



## Clayoquot Sound Central Region Board

# PRESS RELEASE

July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006

### Clayoquot Sound Watershed Plans Completed

**AHOUSAHT** - On behalf of both Parties to the *Clayoquot Sound Interim Measures Extension Agreement* (IMEA), the Central Region Board is pleased to announce endorsement of eight watershed plans for Clayoquot Sound.

These watershed plans were developed in accordance with the IMEA - which requires strict adherence to all recommendations made by the Scientific Panel for Sustainable Forest Practices in Clayoquot Sound.

In 2003, the Parties endorsed the first three watershed plans for the Flores Island, Cypre and Bedingfield watershed planning units.

Today's announcement formally endorses watershed plans for eight more planning units: Tofino-Tranquil (Onadsilth-Eekseuklis), Sydney-Pretty Girl, Bedwell-Ursus-Bulson, Hesquiaht, Kennedy Lake, Upper Kennedy River, Clayoquot River and Fortune Channel.

Watershed plans guide sustainable ecosystem management in Clayoquot Sound. By endorsing these plans, the Parties' commit to the protection of ecological values, sound sustainable management practices, and the enhancement of the social and economic conditions for all communities within the IMEA boundaries.

The watershed plans organize long-term sustainable ecosystem management principles into three broad planning themes: watershed integrity, biological diversity, and human values. Each plan identifies areas that will be set aside as reserves to preserve the long-term ecosystem integrity of each watershed planning unit, protect First Nations' culturally important areas, and maintain recreational and scenic values. The plans also map and designate special management zones, and harvestable areas on which sustainable forest harvesting can take place.

The Central Region Board would like to acknowledge and thank the Central Region First Nations Chiefs, various stakeholders and interest groups, local governments, and members of the public for their contributions to the development of these plans and for their thoughtful comments during the public review processes.

The Central Region Board will continue to promote the recommendations and objectives of the Clayoquot Sound Scientific Panel, including support for watershed planning results, such as:

- Protection of old growth temperate rainforests with high conservation, cultural and scenic values. In addition, watershed plans define harvestable areas where scientifically sound, sustainable logging may potentially proceed, thereby resulting in no clear-cut logging in Clayoquot Sound.
- Protection of forty per cent of the old-growth forest in each planning unit. The level of cut in Clayoquot today is a fraction – 15% – of what it was at its height in 1989.
- Protection of approximately 61% of the forests in Clayoquot Sound within parks and Scientific Panel reserves. Another 29% are located within special management zones which allow some logging but place emphasis on conservation of wildlife, recreation and scenic values.
- All logging operations will be guided by the Scientific Panel recommendations. That means logging will only occur within the context of respect for First Nations culture, and managing for ecosystem integrity, conservation of wildlife, and in consideration of recreation and tourism values.

The watershed plans have been approved by First Nations and the Clayoquot Sound Central Regional Board. FN governments and Clayoquot residents have participated actively in all resource and land use decisions in Clayoquot Sound for many years, ensuring the success of the watershed planning process.

The *Interim Measures Agreement on Clayoquot Sound* established “a government-to-government partnership ... in the planning of the future of Clayoquot Sound” between the Nuu-chah-nulth Central Region *Hawiih* (Hereditary Chiefs) and the Province of BC, and established a Clayoquot Sound Central Region Board (CRB) to address resource management and land use planning issues within Clayoquot Sound, prior to the conclusion of treaties. The IMA was most recently renewed as Interim Measures Extension Agreements (IMEA) in May 2006.

The Clayoquot Sound Central Regional Board (CRB) consists of 12 members: five appointed by the Province, five appointed by the Central Region First Nations, one co-chair appointed by the Province, one co-chair appointed by First Nations, and one Elder Advisor. The current CRB members are: Guy Louie (FN Co-chair) and Jim Lornie (Provincial Co-chair); Robert Mundy (Ucluelet FN), Chief Bert Mack (Toquaht FN), Bruce Frank (Tla-o-qui-aht FN) Carol Anne Hilton (Hesquiaht FN), Dianne St. Jacques (Mayor, Ucluelet), Al Anderson (Councilor, Tofino), Mike Kokura (Director, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District), Peter Ayres (Councilor, Tofino), and Roland Arnet (Director, BC Shellfish Growers Association). The Ahousaht FN representative and the Elder Advisor position are currently vacant.

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