



GITGA'AT COMMUNITY BASED FISHERIES

Community Based Fisheries are new, distinct, small-boat, commercial fisheries that are coming to Gitga'at. They are a component of the Fisheries Resources Reconciliation Agreement (FRRA). Community Based Fisheries are about supporting and recreating a thriving close-to-home, multi-species, small boat fleet operated by Gitga'ata.

The Community Based Fishery is an ideal program for small-business fishers and families who are interested in commercial fishing around Gitga'at Territory. There will be financing opportunities to update vessels and gear or acquire new vessels to improve your fishing. Fishers with vessels larger than 40ft may be considered to apply for the fishery, however all new boats must be 40ft or shorter. Community Based Fisheries could also be a steppingstone for Gitga'ata fishers who wish to gradually work their way into the larger regular commercial fishing industry.

This is an exciting opportunity for Gitga'ata and will take time to be fully implemented.

This is a 20-year initiative, with planning and set-up beginning now. The number of fishers and amount of fishing access available to citizens will increase over time. Permits issued may be multi-year, allowing fishers to make informed and longer-term investment decisions.

To acquire the right fishing resources, the Coastal First Nations LP needs to know what species Gitga'ata citizens are interested in fishing and how they plan to fish.

Gitga'at staff and advisors will be engaging with citizens to gather interests and experiences to guide the process and to create a fleet of viable and sustainable small boat fishing enterprises within each community.

HOW THE CBF PROGRAM WILL ENABLE GITGA'ATA FISHERS TO BE OWNER-OPERATORS

- › Fishing permits tailored to community members' interests and experience
- › Affordable lease fees – much lower than market rates
- › Accessible financing for vessels and gear
- › Support for fishers, including business planning, mentorship and training

BENEFITS OF CBFs

- › Increasing Gitga'ata participation in fishing by enabling citizen participation in commercial fishing, including new fishers and youth
- › Costs and barriers to start commercial fishing are reduced and benefits stay in the community
- › Fisheries will meet Gitga'at standards of environmental sustainability
- › New monitoring and permitting requirements make fishing multiple species and smaller amounts possible
- › Multi-year permits allow fishers to make informed and long-term investments

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY BASED FISHERY?

A Community Based Fishery is a new, distinct commercial fishery for small or medium sized boats in Gitga'at territory. This includes commercial and sporty boats less than 40ft. Already-owned vessels larger than 40ft may be considered.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER FOR GITGA'ATA CITIZENS?

Gitga'ata citizens will be able to participate in Community Based fisheries and harvest seafood on their own vessels (or another Gitga'ata-owned vessel) and land/sell their product.

IF I PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY BASED FISHERY, DO I LOSE MY RIGHTS TO FISH AS A GITGA'ATA CITIZEN?

No. The goal of the Community Based Fisheries is to build capacity for Gitga'ata by providing opportunities for commercial fishing. This means more Gitga'ata on the water as entrepreneurs without giving up any individual access rights.

WHAT TYPE OF SPECIES WILL BE A PART OF THIS FISHERY? IS THERE A LIMIT ON POTS OR GEAR?

This fishery is intended to be a multi-species fishery that makes use of all the species in the territory that can be fished on small or medium vessels.

Gitga'at community members will be engaged to discuss the Community Based and determine the species. Citizens will be asked what they'd like to fish and how, and that information will be used to secure access and design the fishery. This is why it is important for Gitga'ata citizens to engage in the process now. There will be guidelines and limits for pots and gear once the fishery is established.

WHEN IS THIS FISHERY SLATED TO START?

To be determined. It's critical that this planning process is complete in the winter/summer of 2022 so that when fishing access becomes available, each community is ready to distribute access to fishers (possibly 2022 or 2023). The fishery will start small, but this is a long-term initiative (20 years). The number of fishers and amount of fishing access available to citizens will increase over time.

WHERE WILL I BE ABLE TO FISH?

This has yet to be determined and we ask for your input.

ARE THE PROTECTED AREAS AVAILABLE TO FISH?

No. Community Based Fisheries are commercial fisheries, so you will only be able to harvest seafood in areas that are open for commercial fisheries.

WHO WILL DO THE MONITORING OF THIS FISHERY AND THAT TYPE OF MONITORING IS IT?

The monitoring for this fishery will be different than the regular commercial fishery. It will be affordable and able to accommodate fishers harvesting multiple species.

All other participating communities along the coast will use the same monitoring framework uniquely developed for the Community Based Fisheries. The details are still to be determined.

WHERE WILL PRODUCT BE DELIVERED TO?

To be determined. However, there will be designated landing sites for this fishery.

WHO WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY BASED FISHERY?

All Gitga'ata citizens will require a viable business plan, proof of appropriate Gitga'ata-owned vessel, fishing experience and safety certifications in order to participate.

HOW DO I GET A BUSINESS PLAN AND/OR FINANCING FOR A VESSEL?

Gitga'at will be providing fisher support, including business planning and loan or grant applications for funding, and training for Gitga'ata citizens. Participation in these programs is optional.

You may also write your own business plan and loan/grant applications as needed.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We want to hear from you! Councils and Community Liaisons or Representatives will be engaging with Gitga'ata citizens for input. We need to know what species you most want to fish (and how much), what vessels or gear are already owned and operated in the community and what more is needed, and what training and other support you would like or need. Engagement will include handouts, 1-on-1 conversations, surveys, a webinar, social media, etc.



COASTAL FIRST NATIONS FISHING COMPANY

ABOUT

The Coastal Nations Commercial Fishing Company is 100% owned and operated by 8 Coastal First Nations. This opportunity has been developed to provide regular commercial fishing opportunities to communities within the 8 Nations by prioritizing and enabling Nations' access to licenses and quota. It has also been developed to create profits to support collaborative governance and Community Based Fisheries. The Gitga'at Nation owns 11% of this company.

FISHING WITH THE COASTAL NATIONS COMMERCIAL FISHING COMPANY

Fishing with the Coastal Nations Commercial Fishing Company is a different opportunity than the Community Based Fisheries. Opportunities at the Coastal Nations Commercial Fishing Company is ideal for established and successful commercial fishers, and for those fishers who prefer to fish larger boat fisheries.

Qualified Indigenous fishers from the 8 participating Nations will be given priority to fish for or lease licenses and quota from the Coastal Nations Commercial Fishing Company. The company will fish only for species, and use methods, the 8 Nations consider environmentally sustainable. The company will promote the hiring and mentoring of new fishers and youth, and will provide fair wages and benefits (no less than industry standard).

The Coastal Nations Commercial Fishing Company follows the traditional regulations laid out by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, including monitoring requirements. Licence and quota lease fees will be set closer to market value for commercial fisheries lease rates, higher than Community Based Fisheries which are different permits and licenses altogether.

HOW THE COASTAL NATIONS COMMERCIAL FISHING COMPANY WILL SUPPORT GITGA'ATA FISHERS

- › Indigenous fishers from the 8 Nations will be prioritized for fishing opportunities
- › More access will be available than other Indigenous programs
- › Support for fishers, including business planning, mentorship and training



COMPARING COMMUNITY BASED FISHERIES TO COASTAL NATIONS COMMERCIAL FISHING COMPANY

This table below illustrates the key differences between Community Based Fisheries and the Coastal Nations Commercial Fishing Company.

	COMMUNITY BASED FISHERY (CBF)	COASTAL NATIONS COMMERCIAL FISHING COMPANY (CNCFC)
IDEAL FOR	Small-business fishers and families, beginners	Established, long-term and successful fishers
VESSEL SIZE	40ft. and smaller (already Gitga'at-owned larger boats may be considered)	No size limitations
FISHING AREA	Gitga'at Territory	BC-wide (open fishing areas same as in general commercial fishery)
MONITORING	Gitga'at-directed – small-boat, multi-species friendly (way more affordable)	Standard
LANDING SITES	Gitga'at-directed	DFO-directed
LANDING TYPE	CBF fishing permit	License/Quota lease
LEASE FEES	Significantly less than market rate	Close to market rate
FISHERY MANAGEMENT	Gitga'at-directed	DFO-directed

WANT MORE INFORMATION? QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

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