



K'ómoks Guardian Watchmen

Who are we?

We are the K'ómoks Guardian Watchmen, our mission is to protect and preserve the environment within our Traditional Territory. We are the eyes and ears of the land and sea.

Who do we work with?

We work closely with neighbouring First Nations Guardian Watchmen to ensure the whole coast is protected- what affects one nation's territory, affects us all. We have had great success in creating awareness of our program within our traditional territory and have received a lot of positive feedback from our community. Our team attends many meetings to ensure we have a voice in projects happening within the K'ómoks Traditional Territory.

We have created strong working relationships with:

- DFO- Salmon Enhancement (Puntledge Hatchery), Habitat, Conservation and Protection
- Conservation Officers
- BC Parks
- BC Hydro
- North Island College
- Vancouver Island University
- Comox Valley Project Watershed
- Tsolumn River Restoration Society
- Denman Island Stewardship Society
- Nanwakolas Council
- Comox Valley Steelhead Society
- Courtenay District Fish and Game
- Current Environmental
- Eicher Screens

Because of these relationships our Guardians have been invited to participate in many of the projects happening throughout the Comox Valley in the 2016 year.

What are some of the projects we have worked on?

- Monitored known hunting areas for illegal hunting practices and poaching
- Environmental monitoring for various projects such as:
 - installation of a breach for the airpark lagoon
 - installation of a bridge for logging access
- Eicher Screens and Homing Project (Fish DNA Project)
- Mapping of old K'ómoks village site
- Fish counts on local streams and Rivers
- Clam, Crab, Prawn and Seal Surveys

- Water sampling
- Subtidal eel grass surveys and mapping within the K'ómoks Estuary
- Removing a log jam and supporting the river banks with the removed logs
- Checkerspot butterfly surveys
- Checking for compliance with fishing regulations on the rivers

Qualifications:

Land

- Environmental Technician Program - Vancouver Island University
- Documenting and Presenting Field Compliance Data
- S-232 Pump and Water Delivery Systems
- S-185 Wildfire Entrapment Avoidance
- S-100 Fire Suppression
- Bear/Cougar/Wildlife Aware
- Archeological and Culturally Modified Tree Inventory Certificate
- Forestry Legislation and Regulation

River

- Certified Crew Member Backpack Electrofishing – VIU
- Law and Regulations of Freshwater Federal Fisheries Act

Marine

- Small Vessel Operators Proficiency Certificate
- MED A2 (Small Passenger-Carrying Vessel Safety)
- Swift water Safety Rescue
- Advanced Marine First Aid
- Restricted Operators Certificate
- Marine Emergency Duties

Other

- Basic Verbal Judo – Conflict resolution one day course

Upcoming courses to be completed

- ❖ Stewardship Technician Training- Level 1- VIU
- Essential Field Skills
- Compliance Communications and Resource Monitoring
- Archeology and Culturally Modified Tree Inventory
- ILRP 100 Indigenous Learning and Recognition Portfolio
- Small Motors Servicing and Electrical Systems
- Fish and Fish Habitat Monitoring Skills
- Cultural Awareness