

# Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw Fisheries Group



"The Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw are fishing peoples, and have always maintained that we require a voice in the management of these valued resources in our unceded territories"



## Who is the MDFG?

The MDFG (Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw Fisheries Group) was developed as a Commercial Fishing Enterprise (CFE) of the four tribes (Gwawa'enuxw, Dzawada'enuxw, Kwikwasut'inuxw & Haxwa'mis) as part of DFO funded fisheries programming that focuses on first nations acquiring and managing commercial fishing licenses.

For several years now, the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw have been purchasing & managing several licenses: Salmon Gillnet, Herring Gillnet, Prawn, Rockfish, Halibut & Sablefish quota which we lease to support fishery related programs.

There are 25 First Nation owned and managed commercial fishing enterprises (CFEs) in BC.

The commercial fishing industry in BC has drastically changed, but there is still opportunity to reclaim a space in this valued and traditional activity on the coast.

We hope members of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw can look to start a career in this area, through taking part in the training & for established fishermen, working with us on leasing opportunities offered by the MDFG.

We have offices in three locations:  
Campbell River - Finance  
Gwayasdums - Field & Accommodation  
U'kwananlis - Administration



## Preparing a next generation of fisherpeople

The MDFG offers coordinated training related to commercial fishing activities when possible throughout the year.

We have had membership training in:

- Marine Basic First Aid
- Emergency First Responder
- Dive Accident Management & Oxygen Therapy
- Halibut & Prawn Mentoring
- SVOP
- Boat Stability
- Fishing Masters
- Fisheries Field Work



If you are interested in finding out about these opportunities and getting on our training distribution list please contact Melissa Willie [fisheries@mdfgfisheries.ca](mailto:fisheries@mdfgfisheries.ca)

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Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw Fisheries Group



"We want to see  
our future  
members on the  
water, where we  
belong"

# Bringing Generations Together

## Board of Directors



**Richard Dawson:** Dick is a traditional Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw leader & lifelong fisherman. He has been an active board member of many boards & governance bodies. As a member he knows the communities, the needs and the capacity challenges and issues.



**Alana Coon:** Alana is a Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw member and is presently the office manager for the

Kwíckwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis. Raised and living in Gwayasdums, she is very familiar with communities and the territorial issues.



**Henry Nelson Sr.:** Hank Nelson is a Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw member and a traditional leader.

Raised in the territories, he has headed up the 'Namgis hatchery for 20+ years and brings a wealth of technical & local knowledge to the board.



**Daniel Williams:** Daniel is a Registered Professional Biologist & used to work in the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw

traditional territories on research with the communities. He brings a scientific view on projects regarding species and his knowledge of fisheries within the territory.



## STRATEGIC PLANNING HIGHLIGHT

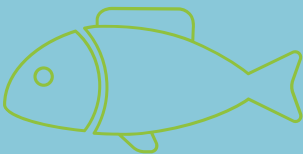
### Mandate

As every living thing is connected, the MDFG will not limit its focus to just fisheries related activities but will include stewardship of all our interests in our traditional territories

### We will:

- Increase our capacity and participation in territorial management
- Develop comprehensive ongoing inventory of species/resources
- Provide education for membership about resources and resource activities in the territories
- Identify and provide appropriate training for membership
- Increase opportunities for sustainable employment
- Increase commercial access by obtaining licenses and/or quota
- Increase the number of boats in the membership fleet
- Support opportunities in all aspects of fishing related careers
- Build a stock enhancement strategy
- Pursue economic opportunities in marine activities beyond standard commercial fishing employment
- Increase and support access to all traditional foods for membership
- Explore new & emerging fisheries opportunities
- Explore traditional activities as potential economic opportunities

*\* Excerpt from MDFG 2019 Strategic Plan*



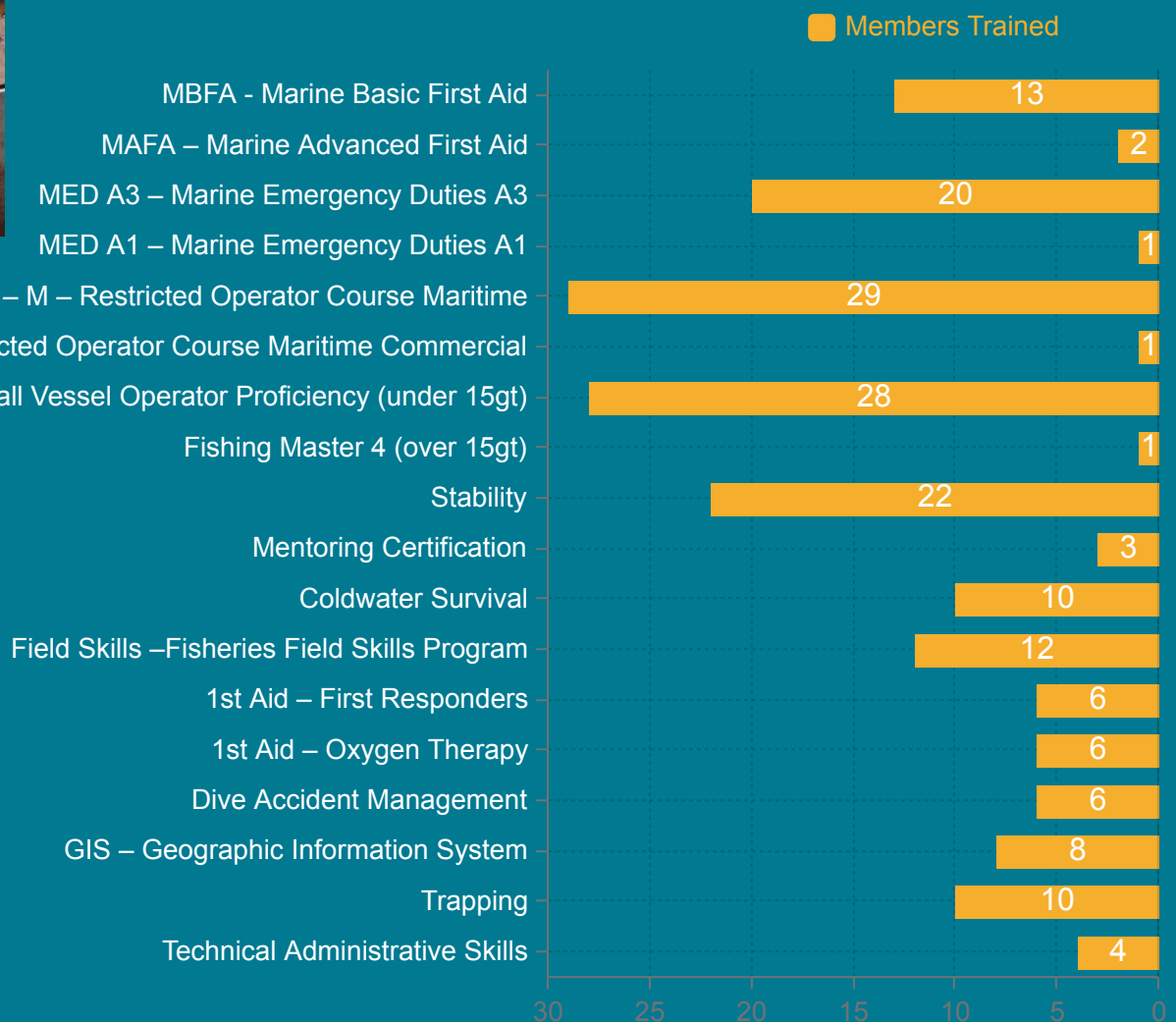
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lalkwalatle' yexganoxw  
Musgamagwxwe'  
Dzawada'enuxwax



# Training & Mentorship

In addition to training membership in commercial fisheries skills, we coordinate mentoring trips to increase youth participation and local member access to traditional marine resources including Halibut (po'yi), Seaweed (lak'astan), Salmon (k'utala) & Shellfish (gawik'anam).

182 members trained through MDFG



# 71%

Participants were under 45  
years old





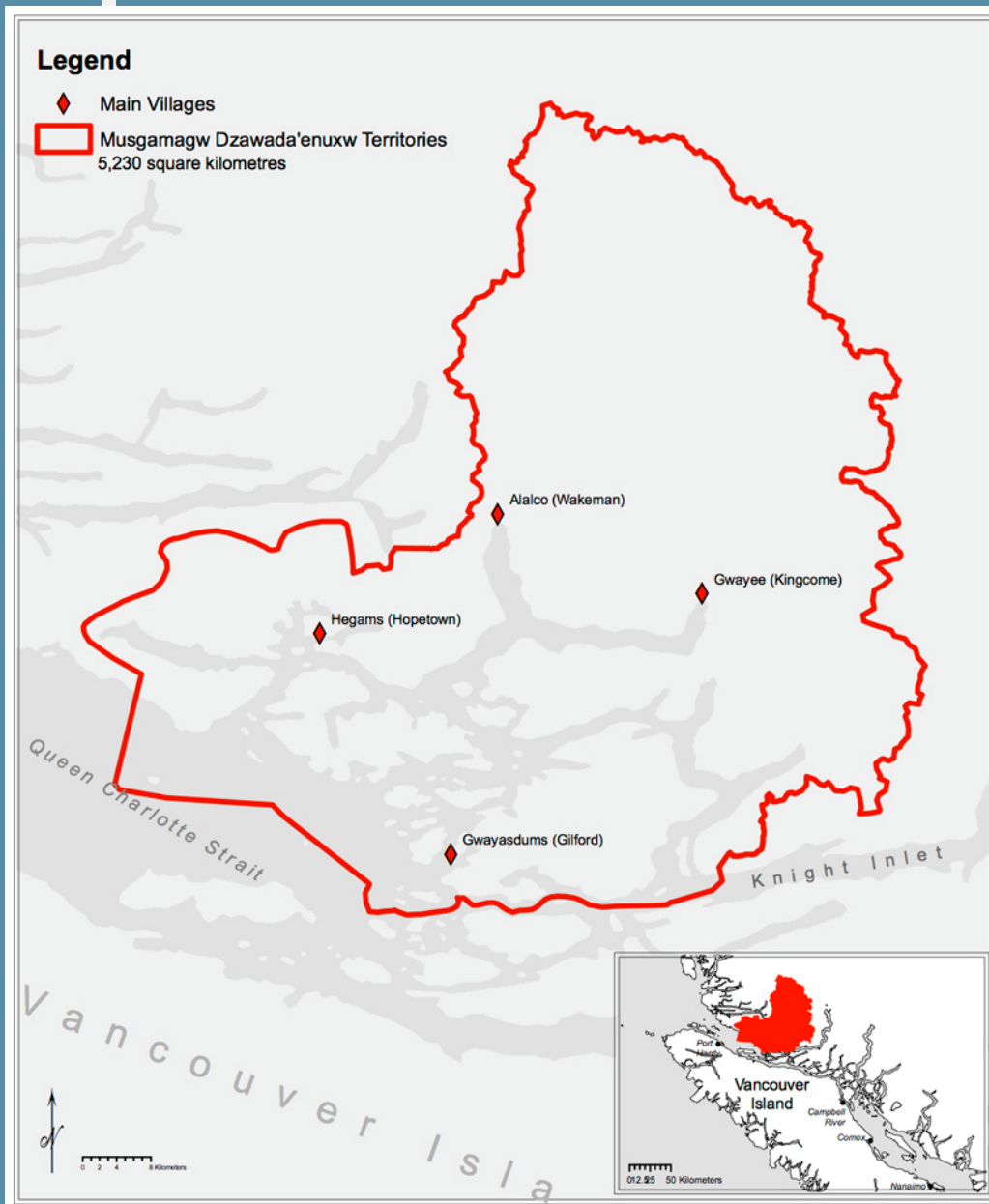
# Communities

## Where We Live



The traditional territory of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw is located east of Queen Charlotte Strait to the watershed mainland inlets. There are thousands of traditional names in our territory, but these areas are commonly named as the Broughton Archipelago, including Gilford Island, and the watershed areas of Drury Inlet, Mackenzie Sound, Wakeman Sound and Kingcome Inlet down to Thompson Sound at the mouth of Knight Inlet.

The main port that is used to access the communities and fishing activities is Port McNeill on the northern top of Vancouver Island.



## MDFG Fleet



**Kwas'kwas** - 16 ft crew boat skippered by Joe Willie, used for field work contracts & for hire as a charter boat. For inquiries contact [fisheries@mdfgfisheries.ca](mailto:fisheries@mdfgfisheries.ca)

**Karen Naomi** - 34 ft wooden boat converted back to a gillnetter. This boat will be used for food access and local fisheries.



Please contact us for any questions, concerns, ideas you have on your mind!

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