



# TBuck Suzuki

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



# Table of Contents

*North Coast Report - Luanne Roth* ..... 3

*Community Development - Cailyn Siider* .....6

*Communications - Hannah Fiegenbaum* ..... 7

*Innovation - Megan Eadie*..... 10

*Geographic Information Systems - Adrienne Murphy*..... . 12

*Executive Director - Jim McIsaac*..... 13



# North Coast Report

## Key Projects – Luanne Roth

The Skeena Estuary Campaign had four main objectives in 2021; CN pesticide reduction, monitoring lipid levels of returning sockeye, lowering the risk of a fuel spill resulting from an anchor drag accident and reviewing the environmental assessment of risk to Skeena salmon from Vopak, a proposed petroleum product terminal near Flora Bank, critical salmon habitat.

### CN Pesticides

Prosecution for the 2017 CN Skeena rail corridor spray ends in guilty pleas and over \$2.5 million in fines

Finally, this year CN pled guilty to provincial charges, with a \$100,000 fine, and to Federal Fisheries Act violations with a \$2.5 million fine. This came after years of work; publicizing, gathering expert evidence about and documenting the massive illegal CN rail pesticide spray along the Skeena in late 2017.



CN's spray program in the Skeena Subdivision is currently limited to a narrow width (gravel ballast only), one chemical (as opposed to five or more

elsewhere) and fairly good adherence to pesticide free set-back requirements near fish bearing waters.

### Skeena Energy Monitoring Program

Ten batches of approximately 25 salmon were measured between July 1 to August 18, over the 2021 sockeye run, for year-to-year comparison of filet lipid levels in returning adult Skeena sockeye. We now have a seven-year record: 2012 and 2016-2021.



2020 and 2021 lipid levels are back down around 6-7% which is the range of the lowest years, 2016 and 2017. 2018 and 2019 levels were around 10% and 8% respectively and looked to be moving back up to the 2012 level of 12%, which was the highest level we recorded and which occurred before the advent of the N. Pacific warm event known as the "Blob".

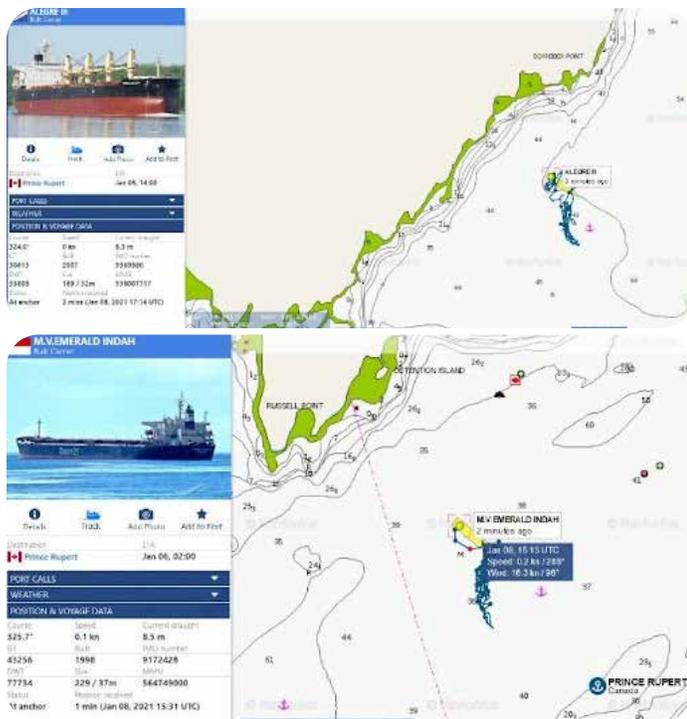
Skeena sockeye at 6% is still far higher than Bristol Bay and even higher than Copper River.

### Anchor Safety in Skeena Estuary

The unusually high number of large vessel anchor dragging incidents in Prince Rupert prompted Luanne's investigation of this risk. The expert report

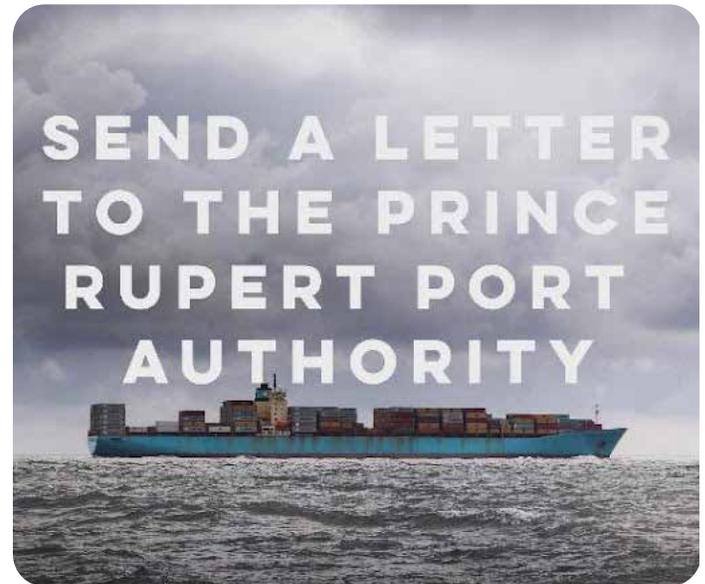
she commissioned from Brookes Bell and received in 2020 identified the inner harbour anchorages as presenting the most serious anchor related risk of a large bunker fuel spill (½ to 5 million liters) and it recommended the Prince Rupert Port Authority re-consider policy in order to: Direct Masters to leave the inner harbour when wind is forecast to be above safe levels.

In 2020 this report was distributed to Transport and local port authorities, endorsed by the regional district and others and received apparent support. However, it became clear in early 2021 that the Campaign had not been won.



On January 8 2021 vessels were again left in the inner harbour despite storm warnings. As a result, both the Emerald Indah and the Alegre III appear to have dragged badly; the Alegre III dragging toward Schreiber Point and Emerald Indah dragging towards Russell Point. The expert report had warned that incidents like this in the inner harbour could result in an uncontrolled drag and “that, unless the vessel can immediately regain control over the anchor dragging, there will be a high likelihood of grounding. Whether a standby tug and a pilot can effectively respond at such a short notice is, therefore, questionable or rather unlikely.”

Hannah Fiegenbaum developed a FB campaign using a blog, short video and infographics (one post reached over 3000) to support Luanne’s appeal in February to the Port Authority Board of Directors.



Luanne continued to monitor large vessels when storms were forecast in 2021 and documented continuing dangerous examples of vessels failing to move to safer outer anchorages where there is more room to avoid grounding and potential oil spills. Some 2021 plans to meet with local FN and inform the public about this continuing issue were put on hold due to covid. The evidence collected in 2021 will be used in 2022, hopeful to put enough pressure on to win compliance with the safety measures needed to end this unnecessary risk.

### Vopak Petroleum Project Assessment Review Period Extended amid Concerns of Spill Risk to Salmon

Vopak is proposing a petroleum product terminal near Flora Bank, critical Skeena estuary salmon habitat (photo of the rich area shows a coho with a juvenile smelt in its mouth). Luanne reviewed, questioned and supplied comments which were focussed on the Accidents and Malfunctions section of the Vopak assessment, discovering and bringing to light deficiencies in the assessment of spill risk both in terms of apparent failure to assess several highly significant categories of accident as well as failure



to consider the impact on salmon at Flora Bank and elsewhere in the estuary.

She shared information about the deficiencies to Vopak, the BC Environmental Assessment Office, the federal authorities, local First Nations contacts, local and regional environmental groups and helped publicize them generally. Our lawyer, Angela McCue, reviewed the issues and wrote the authorities, asking to have the deficiencies addressed. In October, despite documentation of the deficiencies, a broadly signed letter asking for them to be redressed, letters to the editor, etc. the BC Environmental Assessment Office decided to send the Assessment on to the BC Ministers for a decision.

We then appealed to the Ministers with a sign-on letter of regional groups, a lawyer's letter and information sharing with local leaders and FN asking

that the Environmental Assessment Certificate be refused and asking the Ministers to require more information, at least before approving the CPP portion of the project. Vopak is intending to ship mainly liquid propane and methanol, whereas we informed the Ministers that the CPP portion (Diesel, gasoline, etc.) of the project is our main concern due to its high toxicity to marine life.

On November 17th we were pleased to learn that the Ministers, in an unusual move, had decided to extend the Vopak Environmental Assessment Review Period. We are now hopeful that the information deficiencies will be addressed to enable the public and authorities to determine whether or not the risk to Skeena salmon from Vopak's proposed project is or is not acceptable.

# Community Development

## Key Projects - Cailyn Siider

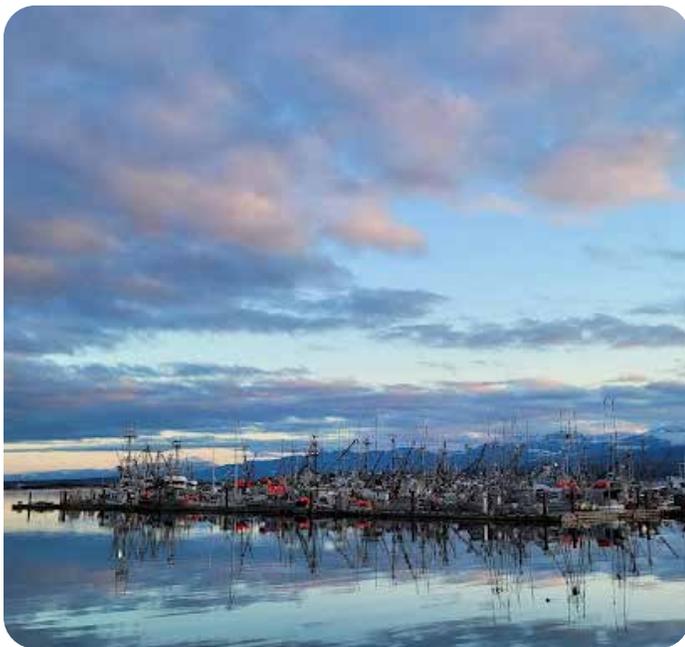
### Fishing Community Work

Cailyn continues to work with a community of young fish harvesters in British Columbia to support, engage, and uplift the next and newest generation of fishermen through the BC Young Fishermen's Network. Cailyn continues a boots on the dock approach to connecting harvester's with TBuck's work and to listen to the needs and wants of the fishing community. She spent time down on the docks prior to the Strait of Georgia herring fishery both helping Megan spread information about the Gear Loss Survey, the work TBuck does around fisheries, and connecting with much of the fishing community in a collective way. During these days on the docks in Comox, Deep Bay, and Fanny Bay, she connected with approximately 70 harvesters. Despite the many challenges that fishermen currently face, it was very encouraging to connect with a portion of the community and be reminded of the resilience and vibrancy of the fishing industry. It will be great to continue this work in person after so much time being spatially distanced from one another in the community.

Cailyn also continues to brainstorm and collaborate with partner organizations such as Fish Safe and the UFAWU around community care and support for fish harvesters and our communities. This work has so far centered around understanding the needs of harvesters in terms of mental health and substance use supports and how to create community centered and appropriate prevention and responses to fishermen's needs.



Cailyn has been working closely with Slow Fish North America as part of their organizational Oversight Team, being one of two participants representing Canada within the group. Working with Slow Fish has been an incredibly helpful experience, particularly around building international, reciprocal relationships with folks and organizations engaging in adjacent work with similar values to TBuck and BCYFN



# Communications

## Key Projects - Hannah Fiegenbaum

### TBuck Blog

Hannah started our blog in September, 2020, and has been posting there monthly. The blog is a useful space for us to highlight aspects of our programming, and explore important topics in more depth than is allowed on our social media platforms. TBuck's blog currently houses 17 posts that include original video, infographics, and articles. Over the past year the blog has had 170 unique visitors. Some post highlights include:

- *Fishing for Fishing Gear*

Hannah combined photographs from a day on the water with Fraser McDonald searching for lost prawn traps, with interviews with Fraser and Megan

Eadie describing the importance of cleaning up lost gear, and why the work resonates with them.

- *The campaign behind the \$2.5 Million CN Rail fine; Protecting vital aquatic habitat along the Skeena River*

Hannah interviewed Luanne Roth about her experience advocating for CN Rail to be held to account after an unlawful pesticide application, and what she hopes will come from her hard work.

Other posts include information for trawlers about the plans for the Connected Coast project, press releases and petition information about DFO's prawn tubing decision(s), news about upcoming TBuck projects, 40th anniversary, and winners of the TBuck Scholarship award.



### Social Media

Social media is a useful networking tool that allows us to make connections with groups and individuals beyond our regular networks and partners. Through these various platforms our work and opinions can be made more visible to other NGOs, scientists, and politicians who may share some of TBuck's values but are not already connected with our organization. Our organization's social media following has continued to grow more rapidly with consistent posting and interaction.

Platform	Current total followers - as of March 2022	Percent increase over the year (March 2021-March 2022)	Average total reach/ impressions per month (March 2021-March 2022)
Facebook	534	36%	3,900
Twitter	369	28%	6,100
Instagram	600	66%	810

\*Reach/impressions = number of people who saw at least one TBuck post in their feed.

## Media

TBuck Suzuki Foundation was mentioned in ten media stories this past year, all of which positioned the organization positively. Articles included:

- Interviews with Cailyn Siider on the effects of DFO's prawn tubbing decision.
- Interviews with Luanne Roth on CN Rail fined for unlawful pesticide use.
- Interview with Jim McIsaac on foreign investment in BC fisheries.
- Insufficient environmental assessment of VOPAK fuel terminal.



## Fisheries for Communities

Hannah is continuing to collaborate with the communications team at Ecotrust to create articles and content for the Fisheries for Communities coalition. Over the past year Hannah has collaborated on several campaigns that utilized support from the FfC group.

The Fisheries for Communities platform continues to be a successful tool for communicating about the need for fisheries management reform, as well as other political fisheries topics. It has also been an effective vehicle for collaboration and an outlet for many stakeholders to speak with a unified voice.

## FfC Campaigns/Projects

### Prawn Tubbing Campaign:

Over the course of the 2021, and in preparation for the 2022 spot prawn season FfC collaborated on a campaign to push back against a DFO decision to ban tubbing prawn tails at sea. This campaign was the result of the hard work of members of UFAWU Unifor, Ecotrust, and Skipper Otto the Prawn Industry Caucus, and many independent harvesters and community organizers!

- FfC published two press releases in response to DFO's decision in March 2021 to ban tubbing, and in Dec 2021 in response to the decision to mandate the use of 8oz tubs resulting in at least 24 media stories over the past year.
- The group promoted an email campaign that sent messages to pertinent MLAs, members of DFO and the Minister of Fisheries.
- FfC promoted a petition to the government on the issue that received 1,836 signatures, and was addressed in an emergency session in the House of Commons.

In Jan 2022 DFO announced that prawn tubbing would be allowed to continue as usual!



**Awareness 2021 Campaign:**

The Fisheries for Communities team led a campaign to raise awareness about the need for policy to keep fishing licenses and quota ownership with independent harvesters and First Nations.

The campaign included a video featuring members of the FfC coalition, a briefing that was distributed to the coalition, a social media campaign, and a letter writing campaign.

**World Fisheries Day:**

Hannah collaborated with the Canadian Independent Fish Harvester’s Federation to produce a video to celebrate World Fisheries day the new legislation created to ensure owner-operator, and fleet separation on Canada’s Atlantic coast.

**Website**

Recently Hannah led a project to re-build the Fisheries for Communities website on the Squarespace platform. The new website will be easier for media and new visitors to navigate, and simpler for communications staff to update. It’s expected to come online this Spring!

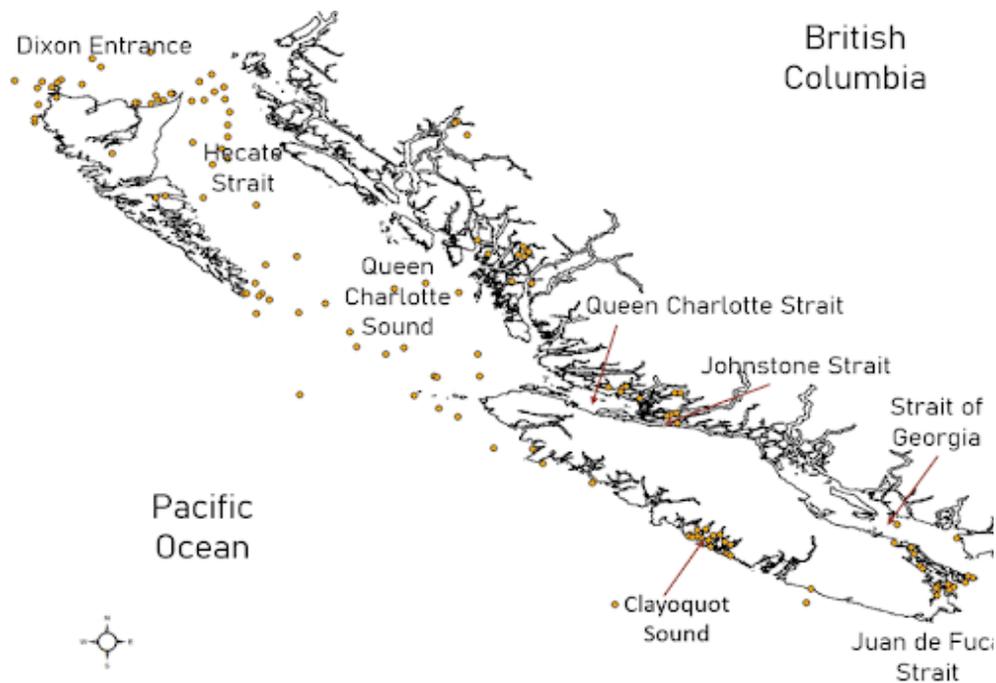


# Innovation

## Key Projects - Megan Eadie

### Lost Fishing Gear

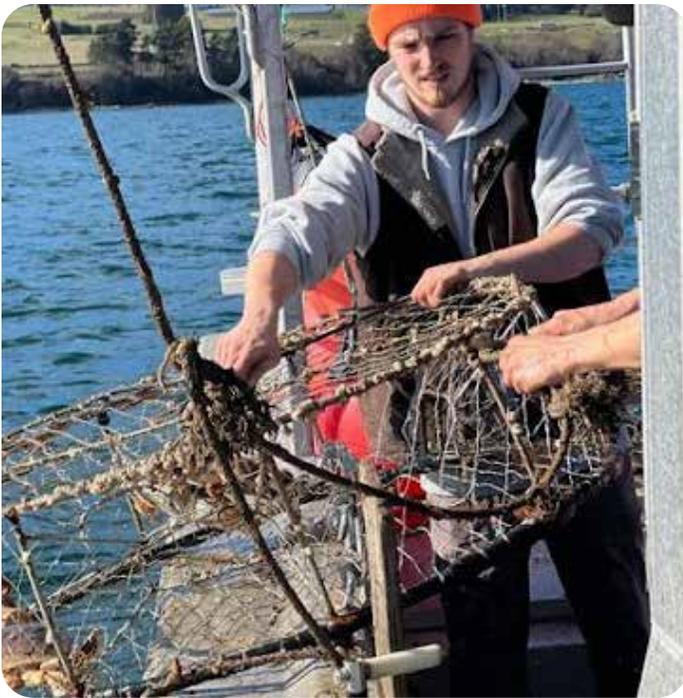
Megan was successful in receiving funding from DFO to map gear loss hotspots, identify best practices for gear loss prevention, and retrieve lost gear. She has continued to identify the causes of lost fishing gear across fisheries and map the locations of loss through interviews and surveys with fishermen. She coordinated fishermen-led ghost gear retrievals in the Salish Sea, Quatsino Sound, Tuck Inlet, and more, while testing out a variety of methods for survey including sidescan sonar, ROV, and towed video, and retrieval (with a variety of grapple designs and ROV used with a grabber claw). A number of high priority locations for retrieval have been identified and we will be looking for funding to conduct retrievals in these areas next year.



In November 2021, the *Star Wars II*, a *Finest at Sea* fishing vessel operated by Bruce Hale, spent 10 days working with Shift Environmental and Lax Kw'alaams to trial ROV and sidescan sonar surveying for gear. The initial target area was a series of reported loss locations in Hecate Strait but the weather kept the vessel closer to Prince Rupert, in Tuck Inlet. The trip gathered valuable experience identifying gear, and retrieved 15 lost crab traps and 2,500 ft of rope.



Throughout July and October, the Racer X, operated by Fraser Macdonald, searched for lost prawn gear using an ROV. They marked the locations of gear and in January 2022 returned with the ROV and a grabber claw to retrieve the traps. We worked with Terra Remote to identify the locations of lost crab gear in Saanich, and throughout February the Racer X retrieved that gear. In total they retrieved 106 traps and 8,880 ft of line.



We also worked with Terra to survey 4 sites in Juan de Fuca Strait for prawn gear. Over 100 traps were located, and we are waiting for opportunities for further funding to retrieve them.

We are working with Blue Ocean Gear to test out 85 of their Smart Buoys in BC fisheries to prevent gear loss and theft. They've distributed the buoys to 3 fishermen in the prawn and crab fisheries.

## Sustainable Fisheries

Megan is working with fishermen to enhance and promote the sustainability of our fisheries. Through funding from the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation fund, she has developed a new project to provide a knotless bunt for the net of a herring and salmon test boat. The net building is underway. This project has also provided electronic monitoring and LED lights for the shrimp trawl fishery to reduce their bycatch of eulachon.

## Funding

Megan has led and supported on a number of funding proposals including a successful proposal to the Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund for interventions to reduce bycatch and increase survivability of non-target species, and a proposal to the Oceans Management Fund. She has also supported fishermen in editing funding applications.



# Geographic Information Systems

## Key Projects – Adrienne Murphy

In 2021, Adrienne predominantly spent her time split between three main projects: Megan’s Ghost Gear initiative, the Connected Coast fiber optic cable project, and fishery footprint mapping in relation to the proposed MPA network.

### Ghost Gear Initiative

Adrienne provided support to Megan’s Ghost Gear work through the mapping of known gear loss locations submitted to TBuck, as well as the creation of predictive heat maps for expected gear loss. The predictive maps were informed by the human and environment factors identified in the 2020 Lost Fishing Gear workshop. To strengthen the predictive maps and gain a better understanding of factors for gear loss in each fishery, a survey was developed alongside a UVic Masters student to identify where fishermen have lost gear, gear type lost, and the cause for loss, as well as where they have come into contact with other lost gear. This survey allowed Adrienne to visit docks and survey fishermen across Vancouver Island - from Victoria to Port Hardy to Tofino and Ucluelet. The results will be used to increase the precision of the gear loss heat maps!



### Connected Coast

Adrienne has also been working with the Prawn

Industry Caucus and shrimp trawlers for several months to increase the participation and input of local fishermen in the placement of a fiber optic cable along the B.C. Coast (Connected Coast Project). With the support of Cailyn and Emily Orr, Adrienne has been in contact with Prawn fishermen who have been generous to offer their time and knowledge to propose alternative routes for the line in areas that are key fishing grounds. A back and forth dialogue has been in place with Connected Coast representatives and the fishermen she has interviewed.

### Fishery Footprints

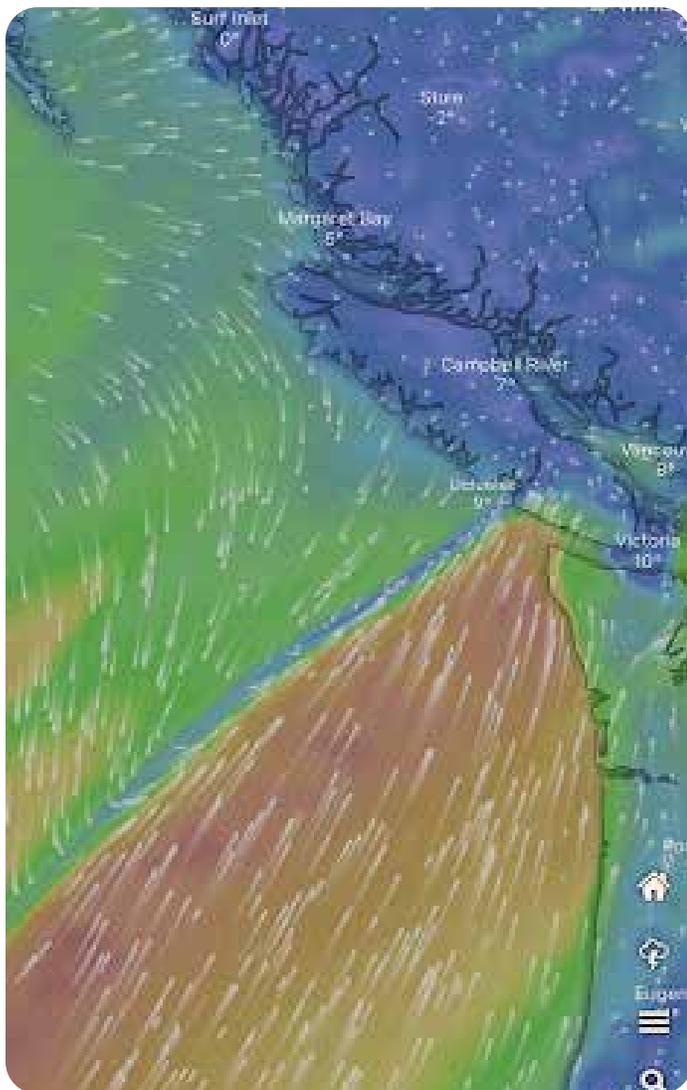
Lastly, Adrienne dedicated time to mapping fishery footprints in response to the proposed MPA network. In early 2021, Adrienne worked with the B.C. Shrimp Trawlers Association to conduct local knowledge interviews and map key harvest locations to protect the viability of the fishery. The information shared in the interviews was cross-referenced with the proposed MPA sites to assess impact and footprint coverage. Additionally, she spent time working with the Area A Crab Association to map the footprint of the fishery from McIntyre Bay to Hecate Strait. Data provided by EcoTrust was analyzed to assess the density of trap placement over an eight-year period. Both maps and a time lapse video were created to show the annual shift in trap placement and density. The trend identified in the time lapse video between McIntyre Bay and Hecate Strait was confirmed to match the life cycle of crab, and further highlight the importance of the fishing grounds at McIntyre Bay and Rose Spit to the economic viability of the fishery.

While she is moving on to other work, she still supports our Ghost Gear, Connected Coast Response and other mapping projects!

# Executive Director

## Key Projects - Jim McIsaac

Over the last year, with the heat-dome and the atmospheric river (screen shot from 3 am Nov 15, 2021), we experienced some of the most adverse weather conditions in recent memory. We also experienced disruptive social and economic change, some driven by COVID-19, others by court decisions, still others by technology like AI. Shortages and high inflation may become the norm. In 2021 we also celebrated our 40th anniversary; together, with great staff, board, volunteers, and partners, we have accomplished many great things: thank you all!



## ED Highlights for 2021

### Fisheries for Community Network – Ongoing

Over the last year we have been meeting weekly with Ecotrust to move the Blue Economy Strategy, Coastal Marine Strategy, and the FOPO recommendations agreed to at the 2020 gathering forward, looking to ensure access is in harvester and community hands. Of note Coastal First Nations is looking at making a joint statement on license and quota ownership. DFO's own Gardner report has confirmed the FOPO findings. There is strong political support from both the provincial and federal governments, the provincial Deputy Minister has sent their federal counterpart indication of a willingness to work together on this, yet on the ground DFO Pacific Region still lack resources needed to move this forward.



### NVI Fisheries Economy Workshop – March 2022

After participating in the MaPP process for over 9 years we finally got to talk fisheries in an in-person workshop focused on First Nations,

recreational and commercial fisheries in North Vancouver Island. Speakers covered stressors and opportunities. We are hopeful that this workshop will entrench fisheries as important for BC, and set a collaborative standard to work on local fisheries issues with all sectors for generations to come.

## World Ocean Summit – Feb 2022

This year's summit was held virtually, the second time in nine years, and was arguably the best one yet. This is perhaps the best global forum for dialogue on ocean related issues: governance, climate change, protection, plastics, fisheries, aquaculture, shipping, finance and connection to coastal communities. This year's summit continued focus on governance in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) making up 70% of the ocean space, and added chemical pollution to the long list of challenges facing our ocean. See the [Invisible Wave Report](#)

## Other ED Highlights for 2021/22

### Covid Active Fishermen's Committee

- 30 meetings over last year, now meeting twice monthly
- Taking on all covid related issues including HG-HB-EI-PPE-Rapid Test issues
- Worked with senior governments BC Task Force, DM work Group, Small Salmon Work Group – this was bypassed by Minister June 2021
- Looking beyond Covid to issues including:  
PSSI, prawn tubbing, herring, crab trap allocation, EI, and industry crisis

### Reconciliation

- DFO fisheries reconciliation – 12 National & Regional workshops
- Protocol workshop with Nahanee Creative
- EDIM Framework approved – looking for regular reminders

### Research initiatives

- Science Industry Research Collaborative – international group – the legitimacy of

harvester knowledge in science

- Paper on license review process with Pinkerton
- California Current Climate Vulnerability Study - with BC harvesters
- Cascadia - Climate Action Strategy
- Ocean Canada marine planning chapter for book

### Food system work

- Closing the Supply Gap – Distribution Capacity Project
- Good Food Network – localizing the food system Progress report
- Slowfish Canada – Cascadia, Tubbing and FOPO

### Marine planning

- NSB MPA Network – paused by DFO Dec 2 due to conflict with fisheries management
- MaPP – CC/HG/NVI ongoing, NC being reinitialized
- NVI - Fisheries Economy Workshop (Mar 29-30)

### FOPO select industry committee

- meeting with DFO and select industry, monthly or less
- track progress on FOPO recommendations with DFO
- Review Gardner Report
- Beneficial ownership survey
- Seeking copy of license and quota registry report
- Review owner-operator proposal from Ufawu

## Finances

Based on preliminary numbers, revenues were up from 2020: last year's revenue was approximately \$642k up from \$467k in the previous fiscal year. Expenses were also up to \$611k in 2021, from \$379k in 2020, mostly for increased wages and contracted lost gear recovery work. At the end of the fiscal year (December 31, 2021) we held \$352k in net assets. We carried \$444k from existing grants over for programs and staffing into 2022. We remain in a good financial position at the end of 2021.