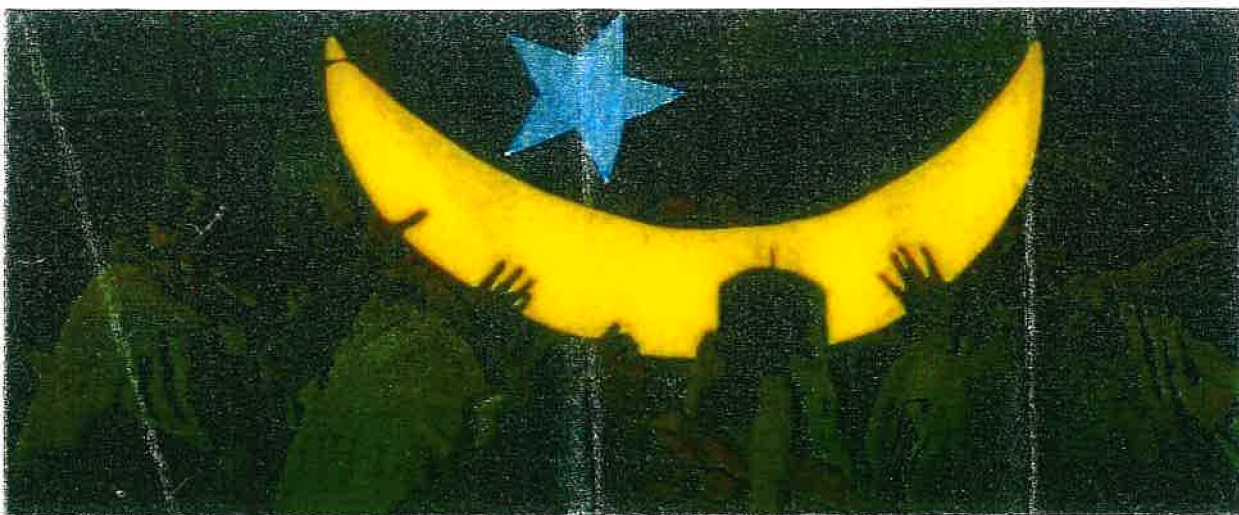


# Hobiye

Hobiye (Hoobix - spoon)

Refers to the last crescent of the moon and is normally in different weeks of February depending on the phases of the moon for the month of February of that particular year. If the crescent of the moon is open, it means that the food is overflowing and the year will be a bountiful year for the Nisga'a. Meaning lots of oolican and salmon returning, hunting will be good, berry picking will be good etc. If the crescent of the moon is closed, then it means that it will be a difficult year for the Nisga'a for harvesting food for the winter.

Hoobix also signals the arrival of oolican to K'alli Aksim Lisims (Nass River) and since oolican is the first source of food for the Nisga'a, Hoobix is also referred to as the beginning of a new year.



## The Oolichan and the Spring Salmon Taunt Each Other

The following anecdote is an excerpt from a 1982 interview with (the late) James Samuel Gosnell, as he spoke to the entire team of consultants and fieldworkers in the Land Ownership and Occupancy Study orientation workshop:

The Oolichan Season occurs two months in the year ... normally ending at the end of April.

About the last week in April, or the first week in May, the spring salmon arrives. When we hear the robin singing, <sup>3</sup>Gigyohl milit<sup>3</sup> ... <sup>3</sup>Gigyohl milit<sup>3</sup> ... then we know there's salmon in the river ... and the oolichans are up around Sandy River – that's approximately ... in the area known today as Kseadan Camp. *Saxwhl Ksi Gililxis* is what we call it, where the oolichans spawn.

And that's when the big Spring Salmon come around ... and they pass them you know ... And the little oolichans holler out to the Spring Salmon:

*“Ado’osim hee-ee! Hlaa hliskw dip dilimootkwidiis!*

*/Go on, you big spring salmon, you can go swim up the river! We saved them from starvation already!”*

The big Spring Salmon yell back, chuckling:

*“They’re not going to get full eating you guys! You’re too damn small!*

*Just my fin is the same size as one of you!”*

The oolichans snap back:

*“We may be small ... but there’s so-oo-oo-oo many of us, millions of us! And there’s only a few of you!”*

...the oolichan says to the Spring Salmon.

I want this recorded because sooner or later science is going to uncover the secret of the communication of these fish in the river.