



P. U. H. A. NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 4
September 8, 2004



PRESIDENT'S REPORT —MIKE FEATHERSTONE

The 2004/2005 season officially got underway on September 1. This year the processors are taking a cautious approach as the market in Japan is still full of product from Chile. A small fleet of 7 vessels commenced fishing with daily limits requested by the 4 processors who were buying (4 others stayed on the sidelines). The product came out at a slower pace less than 30,000 lbs/day. The processors are using this product to test the market and provide samples to their buyers. Some of the product also went to supply the local market. The fleet arranged for a pre-harvest survey before commencing the full scale harvest. The second days harvest ended up in the ditch as the truck missed a turn on its way out of Tofino. The product was recovered but apparently there was no load insurance and it is uncertain of the damage.

The north was set to start with the experimental harvest in the QCC Islands. Due to the market uncertainties the processors requested a postponement of that fishery and instead recommended starting with the regular commercial fishery around the 12th. Here again a cautious approach and slow market did not allow for a large enough fleet to commence that fishery in the QCC Islands and at this time it looks as though the North will start in Smiths on the 10th with only 5 vessels. Typhoons and earthquakes haven't been helpful in getting things going and Japan has been hit by both which has also had an effect.

In spite of the seemingly slow start there seems to be a cautious optimism from some processors. The PUHA presentation at the Tokyo Trade Show helped to promote Canadian uni and a more measured approach may benefit us in the long run. Lease prices have come down as a result of the large amount of quota left in the water (as well as the lower average prices), which should provide some benefit for the crews who were hardest hit by the combination of high lease and lower price last year. Certainly we are seeing all processors acting carefully with their fishing strategy – looking for quality and volumes to match the market. No one is trying to push Japan and this should result in steady prices as the season gets into full swing in October. Another positive point is the continuing improvement of the Japanese economy with indications that Japanese companies are starting to spend again.

There is a least one new processor coming on the scene. Sea Gate Fisheries is headed up by Alice whom many know from her days at Sung Fish. Another possible start up is Harbour Marine with Sean formerly from Territory Seafoods. Jeff formerly with Y&L formed his new company Pacific Urchin Products (PUP) last year and has been up making arrangements this year. It remains to be seen what effect these new companies will have on the market but it should provide an interesting mix.

The annual general meeting will be held later this month, hope to see everyone then

OFFICE

604-524-0322

FAX

604-524-1023

E-MAIL

puha@telus.net

WEBSITE

www.puha.org

RED SEA URCHIN REGISTRATION

Due to the abuse of the honour system and continuously late payments prior to fishing, P.U.H.A. will be assuming the responsibility of registering all licences preceding the issuance of logbooks. Until payment is received in full and cashed or deposited into P.U.H.A.'s account a logbook will not be authorized for issuance to the respective licence/s. The vessel will not be permitted to fish until a logbook has been issued. Using last years logbook or sharing a logbook between licences or vessels will no longer be permitted, and this will be strictly enforced.

HOW TO REGISTER A RED SEA URCHIN LICENCE WITH P.U.H.A.:

1. Complete the registered information below.
2. Registration fees are to be made payable to "P.U.H.A." in the amount of \$5,500.00. Payment can be made by bank draft, certified cheque, money order or direct deposit to P.U.H.A.'s account.

P.U.H.A. Bank information:

Telephone either D. & D. or the P.U.H.A. office for a direct deposit information
1-800-775-5505 604-524-0322

3. Verification of licence designation will be required prior to issuance of a logbook
4. Once payment and licence verification have been made a logbook will be issued, which is required **prior to fishing** with no exceptions.

Mail / Courier: P. U. H. A. c/o Ross Morris 604-524-0322 telephone
902—4th Street, New Westminster, B. C. V3L 2W6 604-524-1023 fax

Registration Information

Licence Tab # _____ Designated Vessel _____ VRN # _____

Licence Holder Name _____ Contact # _____

Payment Type (check one of)

Bank draft _____ Certified cheque _____ Money order _____ Direct Deposit _____

Person & contact number concerning payment _____

P. U. H. A UPDATES

W.C.B. has announced that the rates will be decreasing for the year 2005. Their website has published preliminary assessment rates for the fishing classification rates will be going down from \$6.08 per \$100.00 in 2004 to \$5.81 per \$100.00 in 2005. Check the W.C.B. website for further information at http://www.worksafebc.com/for_employers/premiums/2005_rates/classification/b The goal is to continue this trend with continued support of the B. C. Seafood Alliance W.C.B. co-ordinator.



It should be noted that P.U.H.A. is receiving a number of calls from prospective buyers as a result of our new marketing program at the Brussels Trade Show, which was attended by some of our members. All prospective contacts from Europe are forwarded to the 3 interested processors, Grand Hale, Kiku and Territory. Hopefully this will lead to a greater diversification of the red urchin product.

The P.U.H.A. website has been upgraded to facilitate recent developments as well as having the newest video, which can be viewed by anyone. A Japanese version of the video will be added in the very near future. It would be greatly appreciated if P.U.H.A. members would give some feed-back on the website in ways to make it a good working tool for all parties concerned. Your input is of the essence. Also, we would like to put out a more informative Newsletter, thus input from crews, skippers, operators and anyone involved in the industry would greatly enhance the Newsletter. Please submit articles for both the Newsletter and website to the P.U.H.A. office.

P. U. H. A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



SEPTEMBER 21, 2002 (TUESDAY)

9:30 A.M.

BEST WESTERN RICHMOND HOTEL

7551 WESTMINSTER HIGHWAY

RICHMOND, B. C.

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE COMPLETE
ATTACHED PROXY AND RETURN TO:**

604-524-1023 (FAX)

puha@telus.net

It would be greatly appreciated if you would RSVP regarding attendance, thus insuring that adequate numbers of meals are prepared in advance for all attendees. 604-524-0322 (tel) 604-524-1023 (fax)

The agenda will be sent to everyone later.

Harvest Charts

DFO Shellfish Data Unit has announced that they will be seeking assistance from C&P officers in cleaning up the consistent late chart/data delivery from vessel masters and licence owners who have a history of incomplete information. DFO has recognized that there is a trend in certain vessel masters that consistently have missing information from year to year within the green and red sea urchin as well as the sea cucumber fisheries. The vessel masters will receive notices from DFO, and also the licence holder who is rarely on the vessel. The rule within the conditions of licence states delivery within 28 days of the fishing event. DFO has also stated (last year) that any late charts received after the close of the fishery (annually) will require "out of season" payment for digitization of your harvest site(s). DFO has expressed that this is the only way to deal with the amount of outstanding charts outside of an annual budget. D&D asked for any other methods to assist in recovering the late information, and the reply was simply that DFO will charge vessel masters and licence holders for breach of their conditions of licence.

Dockside Monitoring Company Certification - ISO 9000 Standards

All companies that are currently involved or are seeking to be involved in any dockside monitoring program must be certified as a company by DFO. This requires all companies to comply with ISO9000 standards that will be regulated by the CGSB (Canadian General Standards Board). It was first implemented on the East Coast in 2002 to address major problems with conflict of interest.

Example: Brother validating sisters' landings. This problem on the east coast has not been prevalent to our knowledge in the pacific region.

All companies were notified mid Feb and are to comply by July or they will not be recognized as a listed company certified by DFO. Therefore, no longer able to participate in any Dockside Monitoring Programs (DMP). DFO held a one-day workshop for those parties interested, about 9 companies were represented and to our knowledge only three have complied so far. ISO9000 standards are amongst the most demanding international standards set by the ISO (International Standards Organization). These standards are used worldwide in various industries for the purpose of quality control. At the moment it is anticipated that this will impact the companies involved by increasing the paperwork and administration by approx. 30%. It will most likely be necessary to hire an individual just to deal with the added workload and cost of the annual internal and external audits performed by the CGSB from Ottawa to retain a current listing and company certification status.

As a result of the CGSB's introduction to the fishery - **No logbooks utilized last season by fishers will be allowed in future seasons**. A number series for each season will be limited and no other number series will be accepted. Once a vessel registers, a logbook will be issued. Under this process, a vessel cannot hail to fish until they have registered, and acquired a new logbook prior to their fishing trip.

SURVEY REPORT—DIMITRI TZOTZOX

This summer has shaped up to be a busy one in terms of surveys. The Tofino study sites were surveyed in June, and as usual, lots of urchins were measured. Another survey (part of the assessment framework) was just completed near Port Hardy, and went very well. Thanks to the crew of the King Clam for their hard work. Next on the slate is a similar survey in area 6-10, at Campania Island. The Twin Starrs will be working that survey. Soon after that one is completed, the Price Island study sites will be surveyed alongside with the Kitsoo Fisheries Program, followed immediately by the Louise Island study site survey and experimental harvest. As in the past years, the Haida Fisheries Program will be helping with the Lousie Island survey

