

No Permission Required: Walking the Talk in First Nation Natural Resources Stewardship



Doug Aberley and Brian Wadhams
People in Places Conference / June 28, 2011 / Halifax NS

'Namgis First Nation

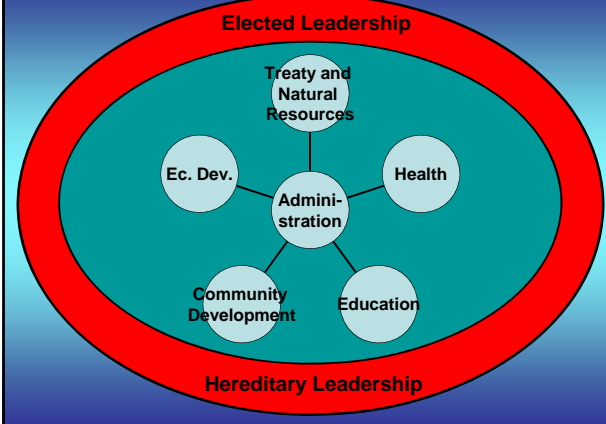
- 1,700 members...900 on Cormorant Island;
- 2,800 sq. km territory;
- 150+ employees...\$13 million annual budget;
- One of 17 Kwakwa'ka'wakw (Kwakwaka speaking) FNs;
- Progressive government;
- Seeking respectful partnerships with BC, Canada, business, etc.



'Namgis 'Core Territory' and 'Resource Harvest Area'



Community



'Bighouse' = Centre of Traditional Governance



Inside and Outside the Bighouse... A Living Indigenous Culture



Evidence of Traditional 'Namgis Culture Everywhere!



Also Highly Visible... Evidence of a Strong Contemporary 'Namgis Culture!



How do 'Namgis Steward Natural Resources within their Territory?
We first have to go back in time to answer this question...



Bad Things Happen to Good Peoples

- 150 years of systematic oppression
 - Military Action
 - Imposed Western Religion
 - Residential Schools
 - Exclusion from Land Pre-emption
 - Prohibition against access to Legal Council
 - Prohibition Against Cultural Practices
 - Much More...

The Real Reason for Oppression...Access to Land and Resources

- Industrial Logging
- Road and Rail Networks
- Coal and Iron Mines
- Ports and Ferry Terminal
- Settlements
- Pulp Mills
- Commercial Fisheries
- Military Bases
- Communications Networks
- Property and Income Tax Revenues
- Offshore Oil?
- Wind Power Farms?

Six Examples of the Many Tools 'Namgis are Utilizing to Steward Their Natural Resources...

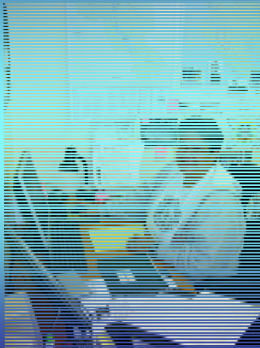
Tool #1 / Bioregional Mapping

- Maps that tell a story;
- Maps made in the community, by the community;
- Maps that distill complex information into a visual language that is easy to understand;
- Maps that use photos, graphs, charts, and a small amount of text;
- Maps with teeth!

Maps That Tell the 'Namgis Story from a 'Namgis Perspective



Tool #2 / Cultural Resources Stewardship

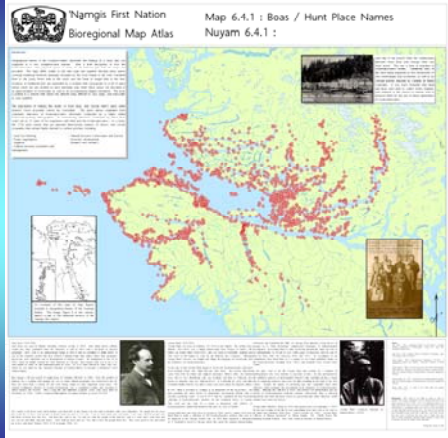


'Namgis Cultural Resources Officer
Diane Jacobson

Activity #1 = Build a Research Library Consisting of Books, Photos and Maps...



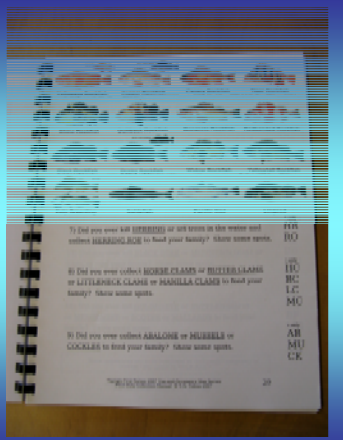
...and Make Historic Data More Accessible



Activity #2 = Complete 'Use and Occupancy Mapping' (UOM) Survey of Present Day Traditional Use



'Namgis UOM Data Collection Manual Provides Script for 66 'Traditional Use' Questions



Digitizing 'Manual' Map Biography into Digital Format



Results...Over 10,600 UOM Sites Identified by 73 Interviewees



Activity #3 = Complete Traditional Ecological Knowledge Interviews



Tool #3 / Watershed Planning and Monitoring
Core 'Namgis Territory Divided into Eight 'Eco-cultural' Units'

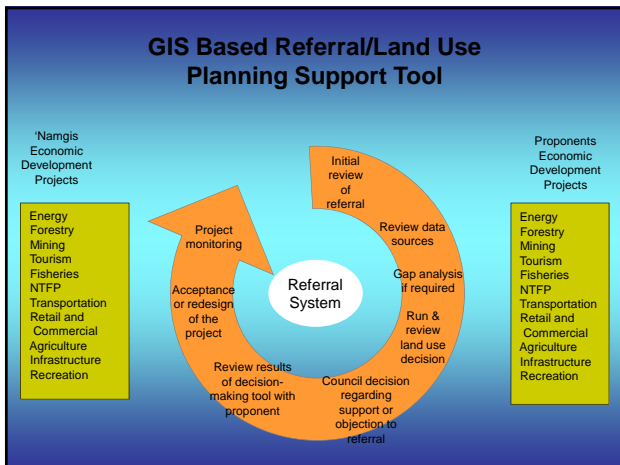
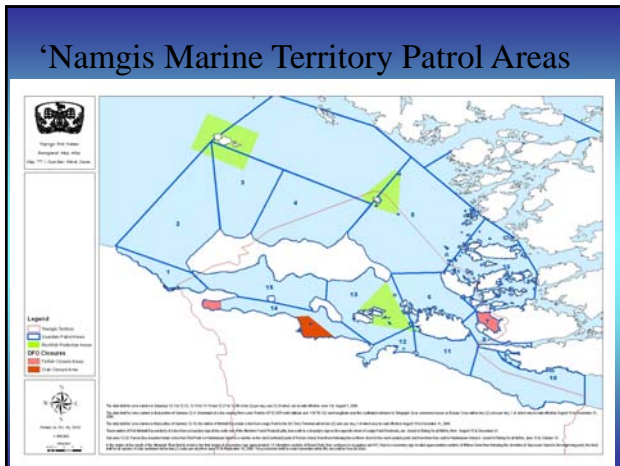
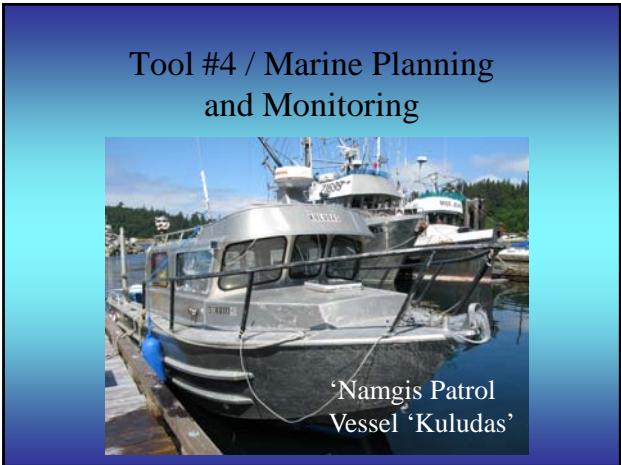


Kokish Ecocultural Unit Atlas

Environmental Quality Hot Spots

Kokish
 Ecocultural
 Unit
 Atlas

Anadromous
 Fish Habitat by
 Species

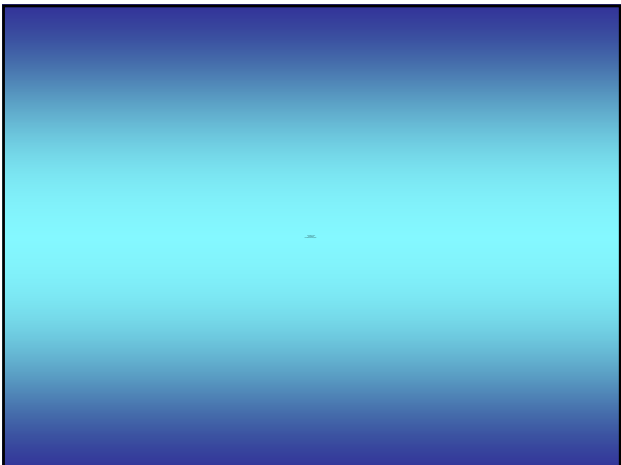
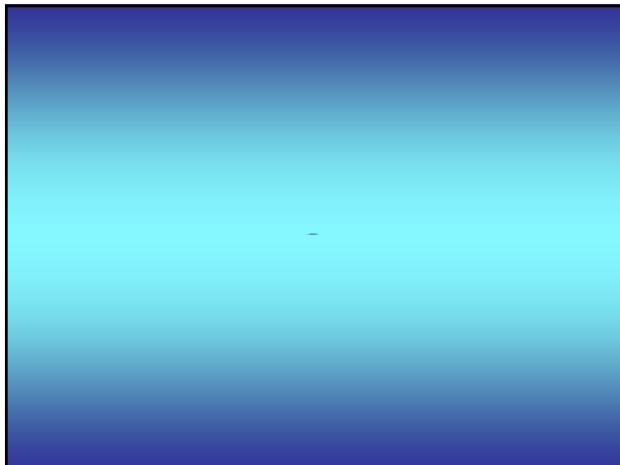
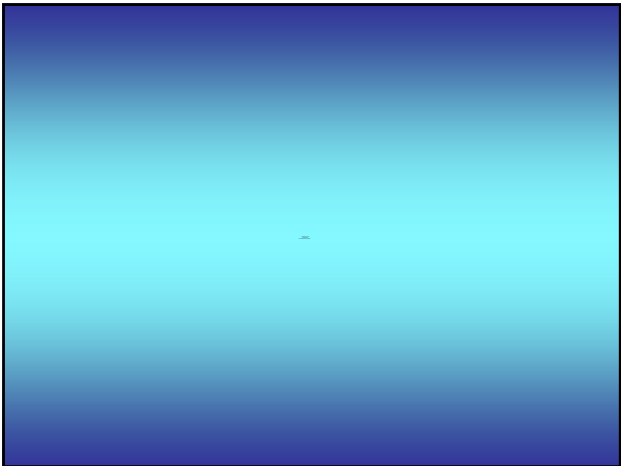


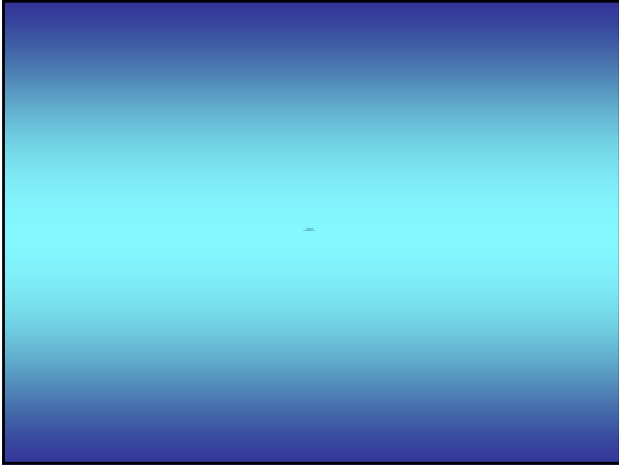
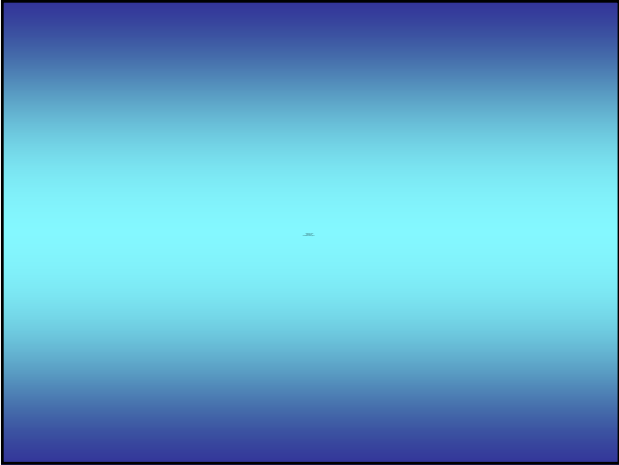
- Tool #6 / Partnership Building
- Building Respectful Partnerships...
- Polaris Minerals / Orca Sand and Gravel
 - Brookfield Renewable Power / Kwagis Power Project
 - Western Forest Products / Protocol Agreement
 - BC Parks / Co-management Agreement
 - Mount Cain Alpine Park Society / Ski Hill Development
 - Etc...



Have Use of Approaches to Natural Resource Stewardship Been Successful?

- Control of larger areas of land and water?
- Higher employment?
- Capacity building?
- Better relationships with governments and industry?
- Community support?
- Etc....





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