



CASE
STUDY

IMPACT ON BUSINESS: KELTIC SEAFOODS

Two of ICET's earliest harbour improvement projects, the Port Hardy Harbour improvement project and the Coal Harbour improvement project have had a positive impact on the vitality and growth of Keltic Seafoods, a Port Hardy seafood processing company.

The Port Hardy harbour improvement project has attracted more boats and especially larger operators to the harbour, resulting in an increase in fish offloading and processing for Keltic. The improvements have impacted the boat service industry, with more work for local trades and service businesses as well as hospitality businesses. As a processor, Keltic is vulnerable to the movements of the fishing fleet, and the improvement in amenities and the availability of services helps to stabilize the business environment and facilitate further investment and growth. As a result of the added capacity generated by the harbour improvements, Keltic has recently injected new infrastructure investment to its facility.

The improvements to the Coal Harbour facility have had an immediate, direct impact on Keltic's operations. The resulting revival of the sardine fishery has generated 20-30 seasonal local jobs in Coal Harbour in fish offloading and transportation. In Port Hardy, at the processing facility, 40 new seasonal positions were generated. The 60+ new, seasonal positions are equivalent to 20+ full-time, permanent jobs, with 65% of the labour force being First Nation. In addition, Keltic's decision to invest more than \$150,000 for sardine processing equipment was influenced by the Coal Harbour Wharf project.

The second phase of the Coal Harbour wharf project, which ICET also supported, is also generating more processing for Keltic by attracting more boats which might otherwise have to go around the Island or be sent to the Lower Mainland for processing. The positive impact is also being felt by the Quatsino fishery, which is now more self-sustaining due to the improved amenities and providing Keltic with additional processing of salmon, halibut and prawns.

"These harbour improvements have had a very positive and measurable influence on the support and growth of our business, in direct terms with job creation and indirectly with the improved environment for the fishing fleet and increased opportunities for the local trades and service sector. This

IMPROVED BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

will prompt us to invest further and continue to grow our business, enhancing industry opportunities throughout the North Island," states Mickey Flanagan, CEO of Keltic Seafoods.