

2010 Coast Salish Gathering
CO-MANAGEMENT OF THE SALISH SEA

PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 26-28

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community



Artist: Darren Blaney

*Embracing
the
Salish Sea*

“Coast Salish are the first people of the Salish Sea and it is our sacred responsibility to protect our culture, treaties, aboriginal rights and the ecosystem of the Salish Sea.”

—Brian Cladoosby, Chairman, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

5th Annual Coast Salish Gathering
Hosted by Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.
La Conner, Washington
September 26th-28th, 2010

September 26, 2010

Greetings Tribal Chairs and Government Representatives,

On behalf of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and the Coast Salish Gathering Steering Committee, we welcome you to the 5th Annual Coast Salish Gathering at the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, La Conner Washington, from September 26-28, 2010. The Gathering is our opportunity for tribal leaders, elders, other tribal representatives as well as representatives from federal, state, and provincial governing agencies to discuss the future of the Salish Sea.

Once again, we come together as Coast Salish to speak with One Voice for the protection of the land and waters of our aboriginal homeland and the preservation of our culture. As brothers and sisters, we will share our culture and concerns for the endangered eco-region, and we will continue our dialogue on the need for strengthened environmental policies and practices in our homelands.

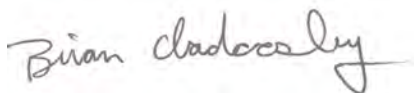
For thousands of years, the Coast Salish, related by languages and bloodlines, and have populated these shorelines and watersheds. Here on the Salish Sea we have coexisted with the rich marine resources and natural resources of the ecosystem. For us, the simple agreement of the governing bodies to see the relationship of the waters as one water body provides hope that we can work together towards a healthy ecosystem. We commend our governing neighbors in the success of bringing our water bodies together under one name, the Salish Sea. The official naming provides an opportunity to support the international effort to share the message of the importance for all governing bodies to recognize the connectivity of the ecosystems and the awareness that pollution doesn't recognize political boundaries. The adoption of the name is a positive move towards future collaboration of policy and science to address issues in an ecosystem that is so vital to the sustainability of all of our life ways. Now, the next step is to move towards a shared responsibility as comanagers of the Salish Sea.

We welcome you to the Gathering and share a friendly reminder that it is important to recognize that the Coast Salish Gathering and Action Plan are neither a form of, nor a substitute for, a government-to-government consultation process, but rather, a culturally appropriate process for an open dialogue to advise policy makers.

We value your participation and believe your voice has contributed to a successful outcome. As leaders, protectors and policy makers, we value your role at the Gathering and will continue to work collaboratively with you on shared issues and concerns within our homeland. We, as Coast Salish People, have a vision, a plan, projects, and a collective voice for the protection of our children's children's future, and we look forward to your continued support and leadership.

The Gathering is an invitation only policy dialogue for leadership therefore you will need to register on our website at www.coastsalishgathering.com. The website will be updated and provide directions, lodging and agenda information. If you need immediate information please email the Gathering Coordinator, Debra Lekanof, at dlekanof@swinomish.nsn.us or phone her at 360-391-5296. See you soon!

Sincerely,



Chairman, Brian Cladoosby, Speepots,
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community



**Coast Salish Gathering
Co Management of the Salish Sea**
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Washington State, USA
September 26–28, 2010
www.coastsalishgathering.com

HOST: Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

LOCATION: La Conner, WA

PARTICIPANTS (INVITED)

Coast Salish British Columbia First Nations, Western Washington Tribes, Chiefs and Chairmen, Senior Leadership, Representatives and technical staff: Environment Canada, US Environmental Protection Agency, related Canadian and United States state, provincial and federal agency representatives, Coast Salish First Nation and Tribal environmental groups and related environmental organizations.

Meeting Objectives:

1. Objective One: Discussion of the Co-management of the Salish Sea Ecosystem by the Coast Salish with federal, state and provincial governments.
 - Coast Salish sacred ancestral responsibility of the Salish Sea from white cap to white cap.
 - Co management by Coast Salish and all governing bodies
 - Elements of Co Management include cultural, political, legal and science
2. Objective Two: Discussion regarding the relationships, models and science needs of the Salish Sea.
 - Strengthen and improve our relationships towards co management
 - Learning from examples of co management of the Salish Sea
 - Science baseline study and need of the inventory on the Salish Sea environment and resources
3. Objective Three: Identifying next steps towards co management
 - Coast Salish responsibility to one another
 - Co management, Consultation and Shared Decision Making
 - Capacity and mechanisms to support on another

**Sunday
September 26, 2010**

1:00 - 2:00 Lunch Reception

2:00 – 4:00 Welcoming: Chairman Brian Cladoosby
1) Opening Prayer: Chief Bill Williams
2) Opening Song: Swinomish Canoe Family
3) Over View of Gathering: Chairman Brian Cladoosby
4) Introductions from Coast Salish Nation and invited guests

4:00 – 6:00 Coast Salish and the Co Management in the Salish Sea?
1) Coast Salish will discuss our sacred responsibility to the Salish Sea and share with ourselves and the governing bodies our commitment to one another as co managers of the Salish Sea.
a) Sacred Responsibility, Values, Relationship to the Environment and Natural Resources
b) Culture-we need to describe how our culture and spirit sets us aside from other governing bodies and groups.
2) Outcome: To gather Coast Salish together to acknowledge and reassume in the eyes of the governing bodies our sacred responsibility as co managers of the Salish Sea and to announce this to the World.
3) Session Tools: Presenter who can speak to the dialogue shared from Sunday and facilitators on the floor to keep the conversation moving along.

7:00 to 8:30 Welcome Dinner at Swinomish Northern Lights Casino

Monday September 27, 2010

7:00 to 8:00 Breakfast

8:00 to 9:00 Welcoming: Chairman Brian Cladoosby

- (1) Opening Prayer: Swinomish Tribe
- (2) Over View of Sunday Discussion: Chairman Brian Cladoosby and Chief Gibby Jacob

9:00 to 10:30 US and Canada federal governments to discuss the obligation to Coast Salish Nations and Tribes to uphold the federal fiduciary to protect resources, human health and assets.

- (1) Discussion:
 - (a) Environment Canada and US Environmental Protection Agency to discuss the shared responsibility of managing the Salish Sea from white caps of the mountains to the white caps of the Salish Sea and opening the dialogue for future steps towards collaboration with all governing bodies to ensure sustainability of this place we all call home, the Salish Sea.
 - (b) Department of Ecology and Ministry of Environment to discuss the role of tribes and nations in decision making for the Salish Sea.
- (2) Outcome: Understanding the role of non tribal federal, state and provincial governing bodies so we may provide knowledge to discuss mechanisms to move forward in the co management of the Salish Sea.
- (3) Session tools Presenter to describe these elements and their roles in a co management responsibility.

10:30 to 10:45 Break

10:45 to 3:00 Panel will be split between 10:45 and 3:00. Describe Models of Co Management and the importance of capacity and consultation in our new role

- (1) Panel Session 1: Two examples of existing federal court agreements with Coast Salish in Salish Sea.
 - (a) 10:45 to 12:00
 - (i) Boldt Decision; Mason Morisset
 - (ii) Supreme Court Ruling on Aboriginal Rights and Title: David Joe

12:00 to 1:00 Lunch: Working Lunch to address several questions posed to the group for discussion later in the afternoon sessions.

- (2) Panel Session 2
 - (a) 1:00 to 3:00 pm
 - (i) BC/Parks Relationship: Leah George Wilson (TBC)
 - (ii) Haida Nation: Guujaaw (TBC)

(3) Session Structures

- (a) Open Floor Discussion for group to discuss with panelists the lessons learned.
- (b) Outcome: Building capacity through information sharing to enhance the knowledge of the governing bodies to explore the co management opportunities of the Salish Sea.
- (c) Session tools: Presenters share examples of co managements and describe the background, purpose and the elements that make their co management models strong and discuss the challenges they overcame to be successful.

3:00 to 3:15 Break

3:15 to 5:00 Leadership discussion to share comments on bridging gaps between all governing bodies and move towards shared decision making.

- 1) Open Floor discussion to be coordinated by the Gathering Speakers Chairman Brian Cladoosby and Chief Gibby Jacob.
 - a) Challenges in the Salish Sea Marine Resources and the Salish Sea Naming: Bert Weber
 - i) Examples of Discussion: Salish Sea Naming Ceremony-Collaboration...what we can do together!
- 2) Outcome: Identifying key recommendations of what we are facing and how we can come together on common grounds.
- 3) Session tools: Discussion will be captured by Advanced Approach and notes will be shared visually through out the Gathering for guidance.

5:00 to 5:30 Review of Day's Events

6:30 to 8:30 Evening Dinner and Activities hosted at the Swinomish Northern Lights Casino, Cabernet Room

**Tuesday
September 28, 2010**

7:00 to 8:00 Breakfast

8:00 to 9:00 Welcoming: Chief Gibby Jacob

- a) Opening Prayer:
- b) Over View of Monday's Discussion and Review of the Agenda: Chairman Brian Cladoosby

9:30 to 12:00 Co Management and Consultation

Panel: Describing consultation and co management relationship and how they compliment shared decision making.

- a) John Hollowed (TBC)
- b) David Joe (Confirmed)
- c) Open Floor discussion with two panelists on the various aspects of shared decision making, consultation and co management.
- d) Outcome: Panel discussion informs leadership of the various aspects of co management and consultation and provides opportunity to identify shared decision making elements.

12:00 to 1:00 Lunch and Keynote

1:00 to 4:00 Open floor discussion to identify next steps for Co Management

- a) Identify co management plan that consists of a goal, objectives, tasks, mile stones, and outcomes.
- b) Identify the challenges for governing bodies to provide capacity in work with Traditional Ecological Science and Western Science.
- c) Leadership to come to consensus to move forward with next steps as Co managers.

4:00 to 5:00 Review of the Day's Discussion and Leadership to provide guidance on next step for Co Management Plan.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF GATHERING

A historic gathering of Coast Salish Leaders and representatives of United States and Canadian Government, and environmental organizations convened at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Community Center. The Gathering brought the British Columbia First Nation Chiefs and the Western Washington Tribal Chairmen and council members of the Salish Sea Region together to express their environmental concerns on problems confronting the long-term sustainability of their culture and the shared eco region that supports their cultural diversity.

Participants met to discuss the protection of the Salish Sea's rich marine diversity and other resources unique to the area that stretches from the Georgia Basin, down through the Puget Sound and the Straits of Juan de Fuca. These diminishing resources are essential to sustaining the cultures, economies and homelands of the tribes in western Washington and First Nations in British Columbia, and are under significant pressure from population growth, industrial expansion and climate change. The Salish Sea Gathering was a Tribal policy dialogue regarding tribal environmental issues, policies and projects in the trans-boundary region. Participants discussed the need to collaborate in determining the impacts and human responses that shape the state of this shared eco-region. The Gathering's objective was to provide government officials with the perspectives of the indigenous people of the region to better inform decision making processes regarding the future of the fragile Salish Sea.

The ongoing collaborative efforts of Tribes and First Nations to protect their diverse eco region is found in the jointly development of the Treaty of Indigenous Peoples International in 1994. This Treaty was an initial step towards the development of the Joint Statement of Cooperation on the Georgia Basin Puget Sound Ecosystem, which was signed January 2000, by the minister of Environment Canada and the administrator of the EPA. The Gathering was a symbolic formalization of the unity of Tribes and First Nations to further strength and sustainability of their homelands.

The Gathering was supported with funding from the Environmental Protection Agency, Environment Canada, Canadian Consulate, the Office of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and the Tribes and First Nations. The efforts of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Tulalip Tribes, and the Coast Salish Initiative to host, coordinate and facilitate this policy dialogue on the cultural and spiritual concerns impacting the Coast Salish People.

The government and municipal representatives were welcomed and asked to share their thoughts, issues and ideas to the congress ion. Many representatives were moved by the Gathering and were able to share knowledge and show commitment to the Georgia Basin Action Plan of "engaging Tribes and First Nations". The monumental testimonies was a time for the non Tribal policy makers to realize how important the environment is incorporated into the Coast Salish life ways and their survival.

The Coast Salish People stretch from north of the Powell River, down through the Georgia Basin and through the waters of the Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The Coast Salish People live their life interdependent with the land, air and water and the resources the ecosystems provide. The protection of the environment is ingrained in their traditions and life ways. Their culture and existence depends on the fish running though the rivers and bays, the shellfish in the tidelands, the deer in the woods, the native plants for their medicine and the noiseless woods for their spiritual places. With out a healthy productive environment, their way of life has no foundation and will cease to exist. The importance of protecting the ecosystems of their homelands is a priority for Tribes and First Nations. If denigration of the environment is allowed to continue,, they risk the loss of their voice, bodies and souls.

The 2005 Gathering brought the Coast Salish Leadership together to discuss their shared environmental concerns and after two days of heart-filled testimony, the assembly of Coast Salish spoke with “One Voice”; the leaders of the Coast Salish resolved to form a list of prioritized environmental concerns and issues, the Coast Salish Inventory of Environmental Concerns. The leadership further extended their commitment to the continuity of protection for their homeland by establishing the Coast Salish Aboriginal Council.

The next step in the process of articulating concerns and implementing protections will be to expand and refine the Coast Salish Inventory of Environmental Concerns (CSIEC). This process will include coordinating with the Tribes and Nation’s environmental leaders to engage their guidance in the refinement of concerns and development of action plans to address the identified issues. The process will include networking through face to face meetings to discuss and critique the CSIEC, sharing their knowledge and project experience, and incorporating traditional ecological knowledge to support the drafting of a unified Coast Salish Environmental Action Plan (CSEAP).

Presently, there are a variety of treaties, environmental action plans and initiatives in the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Region that are supported by either the US governments, Canadian governments and other non-governmental organizations. These plans, programs and initiatives include; the Puget Sound Partnership, EPA and EC Statement of Cooperation, Puget Sound Action Team, and Northwest Straits Commission; Marine Resource Committees, People for Puget Sound, to name a few. But none include comprehensive participation from all 26 Western Washington Tribes. Although most groups have included a Tribal representative to provide an aboriginal voice on their committee, comprehensive tribal representation is limited in the area of policy development for the protection of the ecosystems that are the foundation of their homeland.

COAST SALISH GATHERING

PROLOGUE AND MISSION STATEMENT

Coast Salish Gathering Prologue

We, the indigenous peoples of the Salish Sea, honor and respect our sacred trust to restore, preserve and protect our culture, treaties, aboriginal rights and the land, air and waters of the Salish Sea. Our sacred trust has been given to us from our ancestors and defines our role as protectors of our Mother Earth. We are entrusted with the protection and sustainability of environment and natural resources of our ancestral lands, watersheds, and estuarine waters of the Salish Sea. Our ancestors have passed down the traditional teachings of songs, dances, and spiritual ceremonies that reflect our relationship to the natural world and depict our identity and strengths of our peoples. Over the decades our lands and waters have been severely impacted by pollution that affects our culture, food, health, and economy. Most importantly hurting our elders who have relied on these since the beginning of time and threatening the life ways of our children's future.

We have always defended and protected our ancestral lands and waters, we seek to acknowledge our sacred alliance so we may work together as one proud nation. Our elders, leaders and community members have given us a strong message that our homelands and waters need to be protected, preserved and restored for future generations. With our commitment to our Sacred Trust, we will work together with the six governing bodies of the Salish Sea to overcome the environmental challenges to our shared homelands.

Coast Salish Gathering Mission Statement

We, the indigenous peoples of the Salish Sea, our autonomous status as sovereign Coast Salish Tribes and First Nations and our inherent responsibility as protectors of our Mother Earth, will continue to work together and speak with One Voice for the preservation, restoration, and protection of the Salish Sea Eco Region for the sustainability of our sacred inherent family rights and values that have been passed on to us by our ancestors.

COAST SALISH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

Outcome: To conserve and restore the Salish Sea ecosystem to a level that ensures the sustainability of the Coast Salish People and our cultural life ways.

- Coast Salish Priorities: Adequate clean air, water and land to sustain and protect the health of our Coast Salish People.
 - Traditional Foods ~ Toxics and Depletion
 - Adequate terrestrial resources to sustain the diet, ceremonial, medicinal and cultural crafts of our Coast Salish People.
 - Water ~ Quality and Quantity
 - Adequate marine resources to sustain the spiritual, subsistence, and economic endeavors of our aboriginal Coast Clean water quality to sustain the Coast Salish communities of the Salish Sea
 - Clean water quantity for the present and future Coast Salish communities of the Salish Sea.
 - Climate Change Impacts and Planning for Coast Salish Communities
 - Adequate planning Salish communities of the Salish Sea and support to address the impacts of climate change in the Coast Salish communities.
- Coast Salish Actions:
 - Governance/Policy Actions
 - Equality in the shared roles for the Federal, State, Provincial and Coast Salish Tribes in the planning, implementation and management of Salish Sea eco region restoration and protection efforts.
 - The incorporation of traditional ecological knowledge in the restoration, implementation and management of the Salish Sea eco region.
 - The incorporation of climate change variables as critical factors in the planning of conservation and restoration efforts in the Salish Sea eco region.
 - Ecosystem Priorities
 - An adequate supply of riparian waters Salish Sea of a quality sufficient to maintain a healthy functioning estuarine ecosystem habitat.
 - Reduction of toxic depositions in Salish Sea to a level that supports a healthy functioning ecosystem.
 - Restoration and conservation of adequate marine and near-shore habitat to support Coast Salish goals for the Salish Sea.
 - Technical Priorities (examples)
 - Reduction to elimination on non-essential hard-armoring of the Salish Sea shoreline.
 - Adequate buffers and storm-water management practices to improve water quality in riparian systems.
 - Adequate in-stream flows to provide sufficient fresh water to maintain the estuarine character of the Salish Sea.
 - Eradication of invasive species that damage the Salish Sea ecosystem.

- Adequate funding to address and plan for Climate Change impacts in the Salish Sea Eco Region.
- Ample funding to support environmental program and project capacity (policy and science) building for the long-term sustainability of Coast Salish Tribes and First Nations.

COAST SALISH GATHERING INFORMATION SHARING

A. Coast Salish Gathering Website and Newsletter:

A collaborative effort based coordinated by the Coast Salish Gathering to support a website based information sharing program with between Coast Salish Tribes and First Nations. The Coast Salish leadership has joined forces to begin the process of gathering information on all Coast Salish environmental projects, issues, and actions that have been or are being developed and implemented throughout the Salish Sea Eco Region.

B. Water Quality Information Gathering Project

A collaborative effort coordinated by the Coast Salish Gathering to support and develop a water quality gathering project by the Coast Salish Tribes and First Nations. The Coast Salish leadership has joined forces to begin a unique process of gathering and sharing water quality information from the Salish Sea.

The Annual Canoe Journey is a traditional gathering of Coast Salish peoples, who travel through the water ways of the Salish Sea. The project proposes to collaborate with several canoe participants and request their permission to equip the canoes with water quality gathering tools and staff. The purpose is to gathering water quality information throughout the Salish Sea: from the waters of Bella Coola, British Columbia, through the Straits of Juan DeFuca and Puget Sound.

The outcome of the Water Quality Information Gathering Project will be an extensive gathering of water quality information that can be shared between the Coast Salish Tribes and First Nations. The long term objective will be to establish an annual collaboration with the Annual Canoe Journey to collect and provide water quality information through out the Salish Sea.

C. Coast Salish Atlas

The project is to create an atlas that encourages appreciation of the Coast Salish view of “Who we are and where we come from.” This CSG Atlas will serve as an historical and present-day record documenting key cultural and ecological transformations for the 66 tribes of the Coast Salish region, whose traditional paths follow the watershed borders of the Salish Sea Ecosystem. Their cultural and indigenous lifeways stretch from the mountains to the water, from the waters of Powell River, down through Vancouver, Frasier River, north and south Puget Sound and and to the shores of the Washington Coast. The atlas will be similar in concept to the Sto:lo - Coast Salish Historical Atlas published in 2011.

HISTORY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS: COAST SALISH GATHERING

- History of accomplishments:
 - Four Annual Coast Salish Gatherings with an increase attendance rate each year from 90-350.
 - Annual Support and Acknowledgement from six governing bodies; Coast Salish Western Washington Tribes, British Columbia First Nations, Environment Canada, and US Environmental Protection Agency
 - Annual Support and Collaboration for Non Governmental Organizations
 - Northwest Straits Commission
 - Potlatch Fund
 - Georgia Strait Alliance
 - Harvard Honoring Nations
 - Northwest Indian College
 - Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council
- Coast Salish Gathering Environmental Inventory of Concerns Accomplishments
 - Coast Salish Gathering Environmental Action Plan
 - Tribal Journey Water Quality Project
 - Salish Sea Naming
 - Coast Salish Atlas
 - Health of the Salish Sea Interactive Information Sharing Tool
 - Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference
- Partnerships
 - Federal: EPA, Environment Canada, USGS, INAC
 - State and Provincial: Ministry of Environment, Department of Ecology
- Awards
 - US Department of Interior, Conservation Honor and Award
 - Finalists for the Harvard Honoring Nation's Excellence in Governance Award

**COAST SALISH GATHERING PROCEEDINGS
SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES**

2005 Gathering

Rekindling Relationship for Coast Salish Governance

Establish Environmental Policy Platform and Dialogue for Coast Salish Governments and Federal, State and Provincial Governments of the Salish Sea.

The Gathering was attended by key environmental agency officials and generated a commitment to continue the dialogue and seek additional opportunities to include traditional ecological knowledge in their planning and management activities .

Established the largest environmental policy dialogue in the Northwest with over 66 Coast Salish Governments with federal, state and provincial governments.

Developed a relationship with Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council based on common concerns; to restore and protect the watershed for seven generations and beyond.

2007 Gathering

Partnership of the Salish Sea Government solidifying the commitment to protecting the Salish Sea Eco Region./

Policy Dialogue and Recommendations to enhance the transboundary agreements that address the environment of the Salish Sea.

Agreements:

Tribal: Treaty of Indigenous People International and Declaration of Xwe-nal-mewx

Federal: EPA and Environment Canada Joint Statement of Cooperation, Georgia Basin Action Plan, and Pacific Salmon Commission

State: Puget Sound Partnership, British Columbia and Washington State Environmental Cooperation Council.

2008 Gathering

Established the Coast Salish prologue, mission and shared with the Salish Sea governing bodies a unified voice and process of addressing policy actions and science collaboration in the Salish Sea.

Established a vigorous environmental action plan focused on a the protection of the shared ecosystems and related activities that will sustain the policy capacity of the Coast Salish and be used by the various action team under the Coast Salish Agreements shared in 2007 Gathering.

Established a new partner, Department of Interior US Geological Survey to conduct one of the largest marine water quality project in the Pacific Northwest and the relationship would help build the science capacity of the Coast Salish Nations to address policy in the shared ecosystem.

2009 Gathering

Conducted a leadership workshop to conduct a SWOT analysis for short and long term actions that would provide guidance to manage the Gathering policy actions, science collaboration and communication outreach.

Conducted a scientific and policy review and dialogue on the Health of the Salish Sea and established shared actions that would update and incorporate policy, science and cultural activities under the Coast Salish Action Plan priorities.

**COAST SALISH GATHERING PROCEEDINGS
2005 GATHERING**

Host: Jamestown S’Klallum

Participants: 175

Purpose: The Coastal Salish Gathering in 2005 rekindled the relationship of the leadership and used traditional protocols of our ancestors. For two days we met with our brothers and sisters to discuss the environmental policies for the long-term sustainability of our cultures and our homelands.

We, the aboriginal leadership at this important time in history, recognize this gathering as a forum of Tribes and First Nations of the Salish Sea Region that will explore issues, set directions and solidify our purpose in one voice,

“To develop and recommend policies and actions to protect our Salish Sea homeland.”

Outcome: Our role as a leader/ policy maker at the conference was to collaborate with those around you, and as leaders, identify environmental issues establish policy and make recommendations that will generate long-term actions to protect our homeland. We then invited our Washington and British Columbia government officials to listen, respect, and respond to our environmental issues, decisions and recommended polices.

We were heard as a collaborative voice in one room. We called on knowledgeable leaders to initiate the discussions, but the floor was always be open for the many voices who gathered on these two days. This was our time to set policy together; this is the time to strengthen our voice as One.

Protecting Our Place with One Voice



Coast Salish Gathering Proceedings 2007 Gathering

Host: Cowichan Tribes and Hul 'qui'ni'num Treaty Group
Participants: 240

Purpose: The Coastal Salish Gathering in 2007 provided opportunity for leaders and government officials to review the existing transboundary governmental agreements that provided policy and protection within Salish Sea. The purpose of the review was to identify the positive initiatives, shortfalls and gaps in policy and regulations and identify new inclusions of tribal participation in these partnership efforts.

Outcome: The Gathering acknowledged the agreement and rather than change the agreements the leadership initiated a Coast Salish umbrella agreement that would mandate our shared participation to be "Together for the Salish Sea". The action was a Partnership Signing Ceremony that solidifying the commitment to protecting the Salish Sea Eco Region. The proceeding provided an opportunity to strengthen and improve our relationships and to discuss the importance of shared policy development between all government entities. We identified the Coast Salish environmental issues and common actions from existing policies and development of a Salish Sea Action Plan that will protect the Salish Sea Eco Region.



Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow



Coast Salish Gathering Proceedings 2008 Gathering

Host: Tulalip Tribes, Washington State

Participants: 350

Purpose: The Coast Salish Gathering in 2008 provided an opportunity for leaders to adopt the Gathering's prologue, mission statement and CSG Action Plan that would identify the priorities, actions and science efforts to guide us in an umbrella effort to address the governmental policy and science in the Salish Sea Ecosystem.

Outcome: The Gathering successfully adopted the Action Plan and partnered with the USGS and Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council to support one of the largest marine water quality projects in the Pacific Northwest. Two initiatives strengthened the policy capacity for the Coast Salish to address the trans boundary policy and regulations in the shared ecosystem by building science and governmental action partnerships. The third success was the adoption of the prologue and mission statement with the direction to participate in a gathering leadership work session in 2009 for the purpose of conducting a SWOT analysis. Our final success was the integration of the Coast Salish in to the Puget Sound Georgia Basin Ecosystem Conference. The past three years of the Coast Salish has been to build our relationship to the science and policy governing bodies and engage in the development and implementation of one of the largest transboundary information sharing conferences in the Northwest. We were able to share our united voice in a policy recommendations that included the importance of protecting our eco region for the sustainability of our human health and life ways.

Our Way

