



100 Ouwatin Rd.
Box 459
Gold River, B.C. V0P 1G0

Phone: (250) 283-2015
Fax: (250) 283-2335
Website: www.yuquot.ca

Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation

MEDIA RELEASE

On this Day of August 7, 2018- The Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation (hereafter MMFN) is issuing a statement with respect to a recent incident in Nootka Sound as reported by the Ha-Shilth-Sa newspaper on August 2, 2018, where conflict arose between MMFN fishers and small group of Recreational Fishermen.

In short: On Friday July 29th at around 7:00 pm., the conflict arose between two sectors in the fishing area referred to as Camel Rock, in Nootka Sound within the Mowachaht/Muchalaht Territory. It was between MMFN T'aaq-wiihak fisherman and Recreational vessels resulting in a gillnet anchor being cut by the Recreational Fisher. The gillnet anchor was lost along with 300ft of rope. Following that, tension grew, and words were exchanged between both parties in a later incident. The RCMP is currently investigating both incidents.

In response to several items, MMFN would like to clarify a few points: First MMFN would like to make it clear that there was no boat ramming by MMFN fishers, there was no alcohol consumed by MMFN fishers, and there were no anchor lines cut by MMFN fishers.

“This is an unfortunate and unnecessary incident”, says Tyee Ha'wilt (Chief) Mike Maquinna of the Mowachaht Muchalaht First Nation. “We are a peaceful Nation and our primary concern is that everyone is safe on the waters”. He further stated, “there is an educational piece required here so that Recreational Fisherman understand we have a court proven right to fish anywhere within our Territory.”

In 2009, the BC Supreme Court Ruled that five Nuu-chah-nulth Nations including Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation have an aboriginal right to harvest and sell any species of fish found within their Ha-houthlee (Chiefly Territories). The five Nations collectively took on the name T'aaq-wiihak fisheries which means fishing with permission of the Ha'wiih (Hereditary Chiefs) of the Nations. This ruling gives T'aaq-wiihak priority over the recreational and commercial fisheries.

The Mowachaht/ Muchalaht are a First Nation of approximately 600 persons with 250 residing in Tsaxana, British Columbia, near Gold River. Of those citizens, approximately 20 participate in what is currently a small scale economic fishery called T'aaq-wiihak.

Contact Information:

Kevin Kowalchuk – Administrator, Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation

Ph: (250) 283-2015

Email: admin@yuquot.ca

Kadin Snook – Fisheries Manager, Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation

Ph: (250) 283-2015

Email: fisheries@yuquot.ca