

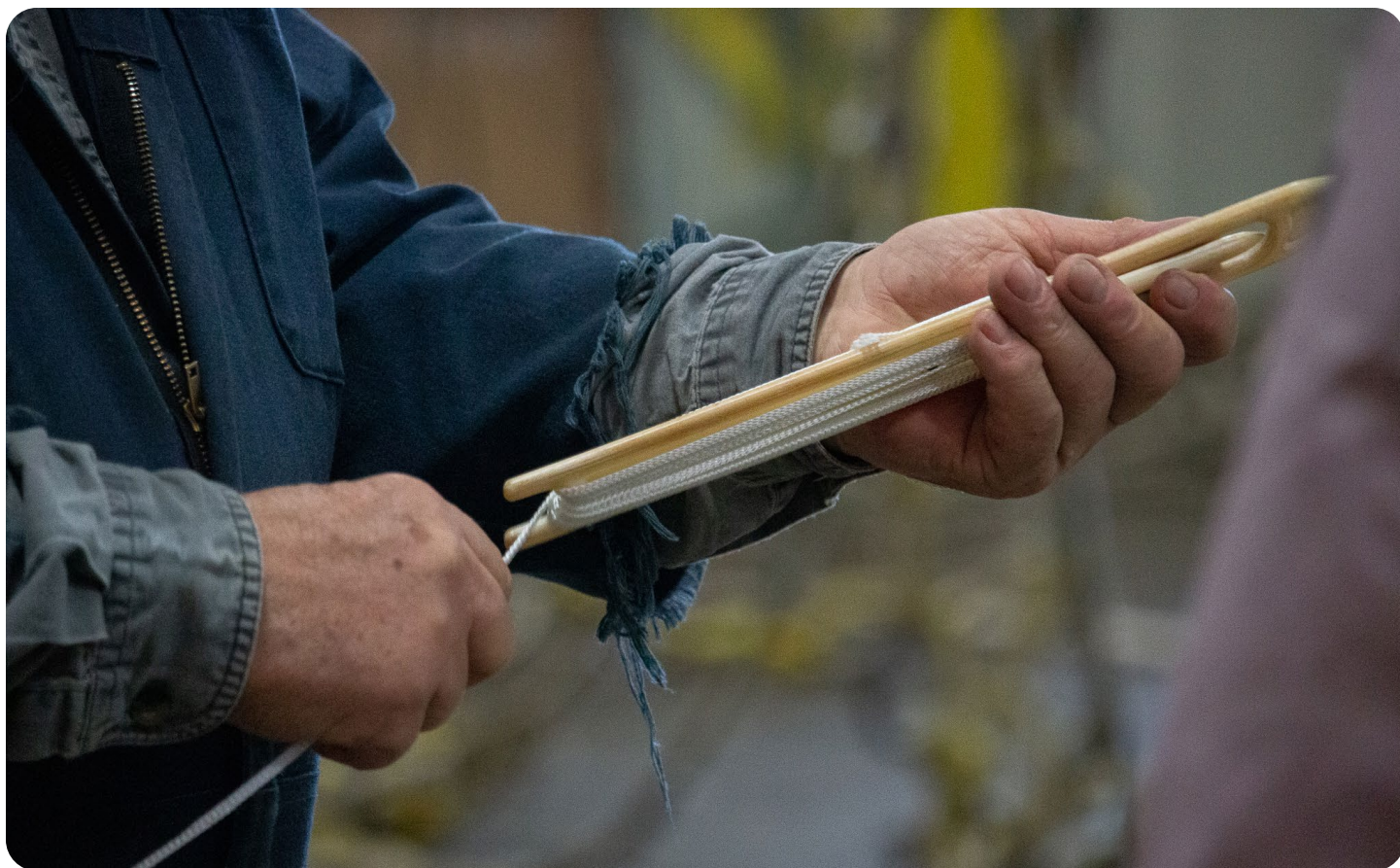


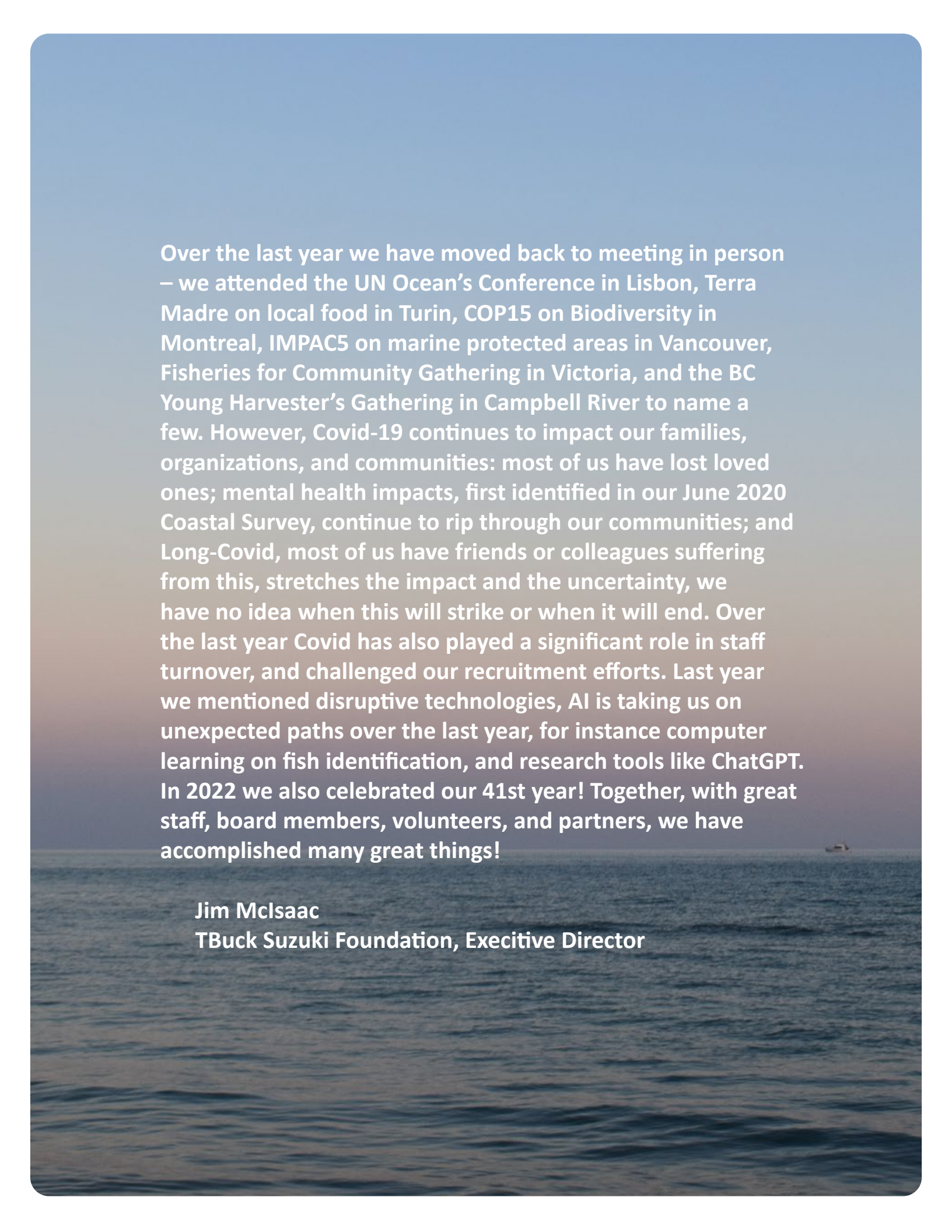
ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



Table of Contents

North Coast Report - Alaina Pyde	4
BC Young Fishermen’s Network - Trish Whetstone	6
Communications - Hannah Fiegenbaum	7
Sustainability - Caitie Frenkel.....	9
Seafood Business Accelerator - Melanie Poerner Loureiro.....	11
Executive Director - Jim Mclsaac.....	12





Over the last year we have moved back to meeting in person – we attended the UN Ocean’s Conference in Lisbon, Terra Madre on local food in Turin, COP15 on Biodiversity in Montreal, IMPAC5 on marine protected areas in Vancouver, Fisheries for Community Gathering in Victoria, and the BC Young Harvester’s Gathering in Campbell River to name a few. However, Covid-19 continues to impact our families, organizations, and communities: most of us have lost loved ones; mental health impacts, first identified in our June 2020 Coastal Survey, continue to rip through our communities; and Long-Covid, most of us have friends or colleagues suffering from this, stretches the impact and the uncertainty, we have no idea when this will strike or when it will end. Over the last year Covid has also played a significant role in staff turnover, and challenged our recruitment efforts. Last year we mentioned disruptive technologies, AI is taking us on unexpected paths over the last year, for instance computer learning on fish identification, and research tools like ChatGPT. In 2022 we also celebrated our 41st year! Together, with great staff, board members, volunteers, and partners, we have accomplished many great things!

Jim McIsaac

TBuck Suzuki Foundation, Executive Director

North Coast Report

Key Projects - Alaina Pyde

Alaina joined TBuck in November 2022, taking over the North Coast Campaigner position. She has previous experience as an at-sea observer completing two separate trips on commercial crab vessels in Hecate Strait. Alaina has developed four overarching objectives to guide her work, they include: Protecting Marine Water Quality and Habitat; Limiting Pesticides and Pollution into waterways; Fostering Community Awareness and Stewardship; and Remaining Aware of Local Environmental Concerns. Alaina has also worked on several overarching TBuck objectives, specifically celebrating fisheries, and understanding marine pollution, specifically lost fishing gear.



One of the larger projects that Alaina is initiating is addressing marine noise pollution from the Port Industry in Prince Rupert. This project is still in the early development phase. Alaina is staying current and tracking laden vessels that remain at anchor in the inner Prince Rupert harbour during wind storms. Vessels that remain in harbour during high wind events have been identified to drag their anchor which greatly increases the likelihood of running aground, this could result in major oil and bunker fuel spillage. New language around protocols during wind storms have been introduced into the Prince Rupert Port Authority's Port Information Guide for

2023 in order to keep Prince Rupert's harbour clean and safe.

Work that was previously done to limit pesticides into waterways was accomplished by Alaina's predecessor, who was able to create a successful campaign against CN Rail for spraying pesticide along the Skeena estuary and corridor. The final piece of this campaign is to work on legislative reform around provincial regulations for pesticide applications.

Alaina is collaborating with Chelsey Ellis from the Area A Commercial Crab Association in order to put on events that promote and support locally caught sustainable seafood. One of these events will be the Dungeness Crab eating contest hosted during Seafest in Prince Rupert, as Prince Rupert is home to a viable and successful Dungeness commercial crab fishery.



Alaina hopes to continue on work that was done In order to achieve the final objective of remaining aware of local environmental concerns, Alaina has met with representatives from the North, and on January 25 Alaina attended an environmental assessment workshop hosted by Northwest Institute and West Coast Environmental Law. This workshop provided insight into how to provide constructive feedback during the comment periods of environmental assessments. Alaina is also staying up-to-date on environmental areas of concern, including the Prince Rupert port expansion, proposed mining projects, and pipeline and LNG activities including the Coastal GasLink and Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission.

If funding permits Alaina will support an investigative project on how/why recreational fishing gear is lost along the BC coast. The recreational fishery is identified as a knowledge gap within the ghost gear field, and thus requires attention.



BC Young Fishermen's Network

Key Projects - Trish Whetstone

Trish kickstarted her engagement with the BC Young Fishermen's Network project by organizing and hosting the 2023 BCYFN Annual Gathering March 22nd through 24th. The event was held at the Maritime Museum in Campbell River BC and saw 80 attendees from across the industry come together to share knowledge and skills, network, and experience a renewed sense of community among new entrants, seasoned harvesters, industry experts, and association representatives alike.

This was the first in person Network gathering to take place following the COVID-19 pandemic after a period of dormancy of the Network and overall reception of the experience was very positively received. The event served as a reignition opportunity to raise public awareness of the presence and continued commitment of the BCYFN to serving the growth and development of the next generation of the BC fleet. It additionally served to reinforce a collective sense of resilience and buoyancy felt within the industry, and to drive home the importance of bringing a creative, solutions-oriented mindset to the challenges we face.



The Gathering also provided the chance to share knowledge from a variety of harvesters at different stages of their careers on support available for new entrants in order to succeed.

A number of members of our Steering Committee have moved on, taking other other roles within the sector, we used the opportunity of the Gathering to

recruit new committee members.

Moving forward under the direction of the BCYFN Steering Committee, our next phase is to develop value-based opportunities with a focus on offering tangible, skill building education and support that those in the first half of their careers in the BC fishing industry need most. In conjunction, we are also working to access opportunities to ensure that every harvester in British Columbia is aware of the presence of the BCYFN as a productive, proactive, and accessible resource space.



Earlier this year, Trish spoke on behalf of the BCYFN in a panel discussing engagement and mentorship of young harvesters at the First Nations Commercial Fisheries Enterprise Conference and participated on the planning committee of the 2023 Fisheries for Communities Gathering. She is also actively involved in the development of Vancouver Island University's Center for Seafood Innovation's new Seafood Business Accelerator program. All of these engagements serve to better promote connections, collaborative opportunities, and public visibility for the Network in the overall BC Seafood space.

Alongside connecting with partner associations both local and international who are engaging in work with similar values to explore how to best serve and grow the Network, Trish continues to develop relationships allowing her to work directly with the community of young harvesters in British Columbia to support, engage, and uplift the next generation of fishermen.

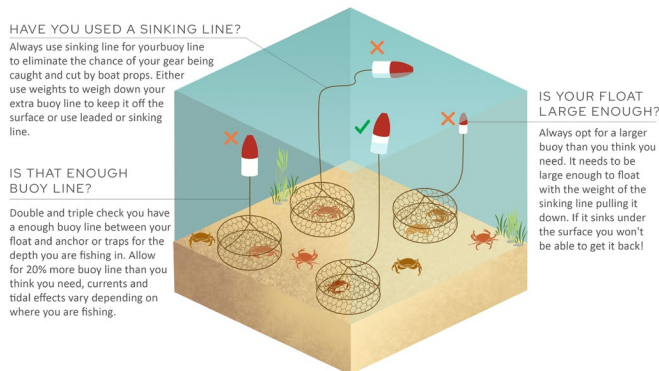
Communications

Key Projects - Hannah Fiegenbaum

Special projects for TBuck

Trap Loss Prevention

We worked on this project with harvester Fraser McDonald to communicate common issues found with recreational trap loss. While conducting gear retrievals it was noticed that many traps that went missing were rec. traps, so he drafted a list of common reasons rec traps were lost, and tips to prevent these occurrences. Hannah translated the list into a quick tips guide for recreational harvesters.



Our Coast Film

During the summer of 2021 the BCYFN had the opportunity to work with Ella Van Cleve, a documentary filmmaker who created a short film about the life and struggles of fish harvesters on the BC coast. BCYFN coordinator Cailyn, and BCYFN steering committee member James Lawson worked with Ella as she created the film. It touches on licensing policy, and the uncertainties of prawn tubbing regulations as the tubbing issue was still up in the air during filming.

Our Coast was shown in the DC Environmental Film Festival, BC Environmental Film Festival, Friday Harbour Film Festival, and Winner of British Academy of Film and Television Arts Student Award! Now that the film has gone through the festival circuit, Ella has given TBuck permission to use and show the film as we like.

Social Media

Social media is a useful networking tool that allows us to make connections with members and partners, and groups and individuals beyond our regular networks.

Platform	Current total followers - as of March 2023	Percent increase over the year (March 2022-March 2023)	Average total reach/impressions per month (March 2022-March 2023)
Facebook	638	20%	1,800
Twitter	408	11%	1,200
Instagram	731	29%	600

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

Hannah manages the social media accounts for TBuck and the BC Young Fishermen's Network, and co-manages accounts for Fisheries for Communities as well.

This year Hannah and Trish have worked on co-developing a social media and online content strategy for the BCYFN. During the month leading up to the gathering the BCYFN accounts (Facebook and Instagram combined) reached over 36,000 people as the team put energy into promoting the gathering. We will be tracking the success of the new strategy in the coming months and report back on BCYFN account growth.

Media

Hannah supports media presence for TBuck, BCYFN and Fisheries for Communities. this year these groups had a variety of news-worthy projects that were reported on:

- Using a cautious approach to large scale seaweed farming (work with Seaweed Commons)
- Recovery of lost fishing gear (Gear retrievals coordinated by Megan)
- Foreign investment in BC fisheries
- The new Seafood Accelerator Program
- Video on the history of TBuck (Interview with Joy Thorkelson)
- Six stories on Fisheries for Communities Gathering and petition to end foreign ownership.
- Four stories on the BC Young Fishermen's Gathering (more coming!)



Work with community led groups:

Seaweed Commons

The Seaweed Commons is an international collective of seaweed growers, lifelong harvesters, scientists and advocates united by the belief that the seaweed aquaculture industry should be developed with a precautionary approach: conservation minded, at an appropriate scale, and with local ownership and control. Farms should be small scale until knowledge gaps can be satisfactorily filled and the impact on wild coastal ecosystems and coastal communities is shown to be minimal.

With input from Jim and other experts the Seaweed Commons published a position paper in Spring 2022 raising the alarm about the increasing corporate interest and funding behind large scale seaweed

aquaculture in North America. Hannah helped to promote the launch of the position paper, which received media coverage, and participated in bi monthly meetings with the Seaweed Commons as they develop their guiding principles.

Salmon Working Group

Hannah has participated in bi weekly meetings with a group of salmon harvesters planning to create a documentary responding to salmon fishery closures in BC. Hannah has lent her support to organizing and logistical planning for the group's ambitions.

Fisheries for Communities

Hannah helped frame the communication for the third Fisheries for Communities Gathering. The Gathering served as a catalyst for renewed media and political interest in licensing policy, and a launchpad for the petition to end foreign ownership. Hannah supported petition promotion through TBuck and FfC channels which received 2,165 signatures before closing. She also supported media presence at the gathering and follow up afterward. Six media stories spread the word about the event's message and the petition to end foreign ownership.

Coastal Marine Strategy, and Blue Economy Strategy

This year Hannah compiled submissions for feedback on the Coastal Marine Strategy (May 2022) and Blue Economy Strategy Regulatory Review (March 2023). TBuck's team all contributed information relevant to their own work and expertise to inform these important new strategies that will shape our coastlines.



Sustainability

Key Projects - Caitie Frenkel

Sustainable Fisheries British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund - Knotless Nets

Caitie has been continuing the knotless net project (funded by the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund) started in 2021. In mid-February 2023 we went to the Steveston net loft to meet Art Lawson and his team as they began building the knotless bunt end into his herring seine net. Net construction finished in late February and the herring test fishery began in early March.



Art has been collecting video footage of sets using the knotless net via his iPhone to record the amount of scale loss experienced by the herring in the knotless net. Fishing was poor in the Gulf test fishery as there were no fish in the shallower areas where the test vessel was equipped to set. Additionally, the test vessel experienced issues with sea lions during the only set they were able to make in the Gulf. By mid-March, Art was fishing in Areas 7 and 8. We connected with Art in late March and fishing was slightly improving due to slightly warmer water temperatures in Area 7. Video footage from one set showed that the herring did not experience any scale loss with the knotless bunt end. Art reported that he was generally observing a 30 - 50% reduction

in scale loss compared to previous years fishing with a regular knotted bunt end. There are plans to construct a knotless bunt end for a salmon seine net before the test fishery in July 2023.

Funding Applications

Since starting at T Buck Suzuki, Caitie has applied for two funding opportunities for different projects. In early January, Caitie submitted a project proposal to the DFO Ecosystems & Ocean Science Contribution Framework to assess fishery and marine mammal interactions. This project is supported by the UFAWU, the Cowichan Bay Fisherman's Wharf Association, the Native Fishing Association, the BC Commercial Fishing Association, and the University of British Columbia. If funding is received, this project will conduct a series of focus groups in order to identify major themes around fisheries and marine mammal interactions and then use that information to create a more specific dockside survey to get more detailed insight on a particular issue. The goal of this project is to provide insight into how commercial fisheries and marine mammals interact in Canada's Pacific and make recommendations in a publicly available summary report on our website.

In late February, we applied for a small grant from the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) to investigate recreational fishing gear loss in Canada's Pacific Ocean. If funding is received, this project will conduct a series of recreational fisher surveys to understand why and where they lose their fishing gear. We will work with interested recreational fishing groups to survey fishers who use charters and who fish on their own. To date there has been no work done on recreational fishing gear loss in Canada's Pacific despite the environmental impacts of ghost fishing and potential disruptions to commercial operations. The goal is to gain a more comprehensive understanding of gear loss in Canada's Pacific.

Lost Fishing Gear

We have renewed T Buck's membership with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative, ensuring that the organization has access to the latest information, funding support, and networking ability on the topic in Canada's Pacific and around the world. We organized a lost fishing gear panel for the BCYFN Gathering in March 2023. During this panel, presenters discussed the latest research on lost gear in BC, the gear retrieval process, and recycling end-of-life gear and other sources of marine plastic pollution. Fishers were able to connect with the panelists and ask questions to clarify different aspects of lost gear research, retrieval, and recycling to determine where they fit into the process. Caitie hopes to continue T Buck's work on lost fishing gear via the GGI small grant and other future opportunities.

Future Work

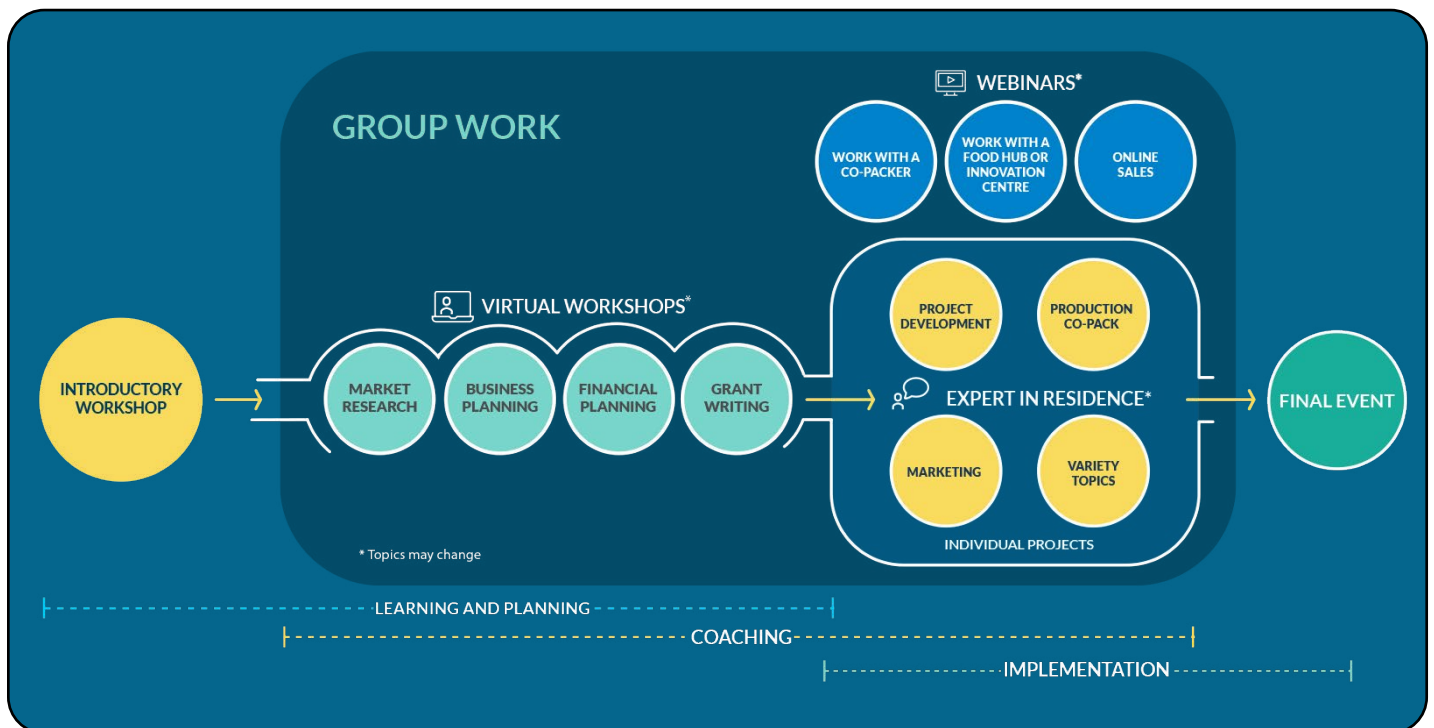
During the Fisheries for Communities and BCYFN gatherings, Caitie was able to make connections for future projects. We will be collaborating with researchers from the University of Victoria (UVic) and other interested members of the fishing industry to study social-ecological monitoring of Marine Protected Areas. Currently, UVic is reaching out to fishers and organizations individually to receive their input on the project and they hope to start conducting a series of focus groups later this spring. We are also interested in collaborating to put fishers and other industry members in university classrooms to talk about sustainable fishing in BC. Currently, there is a lack of updated education on local sustainable fisheries and we hope to connect professors from UVic with local fishers to provide guest lectures in the upcoming fall and winter semesters.



Seafood Business Accelerator

Key Projects - Melanie Poerner Loureiro

In January 2023 TBuck supported the launch of the Seafood Business Accelerator (SBA). Melanie is the newest part time TBuck staff person, dedicated to supporting the SBA. The program is aimed at helping local small-scale fishers and farmers develop more sustainable, profitable seafood businesses. The goal of the program is to support innovation, profitability, and sustainability for small scale seafood entrepreneurs - to help seafood enterprises go farther and grow faster than they would have gone alone. The SBA provides food industry training, coaching, business advice, and one-on-one support from food industry experts to help participants focus on a specific project and start working on it. The SBA offers both in-person and online activities to facilitate learning, project implementation, and network development. This pilot program is hosting 20 small scale harvesters of fish, shellfish and seaweed. Program participants are currently working through the program, and will wrap up their work on May 4 where they will showcase the progress they've made. Pending funding there are plans to run more sessions of the program in the future. The interest in the program has been exceptional, with a growing waitlist for the fall session!



Seafood Business Accelerator Program at a glance

Executive Director

Key Projects - Jim Mclsaac

UN Ocean Conference Lisbon – June 2022



If ever there was a conference on the ocean to provide hope, the UNOC was it. Political leadership were parroting many of the concerns raised by harvesters for decades. We must stop using the ocean as a toilet, the dumping ground for land-based pollution, plastics, urban and industrial waste, sewage, pharmaceuticals, and agricultural runoff. It was almost unanimously recognized that the major challenges facing our ocean, biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution, constitute an ocean emergency. We are near an irreversible tipping point: the ocean is not too big to fail. Our ocean is absorbing most of the CO₂ from burning fossil fuels changing ocean chemistry, causing warming that is moving species at unprecedented rates, and limiting the ocean's ability to support life. Global warming, pollution, acidification, fractured governance, illegal unregulated & unreported (IUU) fishing, seabed mining, aquaculture, and marine spatial planning (MSP) all pose major complex challenges Small-Scale Fisheries (SSFs <20m, boots on the deck ownership)¹ were the focus of multiple side events, Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE) and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) hosted two. SSF may be small in scale but they are big in value. Although

the tangible economic values from SSF are 20% of industrial fisheries, they provide a direct livelihood for 92 million people living in thousands of rural coastal communities, and the intangible values, the cultural ecosystem services, vastly exceed the tangible values. The UN-SSF Guidelines support marine States to protect SSF through exclusive access zones. States like Indonesia are protecting 80% of their total TAC for local SSFs. Chile is using large MPAs to protect SSFs from corporate, foreign and industrial scale fisheries. Unfortunately, not all States are inclusive or supportive of SSF, Canada included.

Another side events attended focused on a global "Call to Action" to protect our SSF. From the discussion it was clear that the issues facing SSFs are global, corporate, foreign and industrial scale fisheries are pushing SSFs out, local harvester knowledge is generally being ignored in the work to protect our ocean, in many instances small-scale harvesters are being vilified. We heard from SSF from Africa that their governments are closing local fishing areas to bring in MPAs and hiring enforcement agents to shoot at them to keep them out. For the ocean and those that make a living on it, it is imperative that we find a way to use SSF knowledge to drive durable ocean decision making.

Terra Madre in Turin – Sept 2022

"The law establishing the commons was unwritten, not because people did not care to write it down, but because what it protected was a reality much too complex to fit into paragraphs" - Ivan Illich.

Terra Madre is all about local food, a culinary extravaganza for the Slow Food and Slow Fish community, and protecting our commons for local food. The passion here for sharing local food is contagious! Terra Madre's return after Covid focused

on our regenerative journey, of same mind and same body, strengthening the bonds between people, ecosystems and our food. Protecting the commons, both on land and at sea, was a central part of the discussion. The threats were common: privatization, corporatization, monetization, and dislocation of local peoples the commons, on land and on the sea, was clear and disturbing. Having 40,000 people come together speaking so passionately about sharing local food was truly inspiring.



Carlo Petrini founder of Slow Food sharing sockeye salmon with the Slow Fish crowd.

COP15 Biodiversity in Montreal – December 2022

Next to our ocean biodiversity is the most valuable attribute on our planet, protecting this is an imperative. The world met in Montreal, Canada from December 7-19th to agree on a global framework to protect and restore biodiversity. The K-M Global Biodiversity Framework agreed to in Montreal has the potential to transform our relationship with nature. From the SSF Panel that Jim chaired, it was clear that harvesters are generally strong supporters of the 4 goals and 23 targets, but are concerned that Target 3 – the 30 by 30 target. Experience for many indigenous and local communities, including most SSF communities, MPAs remains an exclusionary and top-down practice that pits people against nature, rather than supports solutions that benefit people and nature alike. Rather Target 1 – collaborative integrated management – speaks more to what SSF communities need.

1) SSFs generally <20m also include artisanal <15m, and subsistence fisheries <10m, all boots on the deck ownership



IMPAC5 in Vancouver – Feb 2023

Three local First Nations, Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh, jointly hosted this conference, welcoming delegates throughout, and sent us off with full hearts. On MPAs “It is a mistake to do *to* people, or *for* people, we need to do it *with* people” UK Minister of Environment. Of all the events attended over the last year, this clearly had fisheries in the crosshairs, unfortunately most do not distinguish industrial scale from small scale fisheries. Some of the highlights include what small scale fishers are doing with MPAs in Chile and France – they are using MPAs to protect local SSF areas from corporate, industrial and foreign fleets. And they are doing this through agreements with their national governments. Truly inspiring.



Fisheries for Community Gathering 3.0 – Feb 2023

Over the last year DFO-Pacific Region's interest in FOPO's 20 recommendations has stalled. With Ecotrust we co-hosted the Fisheries for Community (FFC) Gathering in Victoria to reinvigorate interest and hopefully government action. The overarching goal of the FOPO recommendations is to protect fisheries access for harvesters and local communities, so future generations continue to benefit. Over 150 people attended to make this the most successful FFC Gathering yet. Unique for this Gathering, senior DFO presented on their progress on the FOPO recommendations (unimpressive), senior BC-LWRS presented on their new interest in marine, including the important role they see for local fisheries (great direction), and Coastal First Nations spoke passionately on their place as fishing peoples and our shared goal to protect fisheries ownership for local access (impressive support). Active harvesters spoke passionately about keeping fisheries value local, "the only way to do this is through owner operator". A highlight was a seafood extravaganza with 5 local chefs and Cory Evans as the keynote speaker – not making more progress on this file while he was Minister is his one regret. He desperately wants to fix this, so do we.



Other ED Highlights for 2021

Covid Active Fishermen's Committee

- After another 10 meetings in 2022 we wrapping up activities in August
- Supporting salmon harvesters on response to PSSI, research legal options

Reconciliation

- DFO-HQ & PR fisheries reconciliation meetings
- OKRs – looking for regular EDIM reminders

Research initiatives

- [Thinking big about small scale fisheries](#) - published
- Science Industry Research Collaborative – published [Chasing Fairies](#) paper
- Getting to owner-operator in west coast fisheries - with E Pinkerton
- [California Current Climate Vulnerability Report](#) - BC and Pacific coast
- OceanCanada: Pathways to Sustainability in a Sea of Change - book at publisher

Food system work

- Closing the Supply Gap – Distribution Capacity Project
- Good food network – Building Abundance and Currencies for Resilience [Progress report](#)
- Terra Madre – Slow Fish Report (ask Jim for copy)

Marine planning

- NSB MPA Network – management measures removed from Network Action Plan (NAP) limiting public consultations, NAP endorsed at IMPAC5, fisheries management conflict unresolved
- MaPP – CC/HG/NVI/NC ongoing
- NVI - Fisheries Economy Workshop Recommendations ongoing

FOPO select industry committee

- Track progress on FOPO recommendations (stalled by DFO-PR)
- Pressure DFO to address deficiencies found in Gardner Report
- Support Cost and Earnings Survey
- Keep pressure on for Beneficial ownership survey details
- Seeking copy of license and quota registry report
- Promote OO license reform proposal

CITIZENS OF THE SEA

800 million people around the globe derive their livelihoods from small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. Small-scale actors produce most of the fish supply for human consumption, providing a high diversity of species to support healthy diets, and offering communities resilience in the face of climate change and market fluctuations. Women make up almost half of the total workforce in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture; leaders need to make sure that small-scale actors - including women and vulnerable groups - are included in decision making related to these marine resources.

This exhibition celebrates the importance of sustainable small-scale actors for our food systems, livelihoods, culture and the marine environment. Small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers hold enormous potential to promote transformative changes in how, by whom and for whom fish and fishery fish, shellfish, seaweed and other such products are produced - with positive ripple effects felt throughout the global food system and our sea. The exhibition was also set up for the United Nations Oceans Conference in Lisbon, to reach decision makers, funding agencies and ocean focussed organisations to support UN intergovernmental processes on sustainable development.

*Photos by Carlo Giunferro / WWF Mediterranean / Blue Planet
The photos were taken in:
Egadi Islands Marine Protected Area (Italy), Fisheries Reserve of Cap Zouk (France),
Marine National Park of Zakynthos (Greece) and Zselécső Natural Park (Croatia).*

*The exhibition is produced with the support
from the Aquatic/Fish Food Coalition*

