

P. U. H. A. NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENTS REPORT --MIKE FEATHERSTONE

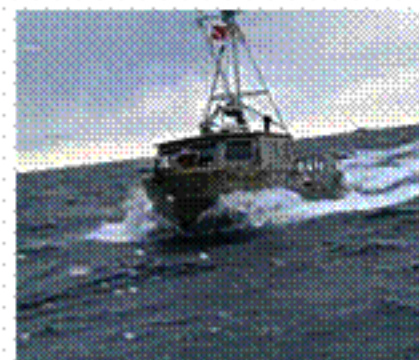
The start date for the Islands is now set for Feb. 5, 2004. This date was chosen based on consultation from the processors, the majority of processors suggested that earlier would be better based on the market expectations. One point that all processors made was that the market can only take a limited supply of product and that any oversupply will result in decreased prices. It was estimated that 100,000 lbs/ day grounds weight would be tops for the market.

PUHA has approved the application for long term market development. 50% of the funding will come from Agri-Food Canada and

the processors have offered to fund 25% with the remainder to be split between PUHA and the Green Urchin Harvesters. Further savings will be realized by joint marketing with the Underwater Harvesters Association and partnering with suppliers, supermarkets and restaurants. In the short term funds will be dedicated to developing point of sale materials, educational video, nutritional analysis and participation in selected trade shows.

Following in the newsletter you will find a Planning Calendar for 2004. One of the most important meetings is the Quota Planning Session which is tentatively

scheduled for the week of March 22, 2004. This is the most important meeting of the year for divers and skippers to provide their input into how the fishing plan and schedule can work better. Please plan on attending, if you cannot make it in person please provide your input to D&D or send an alternate. Everyone is welcome and your input is en-



IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING EXPERIMENTAL HARVEST IN QCC ISLANDS:

Any licensed red sea urchin harvest vessels interested in participating in the experimental harvest in the QCC Islands are asked to provide their vessel, skipper and crew names to Ross at the PUHA office (604 524 0322) or to D&D.

The planned harvest will tentatively take place after the completion of the scheduled harvest of the East side of the Islands. Estimated start date of Feb. 17th. Five vessels will be required. The vessel rate is estimated at \$.25/lb. The work involves total removal of all sea urchins above 50mm (approx. harvest size). The harvest is estimated to be 160,000 lbs and take 4 days. This is an experimental harvest and separate from any TAC's. Each harvest bag will have to be tagged with the experimental harvest location. The PUHA biologist will be on grounds to coordinate the harvest.

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Red Sea Urchin 2003 - 2004

Landings by Management Area

| Pacific Region | | North Coast | | Month Dive: | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Open | Close | Quota Area | No of Vessels | Quota Allowed | Period Landings | Remaining quota | % Quota taken | |
| 27-Nov-03 | 01-Dec-03 | RU16 | Inside Stephens Isl | 1 | 60,000 | 3,473 | 56,527 | 5.79% |
| 28-Nov-03 | 02-Dec-03 | RU18 | Oval Bay | 11 | 150,000 | 40,838 | 109,162 | 27.23% |
| 01-Dec-03 | 08-Dec-03 | RU21 | Willis Bay | 44 | 150,000 | 155,367 | -5,367 | 103.58% |
| 02-Dec-03 | 08-Dec-03 | RU19 | Porcher Inlet | 7 | 25,000 | 23,617 | 1,383 | 94.47% |
| 02-Dec-03 | 08-Dec-03 | RU20 A | Outside Freeman Pass | 4 | 82,000 | 22,126 | 59,874 | 26.98% |
| 02-Dec-03 | 03-Dec-03 | RU20B | Inside Freeman Pass | 6 | 20,000 | 21,101 | -1,101 | 105.51% |
| 02-Dec-03 | 08-Dec-03 | RU22 A | Hankin Rock | 12 | 50,000 | 50,608 | -608 | 101.22% |
| 02-Dec-03 | 08-Dec-03 | RU22B | Beaver Pass | 14 | 60,000 | 56,719 | 3,281 | 94.53% |
| 02-Dec-03 | 08-Dec-03 | RU26 | Larsen Harbour | 4 | 120,000 | 18,653 | 101,347 | 15.54% |
| 07-Dec-03 | 08-Dec-03 | RU23 | Upper Principe Channel | 23 | 120,000 | 126,721 | -6,721 | 105.60% |
| 08-Dec-03 | 09-Dec-03 | RU24 A | Mid Principe Channel | 19 | 60,000 | 72,248 | -12,248 | 120.41% |
| 08-Dec-03 | 09-Dec-03 | RU24B | Lower Principe Channel | 9 | 60,000 | 45,543 | 14,457 | 75.91% |
| 09-Dec-03 | 11-Dec-03 | RU33 | Otter Pass | 52 | 200,000 | 200,272 | -272 | 100.14% |
| 11-Dec-03 | 12-Dec-03 | RU34 A | Langley Pass | 6 | 20,000 | 16,832 | 3,168 | 84.16% |
| 11-Dec-03 | 12-Dec-03 | RU34B | Develin Bay | 10 | 20,000 | 18,850 | 1,150 | 94.25% |
| 11-Dec-03 | 13-Dec-03 | RU35 | Oswald Bay | 14 | 75,000 | 70,494 | 4,506 | 93.99% |
| 13-Dec-03 | 19-Dec-03 | RU36 A | Estevan Group East | 34 | 135,000 | 149,738 | -14,738 | 110.92% |
| 13-Dec-03 | 19-Dec-03 | RU36B | Estevan Group South | 8 | 95,000 | 33,553 | 61,447 | 35.32% |
| 15-Dec-03 | 19-Dec-03 | RU38 A | Campania Isl/Surf Inlet | 52 | 400,000 | 209,342 | 190,658 | 52.34% |
| 15-Dec-03 | 19-Dec-03 | RU38B | Whale Channel | 3 | 50,000 | 13,691 | 36,309 | 27.38% |
| 19-Dec-03 | 02-Jan-04 | RU31 A | Moore Islands | 18 | 250,000 | 93,368 | 156,632 | 37.35% |
| 19-Dec-03 | 28-Dec-03 | RU37 | Rennison Island | 26 | 100,000 | 93,978 | 6,022 | 93.98% |
| 19-Dec-03 | 29-Dec-03 | RU39 | Upper West Aristazabal | 76 | 300,000 | 300,864 | -864 | 100.29% |
| 28-Dec-03 | 02-Jan-04 | RU40 | Woodcock Islands | 14 | 80,000 | 71,803 | 8,197 | 89.75% |
| 29-Dec-03 | 02-Jan-04 | RU31B | Harvey Islands | 7 | 250,000 | 43,700 | 206,300 | 17.48% |
| 29-Dec-03 | 03-Jan-04 | RU41 | Normansell Islands | 14 | 128,839 | 78,170 | 50,669 | 60.67% |
| | | | | Total | 3,060,839 | 2,031,669 | 1,029,170 | 66.38% |
| Pacific Region | | South Coast | | Month Dive: | | | | |
| Open | Close | Quota Area | No of Vessels | Quota Allowed | Period Landings | Remaining quota | % Quota taken | |
| 29-Sep-03 | 20-Jan-04 | 12F | Deserter Island | 4 | 85,000 | 15,054 | 69,946 | 17.71% |
| 01-Dec-03 | 10-Dec-03 | 13B | Campbell River South | 24 | 100,000 | 99,937 | 63 | 99.94% |
| 01-Dec-03 | 19-Dec-03 | 13F | Kelsey Bay East | 13 | 50,000 | 50,151 | -151 | 100.30% |
| 08-Dec-03 | 24-Dec-03 | 14 | Comox | 3 | 15,000 | 15,403 | -403 | 102.69% |
| 15-Dec-03 | 28-Dec-03 | 12D | Pt. McNeill | 25 | 114,000 | 114,251 | -251 | 100.22% |
| 15-Dec-03 | 18-Dec-03 | 13A | Kelsey Bay Proper | 13 | 50,000 | 53,342 | -3,342 | 106.68% |
| 15-Dec-03 | 22-Dec-03 | 13C | Campbell River North | 21 | 80,000 | 79,488 | 512 | 99.36% |
| 15-Dec-03 | 18-Jan-04 | 17 | Nanaimo | 4 | 15,000 | 10,610 | 4,390 | 70.73% |
| 15-Dec-03 | 16-Jan-04 | 18A | Sidney | 4 | 40,000 | 16,490 | 23,510 | 41.23% |
| 15-Dec-03 | 15-Jan-04 | 18B | Mayne/Saturna Island | 4 | 20,000 | 15,045 | 4,955 | 75.22% |
| Pacific Region | | South Coast | | Month Dive: | | | | |
| Open | Close | Quota Area | No of Vessels | Quota Allowed | Period Landings | Remaining quota | % Quota taken | |
| 15-Dec-03 | | 19 | Victoria | 5 | 59,000 | 16,819 | 42,181 | 28.51% |
| 29-Dec-03 | | 11/12G | Allison Harbour/Wells Pas | 1 | 80,000 | 1,004 | 78,996 | 1.26% |
| 29-Dec-03 | 320-Jan-04 | 12I | Buckle Group | 3 | 50,000 | 16,162 | 33,838 | 32.32% |
| | | | | Total | 758,000 | 503,756 | 254,244 | 66.46% |
| | | | | | Cumulative Landings | 2,535,425 | | |

MAINE URCHIN LICENCES

A Maine urchin fishing licence—if you could get one—would cost \$249.00, but some people paid anywhere from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 for a licence during November 2001 one-time urchin licence transfer program. The licence transfer opportunity was the only way that urchin fishermen who previously fished under someone else's licence could continue to drag for urchins in 2002. This is when it became illegal for anyone who possessed an urchin licence, but no longer fished for the valuable seafood to lease his licence to another fisherman. Urchins were a \$17.7 million industry in 2000, second only in value to lobsters in Maine's ranking of commercial fisheries. To protect the dwindling resource, new urchin fishing licences had been limited since 1994. Under current state regulations, 5 people must leave the fishery before one new licence is issued, and applicants for the licence are subject to a lottery. The 1994 law, however, contained a provision that turned out to be a loophole that allowed new people to enter the fishery. In order to accommodate crew members who worked on urchin draggers, the provision permitted a crew to fish under someone else's licence. Over time, fishermen who had an urchin licence, but no longer wanted to fish, leased their licences to others who had never fished for urchins before. The practice, which was unique to urchin licences, didn't make sense in a fishery where officials were trying to reduce the number of fishermen. This loophole was eliminated by the Sea Urchin Zone Council, which is a 15-member advisory board of urchin divers, draggers, buyers and marine biologists. The council wanted to close that loophole, but did not want to put anyone out of business. So, it recommended the one-time licence transfer opportunity. The Council wanted to give an opportunity to those fishermen who had been leasing urchin licences for at least 2 years to have the licences transferred from the owner into their names. About 30 fishermen obtained licences under the transfer program, but another 15 to 20 who had been dragging for urchins during the past 2 years were unable to negotiate licence transfers. In one case, 4 Cobscook Bay fishermen had been leasing their licences from members of the Passamaquoddy Tribe. Tribal regulations limit ownership of the licences to Passamaquoddy, so those licences could not be transferred. The Zone Council voted to recommend that the Legislature accommodate those 15 to 20 fishermen who missed the transfer program.

RESEARCH—DMITRI TZOTZOS

Research programs are getting ready to shift into high gear with the Louise Island study site survey and experimental harvest scheduled to begin on or about February 12th. P.U.H.A. is providing 2 vessels and crews for the survey, and we will hopefully have 5 boats helping with the harvesting. The Haida dive team will also be joining us. With the weather's co-operation, we are hoping to have everything wrapped up in under 2 weeks.

Also scheduled for this season is a survey method comparison that will provide us with information on which survey methods are best suited to surveying red urchin biomass. Plans for other urchin survey's are still being discussed, so anyone who would like to participate, please call or e-mail Dimitri at (250) 756-7147 tzotzosd@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

