



Licence Number: XCSF 9 2025
 File Number: 2025 Herring SoK Fishery
 Valid From: 28-Feb-2025
 Expiry Date: 12-Mar-2025

ABORIGINAL COMMUNAL FISHING LICENCE TO HARVEST AND SELL SALMON AND GROUND FISH FOR AHOUSAHT, EHATTESAHT, HESQUIAHT, MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT, AND TLA-O-QUI-AHT, COLLECTIVELY AS THE FIVE NATIONS.

This licence is issued under authority of the Fisheries Act and subsection 4(1) of the Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licences Regulations.

The licence conditions in this licence are specified pursuant to section 5 of the Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licences Regulations and subsection 22(1) of the Fishery (General) Regulations.

Licence Holders:

- FIN: 74856 AHOUSAHT INDIAN BAND

- FIN: 64166 EHATTESAHT INDIAN BAND

- FIN: 89477 HESQUIAHT INDIAN BAND

- FIN: 81953 MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT INDIAN BAND

- FIN: 113154 TLA-O-QUI-AHT FIRST NATIONS

Allowable Fishing Times:

Fishing periods defined for a species supersede all periods defined in this section.

Licence Holder: All
Start: Friday, February 28, 2025 at 00:01 **End:** Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 23:59

Individuals or groups assisting with the authorized activity:

The Maximum Harvest Amounts set out in this licence represent the maximum combined harvest amounts shared by the Five Nations.

Species, Quantity of Fish, Area(s) and Gear:

Licence Holder: All
Species: PACIFIC HERRING (*Clupea pallasii*)
Life Stage: Eggs
Gear: Hand Picking
 Pond, Open
Licence Area: Portions of PFMA 24; Portions of PFMA 25
To be Retained: 48000 Pounds



Additional Descriptions: See Terms and Conditions for specific details on fishing area, gear and monitoring requirements.

The herring egg harvest amount referenced above is for the production of herring spawn-on-kelp.

Sale: Herring spawn on kelp may be sold.

FSC: Herring spawn on kelp may be retained for Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) purposes.

Terms and Conditions:

Pursuant to subsection 22(6) of the *Fishery (General) Regulations*, compliance with the *Fisheries Act* and the regulations made under the Act is a condition of this licence.

Definitions:

'Department (DFO)' means the Department of Fisheries and Oceans;

'Dockside Monitor' means a dockside observer from a certified independent service provider. For the 2025 season, the service provider is JO Thomoas and Associates.

'Fishery' means fishing under the authority of this licence;

'Five Nations' means collectively the Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations;

'Kelp' means any of the following marine plants: *Macrocystis integrifolia*, *Laminaria saccharina* and *Egregia menziesii*.

'Landed' or 'Landing' means the transfer of spawn-on-kelp product from a vessel in the water to land.

'Open line' means suspending kelp with no net enclosure for the purposes of harvesting herring.

'Participant' means an individual carrying on fishing or a related activity including harvesting, transporting, and landing of spawn on kelp under the authority of this licence;

'T'aaq-wiihak decal number' means the unique number assigned to a vessel by the Licence Holders;

'Ha'oom Fisheries Manager' means a person responsible for various duties related to this fishery;

'Trip' means the time between leaving a port to commence fishing and the return to a port for the landing of harvest;

'Validated' means spawn-on-kelp that has been weighed by a Dockside Monitor or fishery officer and the weight entered into section 2 of the Herring Spawn-on-Kelp Fishery Validation Form.

'Vessel Master' means the individual embarked on the vessel and responsible for the operation of the vessel and the fishing activities carried out under authority of this licence.

1. Disposition of Fish:

Spawn on kelp retained under the authority of this licence may be sold or retained for Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) purposes.



2. Designation of Individuals:

(1) Only members of Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations are eligible to participate in the fishery. Participants in the fishery shall be designated by Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, or Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations. Designations are personal and non-transferable.

(2) Individuals who fish under authority of the licence shall carry documentation to establish their identity as Participants (T'aaq-wiihak Card) and membership in one of Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations while participating in the fishery and while transporting fish harvested in the fishery, and will present such documentation on request by any fishery officer or fishery guardian.

(3) The Ha'oom Fisheries Manager shall provide a list of the names of designated Participants, their T'aaq-wiihak Card number to DFO at the start of the fishing season before fishing commences. The five Nations may amend the list of designated individuals and vessels in-season and shall provide the amended list to DFO at the earliest possible opportunity and before the newly designated individuals and vessels commence fishing activities. Any changes to the list of designated individuals shall be sent to DFO.

3. Designation of Vessels:

(1) A vessel designated to harvest spawn-on-kelp shall be identified by a T'aaq-wiihak decal number and a T'aaq-wiihak flag. The T'aaq-wiihak flag shall be mounted as high as practical and be clearly visible, legible and unobstructed while fishing, transporting fish or off-loading.

(2) The Ha'oom Fisheries Manager shall provide a list of the names of designated vessels with the T'aaq-wiihak decal number and vessel registration number to DFO at the start of the fishing season before fishing commences.

(3) The Five Nations may amend the list of designated vessels in-season and shall provide the amended list to DFO before the newly designated vessels commence fishing activities. Any changes to the list of designated vessels shall be sent to DFO.

4. Designation of Landing Sites:

(1) Spawn on kelp harvested under the authority of this licence shall only be landed at the following landing sites to allow for inspection and attendance by dockside observers:

- a) Tinlet Fishing Ltd, Ucluelet;
- b) Fourth Street Dock, Tofino;
- c) Ahminaquis Boat Launch, Gold River; and
- d) Ehattesaht Ice, Zeballos.

5. Designated Processor:

(1) Spawn on kelp landed at the designated landing sites will be transported to the following locations for validation and processing:

- a) Walcan - 2025 Hyacinthe Bay, Heriot Bay BC V0P1H0
- b) Cold Fish - 1670 E Kent Ave S, Vancouver BC V5P 2S7



6. Quantities Permitted to be Taken:

- (1) The maximum quantity or quota of herring spawn-on-kelp authorized to be taken under this licence is the quota set out in this licence.
- (2) The weight of validated spawn-on-kelp will be the weight used to calculate the quantity taken.
- (3) Spawn-on-kelp that has been salted shall be considered as harvested under authority of this licence and shall not be returned to the sea or separated without prior approval from a representative of the Department.

7. Waters in which fishing is permitted to be carried out:

The fishery is open within one nautical mile of any shorelines found within the expanded fishing area (defined in 7 (1)).

(1) Expanded Fishing Area:

Those waters of Subareas 24-1 to 24-14, 25-1 to 25-13, 25-15, 25-16, 26-1, 124-1 to 124-4, 125-1 to 125-6, 126-1 to 126-3 bounded by a line commencing at 49°55.428' N 127°12.185' W (Porritt Creek), westerly to a point at 49°55.523' N 127°15.338' W (Grassy Island), then southwesterly to a point at 49°48.213' N 127°25.125' W (within Subarea 126-2), then southwesterly to 49°02.258' N 128°24.811' W, then southeasterly to 49°01.364' N 128°22.832' W, then northeasterly to 49°47.167' N 127°23.161' W, then northeasterly to 49°54.981' N 127°12.697' W, then northeasterly to 49°55.150' N 127°12.469' W, then southeasterly to 49°54.425' N 127°12.156' W then southeasterly to a point at 49°53.939' N 127°11.837' W, then southeasterly to a point at 49°53.394' N 127°11.282' W (near Tatchu Rocks), then southeasterly to a point at 49°51.458' N 127°09.546' W (near Tatchu Point), then easterly to a point at 49°51.131' N 127°08.198' W (within Subarea 25-13), then easterly to a point at 49°51.073' N 127°07.599' W (High Rocks), then easterly to a point at 49°51.122' N 127°07.027' W, then easterly to a point at 49°51.370' N 127°05.634' W, then easterly to a point at 49°51.390' N 127°04.510' W, then easterly to a point at 49°50.559' N 126°59.950' W (Double Island), then easterly to a point at 49°50.553' N 126°58.915' W, then easterly to a point at 49°51.417' N 126°55.452' W, then easterly to a point at 49°52.077' N 126°50.679' W, then northeasterly to a point at 49°53.496' N 126°47.910' W (Subarea 25-9), then easterly to a point at 49°53.579' N 126°47.333' W, then southeasterly to a point at 49°53.425' N 126°46.796' W, then southeasterly to a point at 49°52.269' N 126°45.407' W, then southeasterly to a point at 49°51.957' N 126°44.857' W, then easterly to a point at 49°51.871' N 126°44.458' W, then easterly to a point at 49°51.970' N 126°43.609' W, then northeasterly to a point at 49°52.072' N 126°43.497' W, then easterly to a point at 49°52.078' N 126°43.221' W, then easterly to a point at 49°52.026' N 126°42.917' W, then southeasterly to a point at 49°51.775' N 126°42.516' W, then easterly to a point at

49°51.644' N 126°41.072' W, then easterly to a point at 49°51.637' N 126°40.721' W then southeasterly to 49°51.512' N 126°40.476' W, then southerly to a point at 49°51.438' N 126°40.475' W, then southerly following the eastern shoreline of Nootka Island to a point at 49°39.562' N 126°50.683' W (near Calvin Creek), then southwesterly to a point at 49°31.844' N 127°01.427' W, then southwesterly to 48°49.804' N 128°03.829' W, then southeasterly to 48°47.379' N 127°59.879' W, then southeasterly to 48°37.748' N 127°48.188' W, then southeasterly to 48°34.827' N 127°44.734' W, then southeasterly to 48°32.528' N 127°41.653' W, then southeasterly to 48°32.090' N 127°40.881' W, then southeasterly to 48°31.730' N 127°40.127' W, then southeasterly to 48°28.819' N 127°33.529' W, then southeasterly to 48°19.889' N 127°11.674' W, then southeasterly to 48°17.527' N 127°06.563' W, then southeasterly to 48°12.176' N



126°53.983' W (Subarea 124-1 boundary), then southeasterly to 48°11.134' N 126°51.552' W, then northeasterly to 48°54.451' N 125°53.981' W, then northeasterly to 49°02.307' N 125°43.228' W, then easterly to 49°02.340' N 125°41.631' W, then westerly following the shoreline of Vancouver Island to the point of commencement.

8. The type of fishing gear permitted to be used and the manner which it may be used:

(1) Herring may not be captured or impounded.

(2) Methods permitted for suspending kelp:

(a) floating open lines and rafts are permitted for the suspension of kelp. Open lines and rafts will be secured using biodegradable twine.

(b) biodegradable twine will be used for attaching kelp in strings as well as for the attachment of any weights.

(3) Nets may be suspended in the water to direct herring towards the suspended kelp, but may not impound or trap herring. Suspended nets shall meet the following specifications:

(a) nets shall be constructed with knotless web;

(b) floating frames, used to suspend the nets, shall be capable of supporting the weight of the net without collapsing;

(c) the bottom of all nets shall be a minimum of 3 m above the substrate at all times;

(d) the net shall remain in the water a minimum of 21 days following the most recent herring spawn deposition; and

(e) each net shall be marked with the participants name and T'aaq-wii-haak number in a contrasting colour. The T'aaq-wii-haak number shall be in solid black Arabic numerals not less than 75 mm in height and be clearly visible without raising the gear from the water.

9. Fishing Activity Reports (Hail Reports)

All vessel masters will file a Start Fishing Report (hail out into the fishery) prior to participating in each fishery opening either by completing the report online at <http://taaqa.ca> or by calling a Ha'oorn Fisheries Coordinator at:

a) 1-250-204-1522 for Kadin Snook

b) 1-250-204-9948 for Olivia Currie

The Start Fishing Report will include the following:

1. Participant name and T'aaq-wiihak designation number
2. Vessel Name and Decal number
3. Intended landed location
4. Intended buyer
5. Indented landing date

10. The type and labelling of containers:

(1) Containers used to transport harvested spawn-on-kelp (e.g. totes) shall be constructed of approved material, i.e., fibreglass, plastic, cardboard or aluminium. Wood construction is not permitted.

(2) Containers used to hold processed spawn-on-kelp:

(a) Processed spawn-on-kelp shall be packed only in containers (i.e. pails) of a type approved by the Department. The



containers must be properly labelled to show the name of the product, the weight of the product, the name of the processor or distributor and the date on which the product was packed.

(b) Each container shall be labelled with a decal (i.e. sticker) provided by the dockside monitoring company that has a unique serialized number.

11. Validation

(1) All spawn on kelp for sale must be validated.

(2) All spawn on kelp for sale must be landed at a designated landing site.

(3) At the designated landing site and prior to transport to the designated processor:

a) The participant shall ensure that the Dockside Monitor will complete Section 1 of the Herring Spawn-on-Kelp Fishery Validation Form by signing the completed Section 1;

b) The participant shall receive the “operator” copy of the Herring Spawn-on-Kelp Fishery Validation Form once Section 1 is completed and signed.

c) The participant shall permit the dockside monitor to affix a label (i.e. decal) to the transport container (e.g. tote) with a unique label number.

(4) At the designated processor:

a) Prior to weigh-out, the spawn-on-kelp must be drained for a period of up to twelve (12) hours. After the drained product has been weighed, an allowance of 5% of the net drained weight will be deducted to allow for remaining liquid and salt.

b) At the time of weigh-out, the participant or participant representative shall ensure the dockside monitor will complete Section 2 of the Validation Form by signing the completed Section 2. The net drained weight minus 5% will be the harvested product weight used for validation.

(5) A copy of the Validation Form will be provided to the processing plant to accompany the spawn-on-kelp product.

(6) Any quota overage identified during the weigh-out process shall be separated, with the approval of a representative of the Department, and be removed from the fish plant and be attributed to FSC.

12. Fish (Sales) slips

(1) All vessel masters must obtain a Fish (Sales) Slip when selling spawn on kelp caught under authority of a licence. The Fish (Sales) Slip can be issued by the purchaser or, in the case of direct sales, the vessel master and shall specify:

a) the name of the company, plant, packer, collector or individual purchasing fish;

b) the vessel master's name and address;

c) the number of a licence and the T'aaq-wiihak Card number;

d) the Validation Form number;

e) the area of catch and landing site;

f) days fishing;



- g) gear used;
- h) number and weight of spawn on kelp sold;
- i) price per pound;
- j) total landed value of catch;
- k) payment (paid and payable in cash and otherwise); and
- l) other such information as may be required.

(2) If spawn on kelp are landed and sold at the same location, a Validation Form and Fish (Sales) Slip may be incorporated into one document by attaching a voided Validation Form to a copy of the Fish (Sales) Slip.

(3) The vessel master must provide a copy of the Fish (Sales) Slip to a purchaser. Vessel masters shall submit Fish (Sales) Slips no later than seven days after offloading. Fish (Sales) Slips shall be mailed to DFO at:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Regional Data Services Unit
Suite 200-401 Burrard Street
Vancouver BCV6C 3S4

13. Split Offloads:

Dual fishing is authorized. Spawn-on-kelp retained for FSC purposes may be offloaded before being validated at the designated landing site at a location other than the designated landing site if the Fishery Manager from the vessel master's First Nation monitors the landing and verifies the amount of spawn-on-kelp harvested and retained. The vessel master's First Nation's Fishery Manager will generate an offload record for the vessel master when the vessel master offloads harvest under the authority of this Licence. Where spawn-on-kelp retained for FSC have been offloaded prior to arriving at the designated landing site, the vessel master shall provide the Dockside Monitor a copy of the offload record provided by the vessel master's First Nation's Fishery Manager. This certified record will include the following information, in respect of the FSC Communal Fishing Licence:

A copy of the landed catch information by species and pounds;

Vessel name;

Vessel master's name;

Vessel master's T'aaq-wiihak designation Card number; and

Vessel's T'aaq-wiihak decal number

15. Marine Mammal Reporting:

(1) The vessel master shall report all marine mammal interactions during fishing trips in the Fishing Log. For the purpose of defining lethal and non-lethal marine mammal interactions, interactions include bycatch, collision, and all sightings of marine mammals entangled in fishing gear.

19. Lost and retrieved gear reporting



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Valid From: 28-Feb-2025

Expiry Date: 12-Mar-2025

(1) Lost gear reporting: The vessel master shall report any lost fishing gear within 24 hours of landing to Fisheries and Oceans Canada by completing and submitting the Lost Fishing Gear form available online at <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/commercial-commerciale/reporting-declaration-eng.html>.

(2) Retrieved gear reporting: The vessel master shall report the retrieval of any of their own previously reported lost gear within 24 hours of retrieving gear previously reported as lost to Fisheries and Oceans Canada by completing and submitting the Retrieval of Previously Reported Fishing Gear form available online at <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/commercial-commerciale/reporting-declaration-eng.html>. Retrieval can only occur under a valid fishing licence and only in relation to the specific type of gear authorized to be used by the fishing licence.

20. Wild Aquatic Plant Harvester Licence

Participants are responsible for having a valid wild aquatic plant harvester licence issued by the Province of BC for the harvest of kelp.

Replaced due to Issue Error

Licence Issued: 28 February 2025

Licence Printed: 28 February 2025

Licence Issued By: SAVANNA EIDSE, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Contact Information:

Ha'oom Fisheries Coordinator – Kadin Snook

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250-204-1522

Ha'oom Fisheries Coordinator – Olivia Currie

olivia@haoom.ca

250-204-9948

DFO Finfish Resource Manager – Savanna Eidse

Savanna.Eidse@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

604-703-9480

Ahousaht First Nation Fisheries Program Manager - Luke Swan

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250-670-9535

Ehattlesaht First Nation Fisheries Manager – Tyler Hanson

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Hesquiaht First Nation Interim Fisheries Manager – Jaqlynn Titian

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Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation Fisheries Manager

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Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation Fisheries Program Manager - Andrew Jackson

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250-725-3350

DFO Groundfish Management – Maureen Finn

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778-835-5772

DFO WCVI Salmon and Herring Coordinator – Peter Hall

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250-918-8179

DFO Conservation and Protection Detachment Supervisor – Eric Zimmermann

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