is the case, cut line as close to the hook as possible and leave it in.

HOW MUCH CAN YOU CATCH?

Sometimes a per vessel **cap** will be applied to equalize fisher shares in the TAC, or to prevent going over TAC when nearing it. Going over a vessel cap will result in a fishery infraction.



WHAT GEAR CAN BE USED?

Gear restrictions are in place (e.g., barbless hooks, or plugs) to minimize impact on non-target species and undersized fish. Failure to use the required gear will result in a fisheries infraction.



WHERE CAN FISH BE LANDED?

Fishers may **ONLY** land fish at designated T’aaq-wiihak landing sites. This is to ensure a Dockside Monitor is present to oversee the offload and complete the required paperwork. Currently landing sites and times are specified below. These are subject to change. Please review the fisheries notice for the specific fisheries opening for landing information.

Gold River	Boat Launch (only for terminal fisheries)
Tofino	Lions Gate Fisheries Dock or Fourth Street Dock (5-7pm daily during openings)
Zeballos	Mid Island Ice

Other landing sites may be added in season

WHEN CAN FISH BE LANDED?

Landing times are usually **daily** during fisheries openings from **17:00 to 19:00** at Fourth Street Dock in Tofino. Fishers may also land fish at a specified time on the day following a fishery closure to allow for fishing until midnight during the opening.

All trollers and vessels that want to land at a different location or time must Hail-in to the T’aaq-wiihak Fisheries Coordinator (Alex) at **250-266-1071** so that a dockside monitor can be arranged to meet your vessel at offloading.

HAIL-IN & HAIL-OUT

To promote safe harvesting practices, all vessels are required to hail-out for each opening and hail-in upon return to port. This means informing your fisheries manager or the T'aaq-wiihak Fisheries Coordinator about your fishing trip. The reason is to promote safety and to help the Fisheries Coordinator prepare for landings, especially for large troller offloads.

When **hailing-out** report on:

- Date of departure and intended day for return
- Intended Fishing location
- Number of persons on board vessel

When **hailing-in** report on:

- Area fished
- Days fished
- Number of fish and species being landed
- Number of releases
- Landing location
- Landing date
- Scheduled offloading time

You can make hail-outs and hail-ins to the
T'aaq-wiihak Fisheries Coordinator (Alex) at 250-266-1071,
the NTC Fisheries Central Region Office at 250-726-5229, or
on the T'aaq-wiihak Facebook page.

LANDING PROCEDURES

1

- **Hail-out /Hail-in:** All fishers must hail-out before each opening and hail-in before landing fish.

2

- **Fisher Interview/Logbook Collection:** Dockside Monitor meets fisher at vessel to conduct fishing interview and collect Fishing Log.

3

- **Choose a Buyer:** Fisher selects preferred buyer and off-loads fish into buyers' tote to be transported to weigh & grading station.

4

- **Fish Pieces are Weighed/Graded** by the buyer while the dockside monitor counts and validates fish pieces.

5

- **Landing Slip:** Filled out by Dockside Monitor & signed by Fisher and Dockside Monitor. Fisher receives 2 copies of slip; 1 to keep and 1 to give to buyer.

(6)

- **Mark Recovery Program and Catch Validation:** Fish may be validated and sampled by an MRP technician for biological samples, DNA and CWTs (may include snout/head removal).
See page 33.

7

- **Selling Fish:** Fisher gives “pink” copy of landing slip to buyer at time of sale.

8

- **Sales Slip:** Buyer fills out a sales slip and gives a copy to fisher.

T'AAQ-WIIHAK DOCKSIDE MONITORS

A T'aaq-wiihak Dockside Monitor must be present for ALL T'aaq-wiihak landings to be authorized for sale. The Monitor is there to provide accurate verification of the number and species of fish landed. Fishers must submit **Fishing Logs** to the dockside monitor and sign the **Landing Slip** upon its completion by the Dockside Monitor.



Dockside Monitor validating catch.



Fisher signing Landing Log for Dockside Monitor.

DOCKSIDE MONITOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Monitor landings of ALL fish
- Conduct fisher interviews to determine catch information (fishing location, date, etc.)
- Collect Fishing Logs
- Verify number and species of fish caught
- Fill out a Landing Slip
- Report any fisheries infractions that may occur (e.g. retention of undersized species, barbed hooks, intoxication) to fisheries managers and/or the T'aaq-wiihak Coordinator.



Dockside Monitor conducting a fisher interview.

FISH BUYERS

As T'aaq-wiihak is a commercial fishery, any person, business or corporation may buy fish from T'aaq-wiihak fishers. All businesses and corporations (e.g., Lions Gate or 7 Seas) must provide the fisher with a **Sales Slip**. For the legal sale of fish, the fisher must present each buyer (fishers may sell to more than one buyer) with a **Landing Slip** for the fish they are selling. For example, if a fisher wishes to sell to two buyers, they may request two Landings Slips for each sale. It is encouraged for buyers to provide fishers with fish-ice on a daily basis to facilitate the delivery of a high quality product.

FISH BUYER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Offload fish with permission from fisher
- Weigh/grade fish
- Collect a sales slip from fisher (to submit to DFO)
- Provide fisher with a copy of sales slip
- Pay fisher (i.e., cash, cheque, direct deposit)



Owner of Sobo (local restaurant) buying fish

FISH BUYER CONTACTS

It is the business of each fisher who they sell to and at what price. This is not controlled or regulated by T'aaq-wiihak or your Nation.

Some interested local buyers include:


Company/Restaurant	Phone
7 Seas	604-968-5900
Lions Gate	250-725-3731
Trilogy	250-725-2233
Hub City	250-753-4135
West Pacific Seafoods	250-725-2244
Sea Shanty	250-725-8811
Sobo	250-725-2341
Wildside Grill	250-725-9453
Wolf in the Fog	250-725-9653
Fishful Thinking	250-726-2000
Ice House Oyster Bar	250-725-4239



FISHING LOGS

All fishers must maintain a fishing log to document the day's catch. These logbooks will be used to track landed and released catch, and will help with information on catch per unit effort calculations. The purpose of the logs is to document daily catch, releases, and fishing location.

If a fisher wants to have another person land his or her fish, that person must also have a **valid T'aaq-wiihak Fisher's Card**, and have the **Fishing Log** for the catch that is **signed** by the fisher who caught the fish. Without the fishing log, fish may not be landed.

 T'aaq-wiihak Fishing Log			
Fisher Name:		Fisher T'aaq-wiihak Number:	
Vessel Name or Decal Number:		Landing Slip Number: (dockside monitor to complete)	
Fishing Date: (yyyy/mm/dd)		Fishing Location/Area:	
Start Time:	End Time:	Gear: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Troll <input type="checkbox"/> Seine <input type="checkbox"/> Other: </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Gillnet <input type="checkbox"/> Harvest </div> </div>	
Species:	# Kept:	# Released:	
		Under 45cm	Over 45cm
Suuha – Chinook			
Mi7aat – Sockeye			
Cuwiit – Coho			
Hinkuuas – Chum			
Ćaapi – Pink			
		Under 65cm	Over 65cm
Túskuuh – Lingcod			
		Under 82cm	Over 82cm
P'uu7i – Halibut			
Rockfish			
Other			
Notes	1. Kept species = ALL fish retained on board (for sale AND home use) 2. Release species = fish you physically remove from your hook and put back into the ocean 3. Rockfish are to be identified by species		

LANDING SLIPS

A landing slip must be filled out by the Dockside Monitor for the legal sale of fish. Fishers will receive two copies, one to keep (yellow) and one for the buyer (pink). All buyers must receive a copy of the landing slip before buying fish. The Dockside Monitor fills in the landing slip based on the verified catch landed and information from fisher interview. The Dockside Monitor and fisher must both sign the landing slip.

Taaq-wiihak Fishery Landing Slip		Landing Date (YYYY/MM/DD) / Fishing Location / Area		Time (H:mm) AM / PM		3-XXXX	
Landing Site		Fishing Location / Area		Fishing Date(s)		Gear: <input type="checkbox"/> Hook and Line <input type="checkbox"/> Gillnet <input type="checkbox"/> Seine <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Participant Landing Fish		Participant Signature					
I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE				Packer Signature			
Packer		Vessel Name		Vessel #		Nation	
Taaq-wiihak Card #		Vessel Name		Vessel #		Decal or Flag Number	
Species	Price	Total Number Fish Landed (Including home use)	Number for Sale	Weight for Sale	Number for Home Use		
Suuhaa (AABM) - Chinook							
Mi?aat - Sockeye							
Cuwit - Coho							
Hinkuuas - Chum							
C'aapi - Pink							
Puu?i - Halibut							
Tuskuuh - Lingcod							
Rockfish							
Ca?inwa - Gooseneck							
Releases							
Name of Monitor		Signature of Monitor		Buyer			

White - Taaq-wiihak Copy Yellow - Fisher Copy Pink - Buyer Copy Green - Nation Copy

SALES SLIPS

Sales slips are a permanent record of commercial catch filled out by the fish buyer.

ALL INFORMATION ASKED FOR MUST BE COMPLETED ON EVERY SLIP
AT THE TIME THE FISH ARE DELIVERED

THE AREA WHERE FISH ARE CAUGHT IS TO BE MARKED ON EVERY SLIP
PRESS HARD

BOOK/CASH FISH (SMALL FORM)
NAME & ADDRESS OF BUYING COMPANY

L.S. _____ 2014

PL. _____ 052136

FISHERMAN'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ C.F.V. # _____

BOAT NAME _____

IF NOT SOLD TO COMMERCIAL BUYER:
DIRECT SALE OF PUBLIC ☐ PERSONAL USE ☐

OTHER _____

NAME OF PLANT, PACKER OR COLLECTOR _____

PACKER C.F.V. # _____

TRIP LENGTH IN DAYS _____

FISH QUALITY
SLUSH _____
ICE _____

HAIL IN NO. _____

AREA OF CATCH _____ **DAYS FISHING** _____

GEAR:
GILNET 10 ☐
SEINE 20 ☐
TROLL 30 ☐
TROLL FREEZER 31 ☐
OTHER _____

TOTAL _____

SHOPPER'S NAME _____ S.I. # _____ % _____

CREW NAME _____ S.I. # _____ % _____

CREW NAME _____ S.I. # _____ % _____

CREW NAME _____ S.I. # _____ % _____

PCS.	WEIGHT	CODE	SPECIES	PRICE	VALUE
		15	SOCKEYE RD.		
		16	COHO RD.		
		16	"		
		17	PINKS RD.		
		17	"		
		18	CHUMS RD.		
			RED SPRING RD.		
			"		
			"		
		14	WHITE SPRING RD.		
		14	"		
		19	STEELHEADS RD.		
		12	JACKS		
			RED SPRING DR.		
			RED SPRING DR.		
		14	WHITE SPRING DR.		
		14	WHITE SPRING DR.		
		15	SOCKEYE DR.		
		16	COHO DR.		
		16	COHO DR.		
		17	PINKS DR.		
		18	CHUMS DR.		
		19	STEELHEADS DR.		
		41	LINGCOD		
			TOTAL CATCH VALUE		
			M.C.L.		
			U.I.C. DEDUCTIONS		
			CASH PAYMENT		
			CREDIT TO ACCOUNT		

CASH ☐

BOOK ☐

I certify that the above information is complete and correct

FISHERMAN'S SIGNATURE _____ TALLYMAN'S SIGNATURE _____

NOT NEGOTIABLE **FIRM'S COPY**

FISH QUALITY

Consumers want assurance that they are eating safe food and at the highest quality on the market. Additionally, a fresh, high quality product attracts premium prices and will help to develop positive relationships with buyers. Proper and prompt fish handling, cleaning, dressing and icing is incredibly important to maintaining a high quality product and encourages repeat business.

HANDLING FISH

Handling of fish should be minimized as much as possible.

- Handle and remove fish from gear gently.
- Hold fish by gill plate or cradle head and body.
- Do **NOT** hold fish by the tail, this can damage muscle tissue.
- Wear gloves to be food safe and prevent damage to fish scales. Fish gloves are designed to be gentle on fish scales, slip-resistant and can prevent cuts to fishers on sharp fish teeth or gill plates.
- Do not throw fish or drop from height. This will cause bruising.



Proper fish handling is important to maintain meat quality

CLEANING & DRESSING FISH

It is important to properly and promptly clean and dress your fish in order to ensure premium quality. **Sometimes this means stopping fishing temporarily to clean, dress and ice fish.**

- Stun, bleed and clean fish immediately after capture.
- Clean and ice fish as quickly as possible.
- Do not cut into flesh when gutting and gilling as this will push bacteria into meat and reduce meat recovery for the buyer.
- There should be NO exposed flesh.
- Kidney, guts, gills, and blood from pin veins should be gone.
- Fill fish belly with ice to keep inside cool and maintain firm quality meat.

ICING & HOLDING FISH

- Protect fish from heat, sunlight, air-drying and weather.
- Ice fish as quickly as possible to prevent flesh becoming soft.
- Keep fish in a cooler with ice under and over fish. Salted ice should be provided by the buyer.
- Spray cooler and fish totes with water to allow fish to slide around without damage to scales.
- Fill tote/cooler no more than 4/5 full to prevent crushing and bruising of meat, and allow room for top-icing.
- If fish are being stored in a hold, ensure it is clean and free of bilge water.



Properly iced fish with belly icing. A final layer of ice should cover fish for holding.

CHECKING FOR QUALITY: WHAT DOES THE BUYER LOOK FOR WHEN GRADING FISH?

Buyers look for premium quality fish, and pay prices based on that quality. Some of the elements buyers look for are:

- **Clear eyes.** Day caught fish should not have milky eyes.
- **Firm flesh.** Fish will soften up if not iced right away.
- **Scale loss** from rough repeated handling.
- **Miss-cuts** from gutting & gilling. Cutting into flesh while cleaning fish pushes bacteria into meat and reduces meat recovery.
- **No exposed flesh** should occur on a properly cleaned fish.
- **Kidney, guts, gills, and blood from pin veins** should be gone.



Good Fish Cleaning



Bad Fish Cleaning

A properly cleaned fish has no visible guts, gills, or blood from pin veins.

COMMON DAMAGE TO MEAT QUALITY



Scale loss from rough or repeated handling



Bruising caused by dropping



Gaping caused by uneven chilling or moving fish in rigor

CATCH VALIDATION

This program is a requirement of DFO, and is in place to provide independent third-party verification for approximately 20% of catch landings. Contracted catch validators from J.O. Thomas and Associates Ltd. will be present for some landings to monitor and verify the weight and species of fish caught and retained. Validators will be collecting some of the same information as T'aaq-wiihak Dockside Monitors for verification. Current DFO requirements are such that validators must be at “arms-length” from the fishing industry (i.e., have no affiliation) to provide unbiased verification. Fishers must comply with catch validators.

MARK RECOVERY PROGRAM (MRP)

This program is in place to monitor salmon stocks. The goal is to examine 20% of the landed catch to provide information on stock abundance, distribution, run timing, and survival. The MRP is important to learn about the make-up of catches because information can be gathered about where the fish caught originate from. This information helps shape openings to target healthy stocks and avoid stocks of concern.

Contracted MRP sampling technicians from J.O. Thomas will be present at some landings to collect fishing information as well as conduct **biological sampling** and **coded-wire tag (CWT) sampling**. Fishers must comply with MRP technicians.

BIOLOGICAL SAMPLING

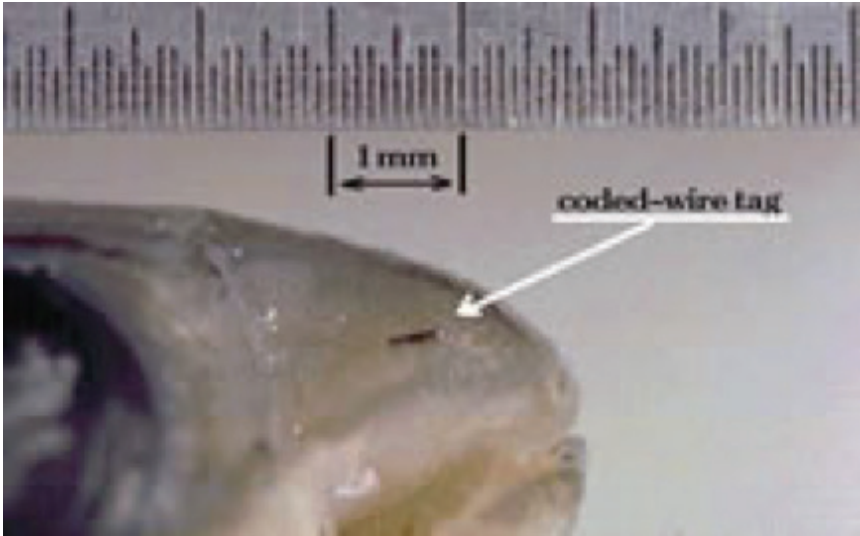
MRP technicians may take measurements of your fish or collect samples including:

Sample Taken	Explanation
tail-fin clip	DNA analysis to determine stock
Fish scales	to determine fish age
Length and weight measurements	to provide information about fish size and growth

CODED WIRE TAG SAMPLING

MRP technicians may conduct a head or snout removal to recover coded wire tags (CWTs) from fish.

A coded wire tag (CWT) is a small wire that contains a unique code. These tags have been injected into the nose cartilage of many juvenile salmon and contain information about the fish's origin and stock.

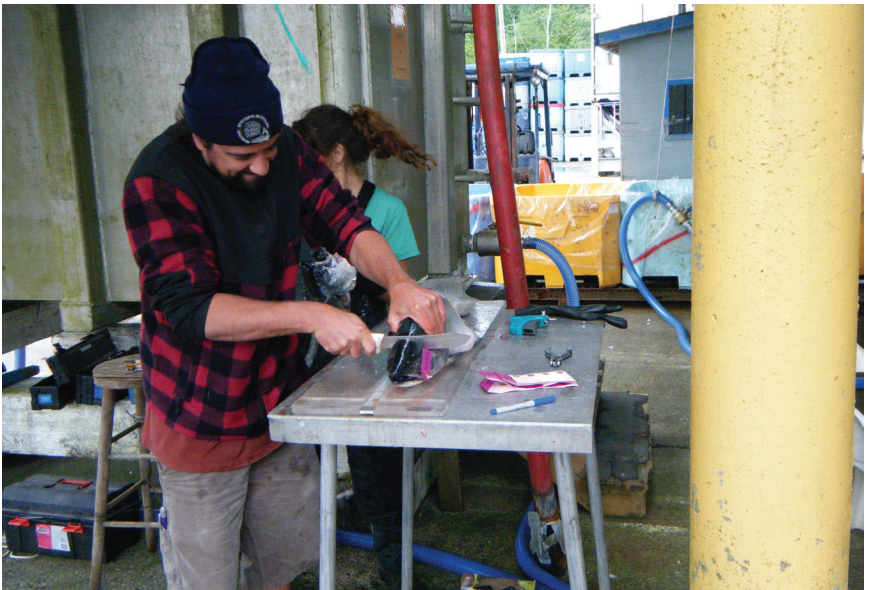


Coded Wire Tag embedded in the nose of a fish. Photo by USFWS.

MRP technicians will check for a CWT using a test wand or tube detector, which is a powerful metal detector. If a CWT is detected in a fish, the head or snout will be cut off and sent to a lab for dissection to retrieve CWT and decode and record the information it contains. Removed snouts will still be weighed as part of the catch, and removals will be done with minimal damage to the meat to ensure fishers receive full value for their catch.

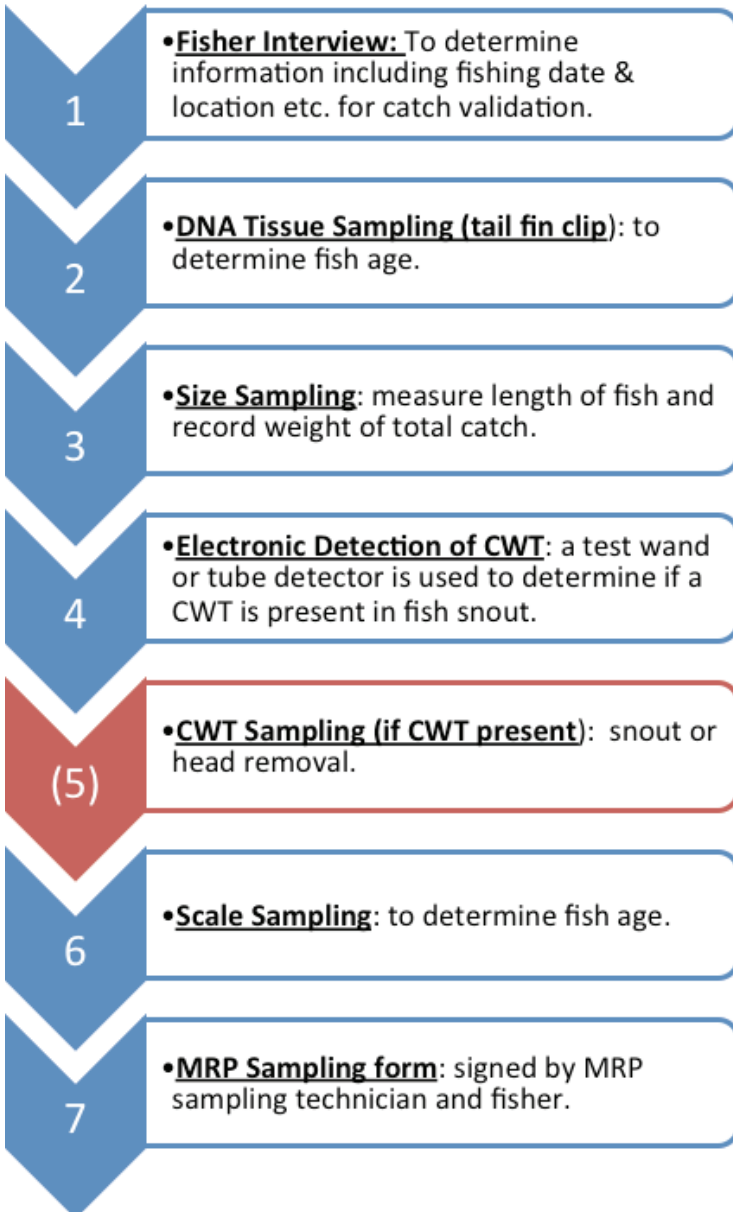


Fish being checked for a CWT with a test wand detector



Fish having snout removal because it contains a CWT

CATCH VALIDATION & MRP PROCEDURES



LOST FISHING GEAR

Fishers should report any accidentally lost gear (i.e., nets, lines) to their fisheries manager or to the nearest DFO office.

It is important to set up gear correctly to prevent unnecessary environmental harm. Gear is most often abandoned or lost during adverse weather conditions, and thus it is recommended not to fish during these times. Fishers should make an effort to retrieve any gear lost while fishing.



Large numbers of marine animals die each year due to entanglement or swallowing abandoned or lost fishing gear.

Ingestion of hooks by marine birds and mammals can cause internal bleeding and ultimately death.

Entangled animals can be reported to the **Vancouver Aquarium Marine Mammal Rescue Centre (604-258-7325)** or the **DFO stranding line (1-800-465-4336)**.

OIL OR FUEL LEAKS

Oil or fuel leaks from even small fishing vessels can cause serious harm to marine life. Ensure your vessel is properly maintained and checked regularly for leaks. The T'aaq-wiihak fisheries allow only designated vessels to fish, ensuring safety and environmental standards for vessels are met.

In the event that a spill or leak does occur, contact the **Canadian Coast-guard** at **1-800-889-8852** to report a marine pollution incident.



REPORT SHARK OR TURTLE SIGHTINGS

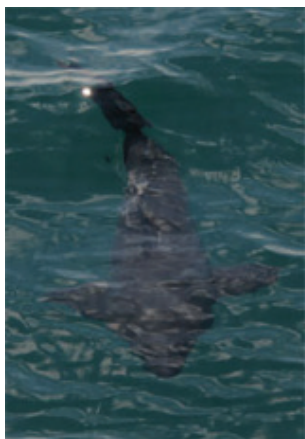
Fishers that encounter a shark (basking, bluntnose sixgill, tope or any other shark species excluding North Pacific spiny dogfish) or sea turtle (leatherback, green, olive ridley or loggerhead) should document this in their fishing log and report the encounter to the T'aaq-wiihak Docksider Monitor, or:

For Shark encounters call **1-877-50-SHARK** or email baskingshark@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or sharks@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

For Sea Turtle encounters call **1-866-I SAW ONE** or email turtles@vanaqua.org.

Please document details including:

- **Photographs** or **video**
- **Date** of the encounter
- **Location** as specific as possible
- Estimates for **total length** and **sex**
- Any **distinguishing features** or **behaviours**



Basking Shark (left), photo by Wendy Szaniszlo. Leatherback sea turtle (above), photo from DFO.

LIST OF FISHERIES INFRACTIONS

Each fishery is managed to specific requirements that regulate gear, quotas, and retained species etc. Any violations of these requirements will be documented and reported to the T'aaq-wiihak Fisheries Coordinator and the respective Fisheries Manager.

Infractions include:

• Fishing without T'aaq-wiihak
• Going over vessel cap (if applicable).
• Sale of fish not permitted for sale (e.g. undersized suuha or cuw'it when not permitted).
• Using restricted gear (e.g., barbed hooks).
• Fishing outside permitted fishing area.
• Fishing outside a fishery opening (during a closure).
• Not offloading at a designated landing site with a designated T'aaq-wiihak Monitor
• Not complying with T'aaq-wiihak Monitors
• Not complying with Catch Validators or MRP Sampling Technicians (e.g. from J.O. Thomas).
• Not completing and submitting fishing logs and/or inaccurate reporting of fishing logs
• Fishing or landing fish without a valid T'aaq-wiihak Fisher card.
• Fishing on vessel not designated as a T'aaq-wiihak vessel.
• Fishing without a valid T'aaq-wiihak decal.
• Fishing without flying the T'aaq-wiihak flag from vessel.
• Use of drugs or alcohol while fishing or landing fish.

Fishers who violate a fisheries infraction may have their T'aaq-wiihak licence revoked at the discretion of the Ha'wiih from their Nation.



T'aa q-wiihak

Implementing Nuu-chah-nulth Fishing Rights

SALMON FIELD MANUAL

2016