

Pacific Urchin Harvesters Association



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Bi-Annual General Meeting 2003

P.U.H.A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 9, 2003

RICHMOND, B. C.

ATTENDEES:

Ross Morris Mike Featherstone Darin Macey
 Mike Steinmann Peter Codling Robert Reinstein
 Jim Hume Rick Roussin Edward Izykowski
 Mark Ulanowski Dave Hunter Jackson David McRae
 Jeff Kannada Francis Cheung Mike Crawford
 Ken Ridgway Jr. Willy Sam Sr. Dave Lansdowne
 Al Shanks George Dennis Ken Ridgway
 Dimitri Tzotzos Bill Choi Paddy Wong
 John Parkin Greg Loiselle James Mahon
 David Van Gruen (auditor)

47 Voting licence holders plus 31 proxies = 78 votes

Meeting commenced at 9:40 a.m.

2002 Annual General Meeting Minutes —mike featherstone

The 2002 Annual General Meeting Minutes were presented for approval. Motion for approval by Richard Roussin—seconded by Mike Crawford.

Financial Report —david van gruen (PUHA's auditor)

The financial statement was presented showing a surplus of approximately \$65,000.00, as of June 30, 2003 . This reserve will be used as there are no revenues during the months of July and August and survey work is heavy during those months. This year 109 out of 110 licences were purchased. Again the Canadian Processors contributed \$2,000.00 each towards our survey and plant sampling programs. Motion for approval by David Lansdowne, seconded by Mark Ulanowski--

-approved by the membership.

Election of Officers ---mike featherstone

Mike Featherstone has agreed to continue as President and the following members have agreed to continue as directors: Tim Joys, David Lansdowne, David McRae, Ken Ridgway, Herb Watson and Mark Ulanowski. Motion for approval by Rick Roussin, seconded by George Dennis---approved by the membership.

President's Report ---mike featherstone

- Annual update of Activities
- Seafood Alliance : Alliance meets monthly with representatives from 15 fishing and processing associations, guided by a set of principals based on sustainability, profitability and market responsiveness. Following summarizes highlights
- Co-management and security of access – brings more certainty and stability to industry. PUHA has signed a 2 year joint project agreement this year with the goal of combining collaborative agreement combined with JPA for a 5 year term.
- Sustainability through co-management - presented a workshop on shared stewardship, provides a management policy framework that enhances conservation as well as economic success.
- Advisory processes - provided specific recommendations for better DFO advisory and decision making processes. The alliance to provide a key role in this development.
- New approach to fishery allocations in treaty settlements – Include equitable, transparent, single non-discriminatory management framework, must have fair compensation.
- Access to Agri-Food Canada Market Development programs for Fisheries.
- Point of contact on Food safety, bioterrorism and access issues – helped redraft proposed legislation with significant changes regarding export

certification, time delays and sanitary certificates.

- Co-coordinating role on SARA/COSEWIC – This legislation turns DFO priorities upside down with the potential to impact all fisheries. Next Alliance Seafood Summit is being organized around this initiative. Ties in with sea otters and abalone.
- WCB/Safety/Transportation – Alliance hired a safety co-coordinator Steve Hodgins to promote safety and education, claim reduction through better tracking and advocacy. Alliance also has representatives at Transport Canada and Sewage reform meetings
- First Nations Access – Presented a position paper to the DFO DG Caucus on Aboriginal Issues, correspondence to the Ministers and a news release on the appointment of TASK Group.
- Dive Buoys – Met with recreational divers to discuss proposal to close areas around mooring buoys, articulated a response and met with the group to discuss options.
- Sewage regulatory reform – In March 2003 joined the working group meeting fortnightly to draft new regs with respect to pollution by sewage from Canadian vessels in Canadian waters. This is required under Canada 's obligations under MARPOL. Initially these regs were for adoption in September now more likely 2011.
- CMAC – 2 representatives both regionally and nationally report on Transport Canada initiatives especially on stability, voyage limits and carriage requirements.
- Aquaculture – One of the more difficult issues, the Alliance wrote to both Provincial and Federal Ministers raising specific concerns about escapes, pathogen transfers, sea lice, night lighting, decommissioned sites and policies concerning non-salmonid finfish species. The Alliance worked with the PFRCC with respect to “making sense of the aquaculture debate”.
- Consultations on Rock Fish Conservation Strategy and Canada 's Ocean Strategy.

- Offshore Oil and Gas Consultation – Alliance has been asked to organize an information workshop and advise O&G group on seafood issues.
- Other Initiatives
 - Abalone rebuilding strategy. PUHA worked with PBS and Abalone working group in an effort to collect abundance information through harvest logs as well as participate in the coast watch program.
 - Sea Otter rebuilding strategy PUHA offered support to Ahousat regarding development of a fishery.
 - Development of the experimental harvest – 4 areas set aside from the fishery for experimental management will be harvested over time to study the effects of density on mortality, roe quality, ecology, recruitment and other population parameters.
 - Market Development Program the Agri-Food market development program has granted PUHA \$30,000 for market research to develop a long term marketing strategy.

North Coast Report --- darin macey

In the North Coast , of the 93 licences, 85 achieved <1000, 7 unachieved>1000, with 1 not active for the second season in a row (FC-6 Tsimshian Tribal Council). Of the 67 quota areas in the north, 70% were achieved with <1000 lb. 97.9% of the quota was taken from the North Coast leaving a total of 191,838 pounds remaining. Areas that make up the majority of RQ are: --RU19 Porcher In. 57% taken (21k RQ)

--RU47a Thompson Bay 30% taken (24k RQ)

--RU51 Seaforth 50% taken (44k RQ)

--RU52 Tribal Gr. 32% taken (41k RQ)

--RU53 Spider 31% taken (103k RQ)

The clean-up schedule was comprised of 31 quota areas previously unachieved, 7 of those were fished 3 separate times. An increase from 27 last season.

South Coast Report ---ken ridgway/darin macey

The season began with a licence draw with most of the licences going to Tofino which opened first---was a shotgun fishery. There were boundary changes which worked quite well. The overall product was skinny in quality and not as good as normal. The same applied to the north end of the island with quality.

In the South Coast of the 17 SE licences, 14 achieved <1000, 3>1000. In the south there are a total of 29 quota areas, 20 in the SE and 9 in the SW. Of the 20 in the SE, 16 were achieved with <1000 remaining, leaving 4 with >1000. 98.4% of the quota was taken from the SE leaving a total of 17,551 pounds remaining. 2 areas make up the majority of the RQ in the SE and they are: --12G Wells Pass. 38% taken (15k RQ)

--17 Nanaimo 90% taken (3.6k RQ)

Of the 17 SW licences, 7 achieved <1000, leaving 10 with >1000. Of the 9 quota areas, 6 were achieved with <1000 leaving 3 with >1000 pounds. 75.5% of the quota was taken from the SW leaving a total of 130,714 pounds remaining. 3 areas make up the majority of the RQ in the SW and they are: --area 111 37% taken (91k RQ)

--27A & 27B Quatsino outside/inside 0% taken

(22k RQ for each)

In total 91.1% was taken from the South Coast leaving 148,265 pounds RQ.

D. & D. Pacific Report ---darin macey

Waterloss —Difference between dock weight and plant weight was mentioned several times this season in both the North Coast and South Coast , all involving landings from areas fished close to the land port. Buyers are reporting differences as high as 20% at times. This is something of concern as it could have impacts on the industry. At this time, some buyers are providing data to D. & D. in attempts to quantify these concerns in the event it is addressed with D. F. O. For the time being, buyers suggest unloading should be delayed a few hours in areas of close proximity to the landing port.

Handling of product ---Again buyers and fishers are raising concerns over damaged product. As market and economical constraints are imposed on industry product quality is even

more important. During the course of validation of landings, D. & D. observers are instructed to address mishandling to the party involved. No other steps are taken. More times than not when addressing this issue, our observers are told you know what.... If there are repeated occurrences from the same party, this information is then passed on to the respective buyer to try and prevent future incidents. Often these concerns are not addressed by the buyers until it is too late. Therefore, next season, written reports of any mishandling of product witnessed by our observers during offloading will be documented and circulated to the fishers and buyers. In the event of product arriving to the dock previously damaged, the observer will not fill out a report but simply comment on the validation log of the extent. Only damaged witnessed by the observer will be accounted for.

Spoiled or lost product ---It is stipulated in the management plan that any product spoiled or lost prior to validation will be accounted for it's entirety. Unfortunately, this season such an event occurred and a considerable amount of product was lost involving several vessels. This loss was minimized considerably as D. & D. in support of industry, lobbied with D.F.O. to only deduct a portion of the lost quota from each vessel. However, the entire estimated loss was deducted from the area quota. To give you an idea of the difference, a total of 34,000 pounds unrecoverable only 10,000 pounds were deducted from vessel I.Q.

Abalone Recovery Strategy: Illegal harvest (all fishing closed in 1990) of northern abalone is an ongoing concern, which is continuing to threaten any recovery. P.U.H.A. and D. F. O. urge fishers to assist in Abalone Coast Watch program and to report suspicious harvesting activities to OBSERVE-RECORD-REPORT 1-800-465-4336. Further information about abalone recovery efforts is available on the internet:

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/shellfish/Abalone/default.htm>

As part of an ongoing initiative to gather as much information as possible about abalone stocks in B. C., we have added a new section to your harvest log whereby you can voluntarily report presence and abundance of abalone in your harvest areas.

We are asking those interested to use the new column in Section C of the Validation & Harvest Logbook to record the presence and abundance of abalone for each dive. You may also use the "Comments" line to expand on the information as necessary.

Please note that an empty cell in this column will be regarded as a null record – it will be assumed that you have not been looking for abalone while harvesting red sea urchins. If you have actively looked for abalone, please make sure to enter the appropriate abundance code: N = none, S = single, F = few (2-10), M = many (11-100), A = abundant (>100).

P.U.H.A. Biologist Report ---dimitri tzotzos

Current work

1. **Survey Season Completed** . All scheduled biomass surveys are now completed. Areas were selected based on consultation with DFO science and management. Barkley Sound survey was a priority to justify the increase in quotas as requested by the PUHA quota-planning group. The Dundas , area 3 survey program was initiated to provide current information and fill-in information gaps for quota estimations, Tofino continued experimental work. All data from all surveys up to Barkley sound will be included in the next PSARC paper due in Nov. 2003.
2. **Experimental study areas** . Study site data was entered for analysis and summary papers for density and gonad work in progress. PUHA funded a student for the fall to begin tagging study work analyzing collected jaw samples. Need to review methodology. Starting in 2004 there will be increased experimental harvest of 4 representative areas (QCC, Price Island , Tofino, Alert Bay).
3. **Development of Aquaculture** : Need to set goals and objectives, possible sites in Area 19, open communication with DFO aquaculture scientist for co development.

Action Items

- Estimate experimental harvest quotas by area, determine harvest dates
- Detail procedures for experimental harvest
- Selection (bid, lottery), payment (day rate, \$/lb), requirements for harvest participants (as per surveys)
- Information and reporting requirements for processors.
- Contact Aquaculture scientist for preliminary fact

finding meeting.

- Identify survey priorities for 2004 (QCC new study area, id areas that are data limited)

Surveys:

- Tofino Study Site
- Barkley Sound broadbrush
- Yaculta outplant site
- Dundas broadbrush

Quotas updated for areas surveyed last summer:

- Beaver Pass and Freeman Pass
- Campbell River areas

Published survey reports:

- Laredo Channel, 2000
- Deserters Group, 2000
- Tofino, 2000
- Becher Bay , 2001

Plant Sampling Program (60,400 samples)

Ongoing Research

Experimental Harvest Program

- Original Goals and Objectives:
 - To obtain more information about red sea urchin population dynamics, growth, recruitment, and factors influencing roe quality and habitat, in order to help with developing sustainable fishery management strategies.
- Progress to date:
 - Surveys have been carried out almost every year at the 3 main study areas.

- Experimental harvesting was conducted in 1995/1996
- We have begun looking at the study site data 1995 – present:
- Estimated exploitation rates for experimental harvests
- Started paper to examine density, size frequency, and harvest data for trends and to determine if any changes were due to experimental harvest treatments
- Started paper to examine study site biosample data for roe quality trends and to determine if any changes were due to experimental harvest treatments.
- Initial conclusions from study site data analysis:
- No statistically significant effects of harvest were observed in density and size frequency data.
- Some trends in roe quality were observed, but more work needs to be done to identify the possible causes.
- Master's student examining optimal survey methods
- Change to Q.C.I. study site protocol to allow for experimental harvesting at varying exploitation rates.
- Surveys and harvesting to be carried out in February, 2004

PSARC Paper (in preparation for November, 2003):

- New quota options for 2004/2005 are being calculated using survey data and new commercial harvest area data.
- Barkley Sound survey data to be included, but probably not Dunda.

Publish survey reports:

- Fitz Hugh Sound , 2001
- Price Island , 2001
- Robson Bight, 2001
- Beaver Pass , 2002
- Campbell River , 2002
- Barkley Sound, 2003
- Dundas Islands , 2003

Examine urchin biosamples (jaws and rotules) collected from past surveys.

- P.U.H.A./D.F.O. have hired a student to begin processing frozen samples from study site surveys and the Yaculta outplant site.

Quota updates as surveys are completed and data analysed.

Plant sampling program:

- Program Goal:
 - To enhance the current knowledge of the commercial red sea urchin fishery, and to allow resource managers to evaluate the status of stocks on an area specific basis.
- Urchins Measured:
 - 2000/2001 - 22,739 (0.85% sub-legal)
 - 2001/2002 - 40,150 (-.43% sub-legal)
 - 2002/2003 - 60,400 (0.23% sub-legal)
- For this upcoming season, we will focus again on sampling areas that were missed, and also looking at important areas to look for trends.

There was talk of a experimental harvest in certain areas with possible size restrictions plus other requirements, but how do we select the divers and processors. It was questioned as to

why do this, when we are presently paying and doing research programs.

A motion by Jim Hume to leave clean-up by vessels---seconded by David McRae---approved by the membership.

There was discussion regarding the West Coast of the Charlotte's, based on weather, concerns of control by the processors or regulated by D.F.O. It was preferred not to go the D.F.O. route as the processors know when the product is needed or not. Concern was expressed regarding regulating the harvesting or over harvesting based on demand with too many vessels doing the Charlotte 's. It was agreed that the next meeting of the directors and processors, recommendations will be put together as well as D. & D. putting together possibilities for presentation to P.U.H.A. for approval.

It was agreed that Mike Featherstone will establish costs and involvement of hiring an independent researcher to tell us about our industry and what to expect for the next year,

to be presented to the P.A.R.C.

LUNCH ---Dr. Norman Sloan gave a lunch presentation regarding the Qwail Haanas National Park Reserve, which is 1 of 5 new National Marine Conservation Area's.

Steve Hodgins of the B.C. Seafood Alliance, who is the Fishing Industry Safety Co-ordinator, gave a presentation about the new system of claims reporting.

Phil Eidsvik of the B. C. Fisheries Survival Coalition gave a summary of the Kapp decision just recently passed. After his presentation George Dennis motioned that P.U.H.A. increase this years donation from \$2000.00 to \$5000.00—seconded by Rick Roussin---approved by the membership.

W.C.B. CREW ISSUES ---peter codling

The issue of crew numbers was brought up and Peter Codling is going to request an industry variance on the matter from W.C.B. Mike Featherstone advised that W.C.B. would allow 2 divers in the water, provided there is visual, signal or underwater radio communications. George Dennis, Al Shanks, Jim Hume and Peter Codling will form a committee to pursue this matter, as 4 people are being fined about \$50,000.00. Peter knows of a consultant who is familiar with W.C.B. variances and it would cost approximately \$6,000.00. Jim Hume motioned that a committee be formed to hire the above

mentioned consultant to make an application for a variance with the W.C.B. with a maximum expenditure of \$6,000.00---seconded by John Parkin---approved by the membership.

BUDGET FOR 2003/2004 ---mike featherstone

The budget for the coming year for P.U.H.A. was presented. The only change is the AIMS project for Seafood Market Development, will not happen as it has been put on hold for now. Motion for approval by David Lansdowne—seconded by David McRae and approved by the membership.

URCHIN MARKET ---processors overview

Francis Cheung of Grand Hale Marine and Mike Crawford of Territory discussed the industry as to how they perceive it. The California market is up and down like it is here in B. C. Japanese is as good if not better than ours. The product is very consistent, and there is very heavy competition. The Chilean product is as good but the taste is not as good as ours, yet the Alaskan urchin taste is better than ours. It was agreed that quality and timing are very critical.

A general discussion of the whole market ensued.

No further business was presented, thus the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.