Northern Salish Sea Vital Kelp Project - Cultivation and Out-plant of Kelp for Fish Habitat. Timing and Use by Fish.

Lee-Ann Ennis
BCCF Vital Kelp Project

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Introduction
Can suspended cultivated kelp lines provide habitat for migrating juvenile salmon, and other fish and invertebrates in an urchin barren?

When is the best time to seed and deploy kelp seeded lines?

Methodology
A literature review was conducted and synthesis of available kelp cultivation methods was used. Kelp sori tissues were collected from Nereocystis, Saccharina and Alaria, inoculated onto spools of twine and ‘green gravel’ and grown in nursery for 6 weeks before out planting at permitted aquaculture leases on the Sunshine Coast, shishalh territory. Monitoring for use by fish and invertebrates occurred Jan - March.

Results and Conclusions
- Cultivation of kelp in cohorts Aug - Dec in controlled nursery environments
- When out-planting occurred prior to winter solstice, individuals grew >1m by equinox
- Spawning tube snouts, use by pandalid and caprellid shrimp Feb - April, use by out-migrating juvenile salmonids May - July
- Suspended lines avoid urchin predation. Cultivated kelp can be lowered when sea surface temperatures rise above 17 C

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Acknowledgments
This project takes place in shishalh Nation Territory
Project sponsored by BC Conservation Foundation. Project funded by: PSF Community Salmon Program, Pacific Wild, Persephone Brewing, Vital Oysters Ltd., EquaOceanFarms. We would like thank Ron Malcolm, Innovative Aquaculture, underwater videographer Geoff Grognet support from Dr. Michelle Evelyn. Follow the Vital Kelp Project on Instagram @vitalkelp