



# WATER WE UP TO

*The Ucluelet Aquarium's Monthly Newsletter*



## MAY HIGHLIGHTS

This was a fantastic May. With new staff, new animals, CTV interviews, and events, the month was certainly exciting.

Our new summer staff started near the end of the May and have been keeping busy chatting with guests, learning about the animals, and cleaning tanks. We're excited to keep working with them for the next few months. Come say hi!

In addition to new staff we also welcomed some new animals. While most of our critters are collected in February and March, some can only be found in shallow water in the late Spring/early Summer. One of the best parts about being a collect-and-release aquarium is the ever-changing exhibits! There is always something new to see.



Rob Thoms and guests artists from across Canada played in the aquarium for our May live music night. It was a wonderfully mellow evening of acoustic roots music. A huge thank you to the musicians and guests!



The Ucluelet Aquarium toques are now back in stock, get 'em while it's... cold and foggy.

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## MAY HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED...

Our skate egg case exhibit has been receiving quite a bit of excitement and publicity. Posts on the Ucluelet Aquarium Facebook page are consistently getting over 15,000 views and we've been swamped with marvellously positive comments and messages.

The mission of the Ucluelet Aquarium is to raise awareness about local biodiversity and spread respect for the ocean environment. This display has provided an incredibly powerful opportunity to connect with visitors of all ages and foster a love for the amazing life in this region. By drawing attention to our facility we have also had increased views of other aquarium posts - information regarding rockfish, resources for educated fishing practices, the future of plastic-free living.

To put the icing on the cake we had a surprise interview with CTV News. Go to <https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1690764> to see the interview with Laura Griffith-Cochrane (UA Curator) and Emily Beeson (Social Media Director).



In preparation for our upcoming summer releases, Dr. Craig Stephens and the rest of his team visited the Aquarium for animal checkups (all of our animals require an inspection by a certified veterinarian to be considered for a release permit). Now that our veterinarian has confirmed the health of our summer release animals we will be applying to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) for our release permit!

## SUMMER RELEASES

Animals come, and animals go. Their departure is always bittersweet. While we're happy to see them returned to the wild, we always miss them dearly! This June we are saying goodbye to our giant pacific octopus, Hildegard Von Bingen, the yellow-eye and tiger rockfish, and the juvenile striped surf perch.



Our octopus was collected in Clayoquot Sound and will be released by boat back to the collection site at the beginning of the month. The rockfish we hope to take (depending on permits), also by boat, to a nearby Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) in Barkley Sound.

We will be holding a public release for the striped surf perch at Terrace Beach in Ucluelet. The date will be announced on our Facebook page and posted to our website calendar. Meanwhile we are making regular Terrace Beach survey trips to ensure that the conditions are optimal for a release. Perch are only in shallow waters in the warmer summer months. We want to make sure the rest of the school has returned before releasing.



## MUSIC NIGHT

Friday, June 28th  
7 pm - 11 pm

This month we will have special guests artists, Chad Gilmour and an opening artist TBD.

This will be our last music night in the Aquarium until October so don't miss it!

Tickets are \$14  
19 + event. Please bring ID!

Please note that while we're inviting the public to come watch, there will be no active public participation due to the sensitive nature of the animals and the variability of conditions. Don't worry though - we will be holding our annual public release at Whiskey Dock in late November/early December and you can definitely bring a bucket for that!

## SUMMER PROGRAMS, 2019



The Ucluelet Aquarium will be partnering with the Wild Pacific Trail Society again this year to provide tide pool exploration walks at Big Beach in Ucluelet. Meet with our interpreters every other Friday at 10 am. This program is FREE for the public. Details on Facebook.

June 7th, 14th and 21st, 10 am - 11 am  
July 5th and 19th, 10 am - 11 am  
August 2nd and 16th, 10 am - 11 am

The Aquarium will also be partnering with the Pacific Rim National Park to provide Touch Tank Talks at the K'wisitis Centre. Every Wednesday at 3 pm Ucluelet Aquarium Staff will be setting up portable touch tanks with our favourite intertidal life. We will be there to answer questions and teach guests about marine life found in the National Park. This will also be a free event.

Parks Talks will begin on Wednesday, June 5th and finish on Wednesday, August 28th.

In addition to our summer outreach programs, the Aquarium will be providing in-house programs throughout the summer as well. Behind-the-Scenes tours will be taking place every Wednesday at 3:30 pm (free with day or season passes).

Free Summer Labs in front of the Aquarium will take place weekly or bi-weekly, dates still TBD. Please check our website calendar or social media pages for updates.

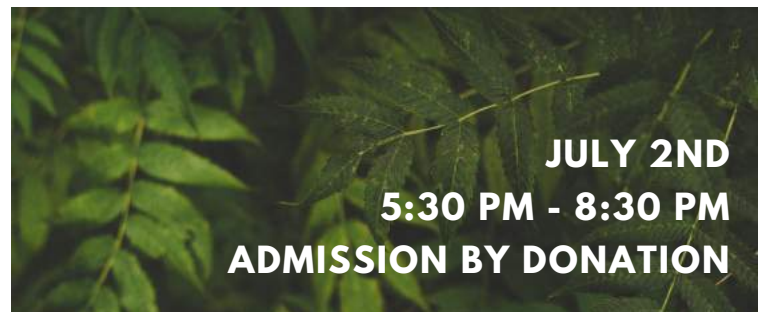
### PLASTIC-FREE MARKET RESCHEDULED!

*Our Plastic Free Market has changed dates!* It is no longer happening on June 8th - the new date is July 2nd. Be sure to mark your calendars because it's going to be an amazing event!

Since its inception, the Ucluelet Aquarium has maintained its mission to raise awareness about local marine biodiversity and promote respect for the ocean environment. This means not only educating visitors about the amazing animals that live in this region, but also educating the public about the human-caused issues (such as plastic pollution) and inspiring them to make a positive change.

In celebration of Plastic Free July, we will be hosting the plastic-free market inside the aquarium itself. We will open the aquarium to vendors who offer plastic-free products that promote environmentally friendly lifestyles. This is both a way to educate the public about the importance of plastic-free living and a way to provide our small community with access to items that they normally cannot purchase here.

For more details about this event please visit the event page on the Ucluelet Aquarium Facebook page or visit our event calendar at [www.uclueletaquarium.org](http://www.uclueletaquarium.org). If you would like a copy of the event poster please email [info@uclueletaquarium.org](mailto:info@uclueletaquarium.org)



CERAMICS / BULK FOOD / PLASTIC-FREE HOUSEHOLD GOODS / SUSTAINABLE TOILETRIES / EARTH FRIENDLY COSMETICS / BEESWAX WRAPS / FRESH PRODUCE / FOOD / LEATHER GOODS / AND MORE!

## TANK SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

After years of generosity our long-term sponsor, Black Rock Oceanfront Resort, will no longer be continuing their role as our Under-the-Dock exhibit Sponsor. Now, for the first time in over 5 years, one of our largest sponsor slots is open for a new partnership.



Over the summer months, the Ucluelet Aquarium sees over 30,000 visitors! When you sponsor a display, you help contribute to the upkeep, stocking, regular cleaning, and feeding of that tank. As the season evolves, as do the creatures in our tanks – making every visit a unique one. By sponsoring a display for one season (March – December), we will affix a plaque to the display with your logo or name, acknowledge your contribution on our website and on our social media platforms.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for this tank and its inhabitants please send an email to [patrick@uclueletaquarium.org](mailto:patrick@uclueletaquarium.org) for more information.

## MICROPLASTIC AND MARINE DEBRIS

Our marine debris coordinator has put together a new quarterly report regarding the Ucluelet Aquarium's Microplastic and Marine Debris Initiative. The PDF is available on our website: "About Us" --> "Our Projects" --> "Monthly Microplastic Survey." The report summarizes our findings so far in 2019 and describes some changes we made to the survey procedure.



As always, we welcome volunteers to attend our monthly surveys - the more the merrier! Be sure to dress appropriately for the weather. If you have any questions feel free to contact us by phone or email.



## THANK YOU TO COLLABORATORS!

A huge thank you to Central Westcoast Forest Society, Thornton Creek Hatchery and Barb Beasley from The Association of Wetland Stewards for Barkley and Clayoquot Sounds. The development of our new freshwater exhibit has only been possible due to your generosity, knowledge, and time. We are excited to continue learning from you and collaborating on future projects!



We are also very excited to announce our new "Music and Microplastics" sessions once a month. Our very talented Rob Thoms will play the mandolin in the library while Britt analyzes that month's microplastic sample. A little random? Perhaps, but that's why it's so fun!

## UPCOMING LAMPREY BOOK

Aquarium employees Laura Griffith-Cochrane and Emily Beeson have contributed to a book of poems about lampreys. This book, created by Joy Wade, will shed light on the threatened and underappreciated Cowichan Lake Lamprey. It is set to be published this June. Here's a sneak peak:

### Lonely in Moonlight

*Lamprey shining bright;  
basking in the moon's soft rays;  
Ugly and alone.*

