

July 9, 2025

Re: Treaty Rights and Obligations When Harvesting in Maa-nulth Domestic Fishing Area

On Sunday, July 6, 2025, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) seized a Huu-ay-aht Citizen's fishing gear and catch due to an alleged violation of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations *Resources Harvesting Act* and *Fisheries Regulation*.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations has harvesting rights that are recognized under the Maa-nulth Treaty. Huu-ay-aht law regulates how Huu-ay-aht citizens may exercise those rights. Huu-ay-aht citizens are responsible to obtain a harvest card, follow fishing regulations, and report their harvesting.

Huu-ay-aht works cooperatively with DFO to ensure education and compliance of treaty harvesting rights and co-management of harvesting those related to fish and aquatic plants.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations want to remind citizens that, in order to exercise treaty rights to harvest fish and aquatic plants under the Treaty, all citizens are required to:

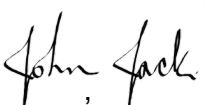
1. **Apply for and obtain a Huu-ay-aht Harvesting Licence and Flag.**
2. **Read** the document titled *Maa-nulth Reporting: Harvest of Fish, Wildlife, and Migratory Birds*.
3. **Obtain permit and designation** when fishing high-capacity gear such as gillnet and sein.
4. **Have copies of the appropriate reporting forms** on hand to complete and report all catch to the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Lands and Natural Resources (LNR) Department following any harvest within one week.

Failure to meet these requirements may affect Huu-ay-aht's compliance with its treaty obligations and could affect citizens' harvesting rights and result in fines or other penalties to citizens.

Huu-ay-aht takes seriously its obligation under the Treaty and to protect Treaty harvesting rights and steward resources for the benefit of its citizens. We encourage all citizens to ensure they are properly equipped and informed before engaging in harvesting activities within the Maa-nulth Domestic Fishing Area.

For questions, please contact Amanda-Lee Cunningham, Communications Manager at amanda.c@huuayaht.org or 250-720-7776.

For support on obtaining the required materials to harvest, please contact Amelia Vos, Natural Resources Manager, at amelia.v@huuayaht.org or 250-728-3414.



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Chief Councillor



Thlut'as aksup, Theresa Nookemus
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