



**Stz'uminus First Nation**  
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## ADVISORY

August 17, 2010

### **Stz'uminus Nation fights back to threat in its waters**

The Stz'uminus First Nation community is holding an emergency meeting tonight (Aug. 17) to discuss its next steps in the battle with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans over geoduck harvesting in the waters on Kulleet Bay.

Chief John Elliott said the meeting was called after community members heard news that the Underwater Harvesters Association (UHA) was planning to resume harvesting when DFO opens the fishery later this week.

"Already our people are laying gill nets and other underwater devices to foil the fishery," he said. "We also have plans to erect markers around our waters so that everyone knows that this is a no-go area.

"The community is outraged that DFO refuses to consult with us on taking resources from our waters. But what surprises me is the level of support we are getting from First Nations around the coast as well as non-native fishers.

"We should have quite a reception if the UHA attempts to return to Kulleet Bay. But I am hoping that DFO will come to its senses and realize that a commercial fishery on our doorstep is not in the best interests of anyone."

Earlier today, Chief Elliott put out a call for boaters who support the Stz'uminus stand for access to resources in their waters to meet at Shell Beach at 7 a.m. before the flotilla makes its way 3 kms along the coast to Kulleet Bay.

The chief said that as with the previous protest on Aug. 9, the Stz'uminus protests will be peaceful and non-confrontational. "The onus is on DFO to keep this fishery closed. Our fight is not with the harvesters, but with the lack of proper consultation by fisheries officials."

**For more information, please contact 250-210-8914**