



Marine Food Sampling at the mouth of Mill Creek, October 2021 (photo credit: Whitney Joseph)

## **WOODFIBRE LNG AND FORTIS EAGLE MOUNTAIN GAS PIPELINE PROJECTS:**

November 2021 Update from Squamish Nation's Environmental Team

### **WHAT'S NEW?**

In this newsletter:

- **Marine food sampling field work**
- **Protecting our cultural sites**
- **Call for interest:** herring roe sampling in 2022

### **Concerns about environmental, cultural and socio-economic impacts?**

Squamish Nation membership are encouraged to forward comments, concerns, and questions to Community Outreach Coordinator, Whitney Joseph at **swiyat@squamish.net**. You can also call or text Whitney at **778-966-1117**.

- ◆ Woodfibre LNG (WLNG) is anticipating a Final Investment Decision soon, in late 2021.
- ◆ This update is on environmental regulation. All Squamish Nation members and businesses seeking employment or business opportunities for the project are encouraged to contact either:

Squamish Nation Education,  
Employment & Training Department  
(Paul\_wick@squamish.net)

**or**

Nch'kay Development  
Corp  
(Jody\_antone@squamish.net)

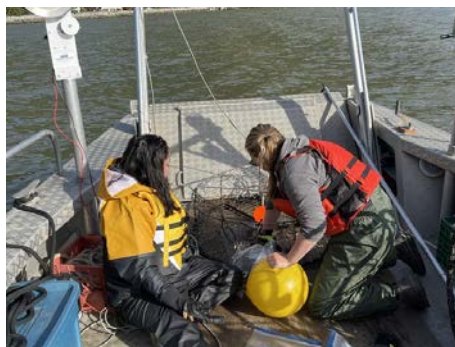
## MARINE FOOD SAMPLING

Woodfibre LNG has environmental approvals from Squamish Nation, provincial government, and federal government. One of the federal conditions is periodic sampling of local seafood (fish and shellfish) to determine if food is safe for consumption. There is a history of pollution at the site from a century of pulp & paper mill operations. The project is not under construction and so any results are “baseline”, and future monitoring will (hopefully) verify W LNG predictions that the project does not create marine pollution.

The sampling in 2021 was planned in collaboration with Squamish Nation. The most recent sampling took place between October 18th and 21st, 2021 around the project area at *Swiyát* and a location at the Squamish Harbour as comparison. Community Outreach Coordinator, Whitney Joseph, accompanied an aquatic biologist and a vessel operator to capture Dungeness crabs (*Ayx*) at each site under a Department of Fisheries and Oceans Scientific Collection Permit. This sampling program had also taken place for a week in the summer; however, due to low crab catch numbers this return trip was scheduled. A total of 15 traps were set in and around *Swiyát*, at depths ranging from 9.5m to 110m and left for an overnight soak which captured 21 crabs. Another 20 traps were deployed within the Squamish Harbour site, at depths ranging from 17-71m; 48 crabs were retained from this site with any surplus being released. Each crab was transported to the lower mainland for dissection on the day of capture.



The collection of Dungeness crabs is part of the Seafood Monitoring Program to the Woodfibre LNG Project. Other types of seafood include English *Lhémkw'a* sole (collected in September 2021) and *Ch'émesh* herring roe (to be collected in Spring 2022). Samples of Dungeness crab leg meat, crab hepatopancreas (digestive gland, often called “crab mustard”), English sole meat, and herring roe are collected before, during and after project construction for contaminant analysis at Bureau Veritas Laboratories in Burnaby, BC. The laboratory results are expected in early 2022, and a human health risk assessment report will summarize the results and characterize the health risk to seafood consumers in spring 2022. The reports will be publicly available, but we will also summarize results in these newsletters.



## COMMUNITY INTEREST NEEDED: CH'ÉMESH HARVESTING

We are looking for community members that would be interested in taking part in *Ch'émesh* (herring roe) harvesting in Spring 2022. Or if you will already be harvesting, if you would be willing to provide some roe for testing. We would like to harvest from near *Swiyát*, and from other areas for comparison. Samples will be given to WLNG to test if the *Ch'émesh* shows signs of pollution contamination, and if so whether there are differences between sites.

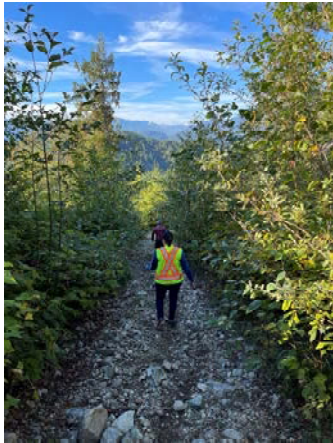


*Ch'émesh*- herring roe

WLNG is also responsible for restoring some areas of impacted marine habitat, and for monitoring long-term herring use of the area around *Swiyát*, to verify the prediction that project construction and operation does not impact herring habitat.

If you have any interest in taking part of this important work, please contact Whitney Joseph at [swiyat@squamish.net](mailto:swiyat@squamish.net) or 778-966-1117.

## PROTECTING OUR CULTURAL SITES



Squamish Nation representatives visiting Stawamus *Síiyamin ta Skwxwú7mesh*, September 2021.

Stawamus Cultural Site Visit—September 23, 2021

The FortisBC pipeline that will deliver natural gas to Woodfibre LNG runs very close to two *Síiyamin ta Skwxwú7mesh* (Squamish Nation Cultural Sites). The sites are along Indian River and Stawamus River. One of the Squamish Nation conditions of approval with FortisBC is to agree on how to minimize disturbance to the use and value of the two *Síiyamin ta Skwxwú7mesh*.

In September, Squamish Nation representatives Elizabeth Ross and Whitney Joseph visited the Stawamus River *Síiyamin ta Skwxwú7mesh*.

There will be no construction in this site, but there will be construction vehicles using the forestry roads that already run through the site. There will also be construction near the edges of the site. The site visit was helpful to understand where sight lines, noise, or access to the river might relate to the pipeline route.



Stawamus *Síiyamin ta Skwxwú7mesh* boundaries, with planned pipeline route in green.

Ongoing discussions with FortisBC are focused on minimizing any disturbance to the site. That includes things like access, or noise caused by nearby construction, set-back buffers for temporary storage or parking spaces, etc. If you have comments or concerns about this topic, please contact Whitney Joseph: 778-966-1117 or [Swiyat@squamish.net](mailto:Swiyat@squamish.net)