



## Hupacasath First Nation

5500 Ahahswinis Drive  
PO Box 211  
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7M7  
Tel: 250-724-4041  
Fax: 250-724-1232



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

South Coast Stock Assessment  
3225 Stephenson Point Road  
Nanaimo BC, V9T 1k3

### MEMORANDUM

**Date:** May 13, 2020

**Re:** Somass Escapement Monitoring Operations Protocol for 2020

**Work Sites:** Sproat River, Stamp River, and Great Central Lake Fish Ladders.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic that is currently occurring, the Somass Escapement Monitoring Program operating procedures have been adjusted in order to ensure the health and safety of all staff involved in the program, and to continue the collection of essential data for the management of Barkley Salmon stocks. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Hupacasath First Nation Fisheries have been working together on this program for several years. The live video recording of fish migration, and biological sampling at the Sproat and Stamp river fish ways provide real time escapement data that is essential to the in season management of Barkley Sound Sockeye and Chinook fisheries. Maintenance of infrastructure, biological sampling, and in season counts of video provide several employment opportunities for members of Hupacasath. The daily operations of the program are low risk for COVID-19 transmission but in order for the program to continue to operate we recognize that modifications to the current operational protocols are required to ensure a healthy and safe workplace for both parties. Due to the potential for close working conditions at our Somass work sites, DFO and Hupacasath Fisheries have worked together to develop a work plan. Below is an overview of steps implemented to mitigate COVID-19 risks.

For the duration of the 2020 program or until COVID mitigation restrictions have been lifted, all employees will follow the provincial recommendations for physical distancing. In situations where physical distancing may not be possible then appropriate PPE will be used. Travel to and from work sites will be in separate vehicles unless passengers are from the same household.

Every effort will be made to ensure work at the site will be restricted to operations that respect physical distancing. In situations where physical distancing may not be possible then appropriate PPE will be used. Routine maintenance and video review duties are considered low risk and can be carried out safely providing staff follow physical distancing. To allow for video review to continue safely, a new data review station is being added to a separate building to ensure that only one person will be working in a building at a time. If staff are from the same household then they may be permitted to work together providing prior notice has been given. All communal surfaces and equipment will be sanitized before and after each shift. Finally, any staff member that displays symptoms or reports symptoms of COVID-19 will not be permitted to continue working at the sites and will be required to follow provincial/federal protocols.

A detailed safety protocol for the revised program will be posted at each work site. The safety program accompanies this letter and is inclusive of the general principals of social distancing, proper sanitation of field equipment, prevention of cross contamination, to sufficiently reduce the COVID-19 related risks to allow the modified program to continue.

Regards,

*Hupacasath Fisheries and Fisheries and Oceans Canada*

**Canada**



## Hupačasath First Nation

5500 Ahahswinis Drive  
PO Box 211  
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7M7  
Tel: 250-724-4041  
Fax: 250-724-1232



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

South Coast Stock Assessment  
3225 Stephenson Point Road  
Nanaimo BC, V9T 1k3

### **SOMASS Escapement – COVID-19 - Safe Work Procedures**

These Safe Work Procedures (SWP's) have been developed to mitigate the risks of the infection and transmission of COVID-19 through employee education, program modification, the separation of program tasks, and implementation of safe work procedures during the operation of the Somass Escapement Monitoring Program. These procedures in no way overrule the precautions set out by provincial and federal health authorities. **Detailed information regarding the symptoms and prevention of COVID-19 is available on Federal and Provincial websites.**

#### **Safe Work Procedures**

##### **-COVID-19 Infection**

- It is your responsibility to self assess: If you feel that you may have symptoms then contact your supervisor and do not go to work until advised to do so.
  - Common Symptoms.
    - Fever, Cough, Tiredness
  - Less Common Symptoms.
    - Aches and pains, soar throat, headache, loss of taste and smell. Other symptoms associated with a cold or flu.
  - Serious Symptoms. (seek immediate medical attention)
    - Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, chest pain or pressure, loss of speech or movement.
- If you feel that someone is not properly acknowledging potential COVID-19 symptoms, then:
  - Remind them it is their responsibility to remove themselves from the workplace if they have any of the symptoms mentioned above.
  - If this does not resolve the issue you have the right to refuse potentially unsafe working conditions and not work.
    - Contact your supervisor to follow up on the issue.

##### **-Social Distancing**

- The practice of social distancing must always be implemented. It is required to maintain a minimum of 2 meters between staff at all times.
  - If 2m distance is not able to be maintained then PPE must be worn. At a minimum facemasks and gloves are required.
    - Employees who reside in the same household may be permitted to work in close proximity without PPE provided advance notice is given.
  - For work sites that may have public traffic, work areas will be required to be closed to access.
    - Temporary barricades, barrier tape, or rope are to be erected to prevent access to the work area.



## Hupačasath First Nation

5500 Ahahswinis Drive  
PO Box 211  
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7M7  
Tel: 250-724-4041  
Fax: 250-724-1232



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

South Coast Stock Assessment  
3225 Stephenson Point Road  
Nanaimo BC, V9T 1k3

### - Vehicle Travel

- Employees must travel in separate vehicles to maintain Social Distancing requirements
  - Employees who reside in the same household may be permitted to travel together provided advance notice is given.
- Disinfect any surfaces on the vehicle that have been touched at the end of use.
- Travel to and from work site only and do not make any unnecessary stops.
  - If refuelling vehicle practice social distancing and wear PPE or disinfect surfaces before touching fuel pump or nozzle.

### -Sanitation

- Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is the most effective method to prevent getting infected or transmitting illness to others.
  - Hand sanitizers (min 70% alcohol based) and disinfecting wipes are effective alternatives.
- Do not touch your face, especially your eyes and mouth with unclean hands.
- If you need to cough or sneeze then follow proper etiquette
  - Turn away from other people
  - Cough or sneeze into a tissue, discard, then wash/sanitize hands
  - Cough or sneeze into crook of your elbow
- The disinfection of shared surfaces, PPE, or field equipment is mandatory. Use a surface disinfecting cleaning product when wiping down surface.
  - Wipe down any surface that has been touched before and after use.
  - Outhouse should be used as a last resort and must be sanitized before and after use
- Do not share or pass PPE, notes, sampling equipment, etc during field operations without disinfecting.
  - When possible do not share tools and equipment. Use separate gear or modify duties so that only one person uses one set of tools/equipment.