

June 26, 2020

Hereditary Chiefs, Chief and Council,  
Nuxalk First Nation  
By email: [nuxalkmc@protonmail.com](mailto:nuxalkmc@protonmail.com)  
[chiefcouncil@nuxalknation.ca](mailto:chiefcouncil@nuxalknation.ca)  
[admin.director@nuxalk.ca](mailto:admin.director@nuxalk.ca)

Dear Hereditary Chiefs, Chief and Council,

After this morning's meeting I was wondering if we can come to a common position to take to DFO regarding enforcement.

It is clear to me that they believe they lack the authority to enforce the Whiskey Point to Coffee Creek line (Community Quarantine Boundary) when it is not during a fishery opening.

The issue always has been how to enforce the Community Quarantine Boundary between openings.

I really think that if the Harbour Authority can post a sign at the foot of each finger saying that the 'Harbour is closed to non-residents and No Trespassers' then the RCMP can enforce that notification. In the meeting, the RCMP stated that they can do this.

We agree that it should not be the job of the Harbour Authority employees to enforce the Small Craft Harbour closure, but if they had 24 hour coverage by three employees, then they could alert the RCMP if a gillnetter entered the Small Craft Harbour area.

To do this would require that DFO come up with funds to reimburse the costs of the 'Harbour Closed to Non-Residents No Trespassing', sign(s) and to fund the Bella Coola Harbour Authority with enough money to employ the necessary people for 24 hour surveillance during the fishing season. This should not be an issue as Small Craft Harbours are part of DFO.

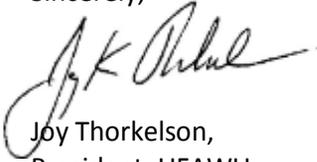
If there is an emergency that requires contact with the Harbour, then permission to land should be sought by the gillnetter with the understanding that the nature of the emergency be communicated to the Harbour Authority. The COVID-19 Fishermen's Protocols endorsed by the Province and Worksafe require a fisherman to contact the local health authority and the Canadian Coast Guard for instructions if a fisherman needs assistance for illness or injury.

We would be sure that every fisherman has a copy of the Safety Plan for Area 8. Canadian Fishing Company has now translated it into Vietnamese to hand out to those who can't read English easily.

I think that this will be enough to deter any gillnetter from approaching Bella Coola Harbour. Fishermen want to earn a living and we agree, to do this safely – for the community of Bella Coola and the Nuxalk Nation - the Safety Plan must be enforceable and no one should be tying up at the Bella Coola floats.

Can we work together to seek the funding for the extra Harbour Authority employees and for the signs?  
And can you think of any other suggestions that we could both work towards achieving?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joy Thorkelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "T".

Joy Thorkelson,  
President, UFAWU  
Member, Area C Harvest Committee