

# HAIDA LAAS

Journal of the Haida Nation



## K'aaw Operators will defy DFO to harvest on Haida Gwaii

At the CHN 4th Quarterly meeting, it was brought to attention that Haida "J" Licence Holders are faced with very little options regarding where they are going to harvest their K'aaw (roe-on-kelp) this year. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has ordered that all of Haida Gwaii be shut down for all herring fisheries this year and they are suggesting that the Haida operators seek permission from the coast mainland tribes to harvest their quotas in their territories.

The Council of the Haida Nation has carefully reviewed available DFO technical information and has stated that they will

support a limited "J" licence fishery for Haida operators for 1995 with a foremost priority on conservation. This is also the position of the Skidegate Band Council and the Haida operators who are prepared to voluntarily reduce their quotas and the number of closed ponds in the interests of conservation so they can stay in Haida Gwaii waters.. The other option is to harvest on the mainland and pay a fee of half of the profit plus a loss of jobs for all employees except the licence holder.

The CHN's fishing plan for Haida spawn-on-kelp  
(cont.pg.2)

## Haida Government - You Decide

Once again, Haida citizens from all over will be gathering in Old Massett the fourth week of January to keep the wheels of "Haida Government" going forward. The First Annual General Meeting of the Council of the Haida Nation was held December 6, 1974, and in 1981, it was referred to as the Annual House of Assembly. In 1977, the Constitution of the Haida Nation was adopted and laid out the basis for these annual meetings to be an integral part of our Haida government. According to the Constitution, Article III, "The National Government of the Haida People consists of the House of Assembly and the Council of the Haida Nation." The House of Assembly has been vested with the Legislative Power of the Haida Nation and the CHN has been

(cont.pg.3)

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wishing each of you clear vision and strength as we begin what promises to be a very challenging and productive year.

The agenda of the Council of the Haida Nation (CHN) for 1995 will be dominated by preparations for Treaty Negotiations; our main challenge will be to get Haida people more fully involved in discussing and making the important decisions ahead of us. We must fully utilize the system within the CHN to ensure that each Haida citizen feels he/she has a fair opportunity to participate in and be represented in the deliberations of the CHN.

The CHN was established to resolve the land dispute over Haida Gwaii. We realized early on that we must have an acceptable process in place to accomplish this. Now it is upon us and we must all put in the effort necessary to achieve a successful agreement.

A very important forum to discuss this and other issues is our annual House of Assembly. This year it will be hosted by Old Massett with a theme of "Haida Government". We must all get involved in this discussion; make every effort to attend this House of Assembly... if you cannot

possibly make it, ensure that someone is there representing your point of view. These issues and choices are too important to leave to others.

Building upon modern Haida government, strengthening accountability to our own people, is essential to resolving the land question over Haida Gwaii. As we regain rightful control over our lands, seas and natural resources, and over our affairs as a people, we must have a system for making and implementing decisions as a people, which is fair and just to all. Our institutions of Haida government and those serving in them, must be accountable first and foremost to the Haida people.

If we are going to establish a strong and lasting system of modern Haida government then the people who authorize it must have trust in it. Therefore, you must be involved in designing and building it. I look forward to this debate at the House of Assembly and in the months and years ahead.

Wishing you all good health and happiness as we face the enormous challenges ahead.

Miles G. Richardson

K'aaw (fr.pg.1)

operators (Addendum to the CHN 1995 K'aaw Management Plan), proposed to DFO in December, which adequately addresses conservation issues incorporates: 1. **Reduced herring use** - a maximum of 8 closed ponds will be used by the 8 Haida operators in 1995 compared to approximately 13 closed ponds by 12 operators in 1994. This is a 38% reduction of herring impoundment. Herring use is estimated to be approximately 360 tons. This is a conservative estimate of herring use since success at open ponding can potentially reduce herring use. 2. **Low impact on local stocks** - the fishery will be spread throughout the management area with closed ponds to be sited near concentrations of herring at Louscoone Inlet, Skincuttle Inlet, Juan Perez Sound and Selwyn Inlet. The maximum number in any area will be determined in consultation with DFO. 3. **Careful monitoring** - Haida Fisheries Guardians will patrol the fishing grounds and monitor herring input, mortality and releases at closed ponds.

At press time there was still a lot of uncertainty as to whether the K'aaw Fishery will operate on Haida Gwaii or not. The Council of the Haida Nation and the licence holders are working hard to accommodate a 1995 K'aaw operation on Haida Gwaii.

" THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF THE HAIDA LAAS NEWSLETTER IS THE DISSEMINATION OF QUALITY INFORMATION THAT IS ACCURATE,ISSUE ORIENTED AND REFLECTS HAIDA LIFE AND CHANGES."



## Haida Govt. (fr.pg.1)

vested with the Governing Power.

When the Constitution says that the House of Assembly has the Legislative Power of the nation, it means that you, the people, create the laws of our nation through the House of Assembly. The Constitution states: *Article XII, S.3* "Any Haida Citizen may propose policy legislation and vote to determine whether or not it is adopted." The House also gives direction to the Council of the Haida Nation to pursue and take action on issues by form of Resolutions that are passed at the House. For instance, in 1994 the House passed Resolution 94-01-05-Haida Language Conference, which reads as follows: "WHEREAS Article VI Section 2 of the Constitution of the Haida Nation states that the Council will perpetuate Haida heritage and cultural identity; and ...WHEREAS the Haida Language may be in danger of extinction; ... BE IT RESOLVED that the 1994 House of Assembly directs the Council of the Haida Nation to organize a Haida Language Conference in 1994 in cooperation with the Village Councils and develop strategies to revitalize the Haida Language". The Council of the Haida Nation then proceeded to act upon that resolution by scheduling and implementing a Haida language Conference in

1994. The results of that conference culminated into further "workshops" on the Haida Language and the formation of a committee. Now it seems that more plans are in the works for the Haida Language and more importantly, more people are participating in this very crucial undertaking. The point of the matter is that the people called for action on the Haida language through the House of Assembly and the Council of the Haida Nation acted as directed. This is one example of how the people give direction to the CHN through the House of Assembly.

Other avenues for input into Haida Government for the people is the CHN Quarterly Meetings and Haida Laas. The Haida Constitution states: *Article XII S.3* "Any Haida Citizen may attend and participate in Council meetings subject to the Council rules of order." CHN Quarterly meetings are usually held in February, May, September and December and CHN Committee meetings are held year round. You are encouraged to attend any and all meetings which are well advertised in Haida Laas and Village Newsletters. Your participation is essential for good government. Through Haida Laas, there is the opportunity to share your ideas and concerns and be aware of the activities of the Council and the rest of the nation. Letters to

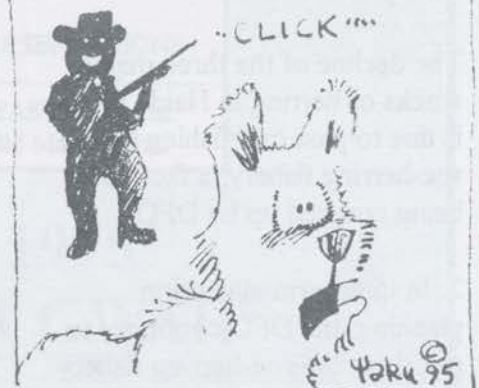
Haida Laas are openly invited as

well as feature articles from those who wish to contribute. The mission statement of Haida Laas is: "The primary function of the Haida Laas Newsletter is the dissemination of quality information that is accurate, issue oriented and reflects Haida life and changes". Any writings that you submit must basically conform to the above statement.

The Council of the Haida Nation invites your participation and wants you to be involved in "Nation Building". Haida Government must be defined by you, the Haida people. Whether it be through the House of Assembly, Quarterly meetings, Committee meetings or Haida Laas; We Welcome Your Input.

**DID YOU  
KNOW THAT ?**

**620 BLACK BEARS  
WERE KILLED IN THE  
PAST TEN YEARS  
ON HAIDA G'WAI?**





*PRESS RELEASE*

## **Haida Roe-on-Kelp Operators outraged over continued DFO mis-management of Haida Gwaii herring stocks**

1. The DFO is attempting to manage the Haida Gwaii herring stocks without listening to Haida traditional knowledge; the herring of Haida Gwaii are made up of many more discreet stocks than the overly simplified management model now used by DFO. Thus three of the larger herring stocks have been overfished by the roe-herring fishery. Some small stocks (Port Louie and Cumshewa Inlet) have been devastated. Other discreet stocks (Selwyn Inlet) have recently only been used for test fishing and have more than enough herring to sustain the low-yield Haida roe-on-kelp fishery in 1995. On January 9, the DFO suddenly announced that it intends to close even the Haida roe-on-kelp fishery in 1995.

The decline of the three major stocks of herring in Haida Gwaii is due to past overfishing by the roe-herring fishery, a fact now being covered up by DFO.

2. In long-term allocation planning, the DFO continues to prioritize the roe-herring fishery.

This is because the roe-herring fishery has a large corporate component (major players are Jimmy Pattison and Galen eston) who continue to lobby DFO.

3. The roe-herring fishery has 100% mortality. The roe-on-kelp fishery has 10% mortality. Higher mortality which occurred in one year only in the roe-on-kelp fishery is being used as reason to close the fishery in 1995. The real reason is pressure from the corporate lobby, which seeks to reduce the roe-on-kelp fishery to make way for larger roe-herring quotas.

4. Thus the roe-on-kelp operators wish to work with sportsfishing, environmental, and other public groups to bring the corporate roe-herring fishery under control. In the areas where the roe-herring fishery is displacing the community roe-on-kelp fisheries, it must no longer be allowed to operate. As the roe-on-kelp fishery is the most conservation oriented fishery for herring, it must have priority.

5. The DFO must also move away from the dictatorial management to real co-management of the herring stocks. The present DFO system is controlled by the corporations, and is insulting to our families and our community. The Haida roe-on-kelp operators ask those in the media to visit the islands, or interview us by phone to hear the real story.

***THE HAIDA ROE-ON-KELP OPERATORS ARE DETERMINED THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION OF DEPLETION OF THE THREE MAJOR STOCKS OF HAIDA GWAI HERRING MUST NEVER BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN AGAIN.***

Please call the Haida Roe-On-Kelp Operators of Haida Gwaii for more information:  
(604) 559-4514  
Skidegate, Haida Gwaii



# 1995 HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

## *"HAIDA GOVERNMENT"*



### PROPOSED AGENDA

DAY I (In Camera)	DAY II (In Camera)	DAY III Open to All
9:30 a.m. Start	9:30 a.m. Start	9:30 a.m. Start
HOUSE APPOINTMENTS	HAIDA GOVERNMENT	RESOLUTIONS
Lunch Sale	Lunch Sale	Lunch Sale
CHN REPORTING	SOCIAL ISSUES	GUEST
4:00 p.m. Open Mike	4:00 p.m. Open Mike	PRESENTATIONS
TBA	95' Election: (tent.eve.) Meet the Candidates	FEAST: 6:00 p.m. Old Massett Hall

**January 26, 27 & 28, 1995**  
**OLD MASSETT, HAIDA GWAI**



## **CHN ELECTIONS**

The Council of the Haida Nation has suggested the day of February 25, 1995, as the day the polls will open to elect a President (2 year term), Vice President (2 year term) and Representatives (1 year term) to the Council of the Haida Nation. Polls will be open in Old Massett, Skidegate, Prince Rupert and Vancouver from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m..

Nominations, which are now open, will close at 4:00 p.m. Friday, January 27, at the House of Assembly. Nomination forms are available at both CHN offices in Old Massett and Skidegate. A Chief Electoral Officer will be appointed at the House of Assembly, at which time, he/she will collect all nomination forms. Advanced

polling will occur on February 18 in all regions. In order to vote, or run for office, you must be a Haida citizen and 16 years of age as of the date of the election. Day II of the House of Assembly has been tentatively scheduled for a "Meet the Candidates" and "Tree Stump Speeches" in the evening following the day's activities.

## **All Haida Trapline Holders and Trappers**

There will be a trappers education course offered in Old Massett at the Ed Jones Museum. This is the new mandatory course that every trapper must take to be able to trap and sell furs in Canada.

As professionals, all trappers have a responsibility to ensure that they are trained

in the use of the most humane trap systems available, that fur bearers are managed wisely and that the pelts are properly prepared.

This course is a first step in the rehabilitation of Haida traplines. All that is required is your attendance. This course is free of charge and is open to all Haida citizens.

### Course Dates:

January 23 - 27, 1995.

### Start Time:

9:00 a.m. each day.

### Location:

Ed Jones Museum, Old Massett, Haida Gwaii.

For more information, please contact:

Ralph Stocker at 626-5494 or 626-3519.

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Sale ends January 21/95 at 6:00 pm.  
Happy new Year from Jack & Sharleen

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# HAIDA LAAS

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Treaty Negotiations  
Friday, January 20, 1995  
Old Massett  
9:30 am

1995 All Native Tournament  
February 6 - 11, 1995  
Prince Rupert, B.C.

House of Assembly Prep  
January 25, 1995  
CHN Massett Office  
10:00 am

Haida Nation 1995  
House of Assembly  
January 26, 27 & 28, 1995  
Old Massett Community Hall  
9:30 am daily

## PASSAGES

### MEMORIAL STONE MOVING & MEMORIAL FEAST

To Honor the Late  
*Wilfred J. Brown*  
of the Massett Eagle Clan.

FEBRUARY 6, 1995.

The Stone Moving Ceremony will begin to proceed to the Cemetery at 3:30 p.m. at 501 8th Ave. West, Prince Rupert, B.C..

The Memorial Feast will be at the Fisherman's Hall at 6:00 p.m.

The family invites all friends and relatives to attend.

## Haida Laas Subscriptions:

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**Gilbert Parnell, Communications Director**  
**Council of the Haida Nation**  
**Box 98, Skidegate, Haida Gwaii. V0T 1S1**  
**PH: (604)559-4468 Fx: (604)559-8951**

If you are not Haida, but would like to subscribe, please send a donation of \$35.00 (cdn) payable to:

**Haida Tribal Society**  
**Box 589, Massett, Haida Gwaii. V0T 1M0**



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