



MAMALILIKULLA FIRST NATION GWAXDLALA/NALAXDLALA (LULL BAY/HOEYA SOUND) IPCA ON-SITE DEDICATION EVENT

BACKGROUNDER

From: Mamalilikulla First Nation

Date: May 5, 2022

On May 5th, 2022 the Mamalilikulla First Nation held a community member dedication ceremony on the site of the Gwaxdlala/Nalaxdlala Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA). The Nation made a public Declaration of its IPCA on November 29, 2021 at the Provincial Museum in Victoria, BC.

The intent of the event was to directly involve Mamalilikulla community members in celebrating and dedicating its IPCA and to celebrate progress made in advancing the IPCA in the past six months. COVID gathering restrictions and flood events prevented most Nation members from participating in the November 2021 Declaration event.

IPCA Characteristics:

On November 29 ,2021 the Mamalilikulla First Nation declared the Gwaxdlala/Nalaxdlala¹ (Lull Bay/Hoeya Sound) in Knight Inlet, on the British Columbia Central Coast, an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA). **A map of the IPCA is attached below.**

The 10,416 hectare IPCA includes significant features associated with the Lull and Hoeya watersheds. The 8,293 hectare IPCA watershed area contains a mix of old growth and second growth coniferous forests, dominated by western hemlock, yellow cedar and mountain hemlock species. Significant logging activity occurred over the past half-century, on the mid-slope and valley bottom areas. The watersheds are important to fish, mammals and birds, including Marbled Murrelet, Northern Goshawk, grizzly and black bear. Their fish-bearing

¹ Pronounced " Gwat-ch-dala-lah / Nah-latch-dala-lah

streams are important for chum, coho and pink salmon habitat and spawning. Numerous landslides have occurred on the steep sloping watersheds.

The 2,123 hectare IPCA marine area include the Hoeya Sill, an ecosystem of very high biodiversity, containing shallow sponges, corals and rare and endangered species that are particularly sensitive to bottom-contact activities. The Lull and Hoeya estuaries, critical for salmon and grizzly bears, are also included for management.

The IPCA includes all three original Mamalilikulla settlements on written record for the Lull/Hoeya area. It includes Indian Reserve proposals that were originally rejected by the 1914-18 McKenna-McBride Commission for lands along the shore of Knight Inlet, and along each side of the Lull River.

The IPCA includes many recorded sites of significance, including village sites, fish traps, shell middens, petroglyphs and the presence of culturally modified trees. There is high potential for discovery of additional sites.

The watersheds are being managed under the Great Bear Rainforest South Timber Supply Area (TSA), in which most of the timber harvesting rights are uncharted, i.e., not tied to a specific forest tenure holder. About 88% of the land is now off limits to logging, due to the implementation of the “landscape reserve” conservation tool being used to help meet biodiversity targets in the Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Order. The Nation has been an active participant in forest planning activities under the GBR Order.

Several provincial Crown tenures exist in the IPCA, including those for log handling, heli-log drops, commercial recreation, commercial trapping, and federal Crown-regulated fisheries. The area continues to be used for traditional harvesting of plants, animals and fish.

The Nation has made considerable investment in ongoing resource inventory and monitoring programs for streams, fish, grizzly bear, habitat conditions, culturally important plants, archaeological sites and traditional foods.

Governance:

The Mamalilikulla First Nation holds Aboriginal rights and title over the lands, seas (including seabed) and sky of the IPCA, and has never ceded them to the provincial or federal governments. The Nation’s origin stories and more recent written records include many references to this area and its history of occupation and use.

The Mamalilikulla First Nation intends to pursue collaborative governance with BC and Canada as a means of strengthening its role in protecting, conserving and sustainably managing its IPCA. Its vision is to apply its laws, governance and knowledge systems under a co-governance arrangement using the Nation’s laws and systems that are based on the ancient concept of

Aweenak'ola, which translates as "we are one with the land, sea and sky and supernatural Ones and have a responsibility to care for all the beings."

The collaborative governance approach ultimately requires agreements with Canada and BC for a "structured decision-making process" with mechanisms for joint, consensus decision-making on planning, managing, monitoring and enforcement activities in the IPCA as well as securing and managing long term sustainable funding. The Nation has already completed its own management plans for the watersheds and marine portion of its IPCA.

November 29, 2021 IPCA Declaration:

The Nation's IPCA Declaration was made in accordance with Section 35 of Canada's Constitution Act respecting the inherent rights of aboriginal peoples, and reinforced in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with specific reference to Articles 26(1-3), Article 29(1), and Article 32(1) respecting the Nation's right to ownership, control over use, conservation and protection, and setting of development priorities for its traditional lands, territories and resources.

The Declaration reflects the Nation's concepts, values, principles, laws and inherent stewardship responsibilities, including following the law of Aweenak'ola. It confirms the Nation's intent to ensure long-term planning and management of the IPCA for continued cultural, social, educational, and economic benefit, and reflecting key requirements of:

- ◆ Restoring and maintaining our connection to the lands, seas and skies and natural, cultural, and spiritual resources in the IPCA
- ◆ Applying our language, stories, songs and dances, and place names to the IPCA
- ◆ Protecting and managing the IPCA's cultural and archaeological resources
- ◆ Protecting, conserving and restoring the IPCA's significant marine habitats and culturally important marine species
- ◆ Conserving and restoring the IPCA's watersheds, keystone cultural species and habitats
- ◆ Generating long term funding for governance capacity.

The Declaration confirmed the Nation's commitment to restoring and maintaining the ecological health and natural balance of the lands, seas and skies and the natural resources within the IPCA for sustainable cultural, traditional and economic uses for the benefit of the Mamalilikulla people and the communities with whom we have ongoing, respectful and developing relationships.

The Declaration was intended to demonstrate the Nation's commitment to assisting Crown governments in achieving conservation commitments, and advancing reconciliation and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Declaration called on Canada and British Columbia to begin good faith negotiations for co-governance of the IPCA, and for establishing interim protection for at-risk habitat, such as the Hoeya Sill coral gardens.

Progress and Problems:

In the past six months, Mamalilikulla has been actively pursuing support and interest from government and stakeholders for implementation of its IPCA Declaration.

Significant progress can be largely attributed to support and interest from provincial government ministries and philanthropical organizations interested in marine conservation and First Nation governance initiatives.

For further Information:

<https://mamalilikulla.ca/>

<https://nanwakolas.com/>

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