



# P. U. H. A. NEWSLETTER

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## Pr esidents r epor t --mike featherstone

The market continues to show weakness as we move into the New Year. There was some improvement over the Holiday Season, however the Russian product continues to have a detrimental effect on both the demand and prices. In this regard PUHA has brought the issue to the local press (Province, Sunday Magazine Jan. 30/2005), lobbied the International Directorate, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, coordinated with concerned Japanese officials and communicated with a representative at the US embassy ( the Alaskan fishery has also been affected). PUHA plans to continue with these efforts next focusing on the Japanese Government, questioning the rationale for allowing illegal and unregulated product into the country.

The QCC Island fishery is scheduled to open February 7 (weather permitting). PUHA is coordinating with D. & D. and DFO to have a mainland area (Tree Knobs) open just before and during the QCC opening to ensure continuity of supply. A few vessels will not travel to the QCC Islands and will work the year round openings in the Central Coast.

The fishing has been steady in January but the market will not absorb supply gluts to any great extent. All the processors are being cautious with some having a greater ability than others to absorb heavy production. Fishermen will have to coordinate closely with their buyers to regulate the supply during the QCC opening. The outlook is that Chile will start supplying the market in February which may further constrain harvesting.

Our biologist, Dimitri Tzotzo, has retired due to a back problem. In the meantime PUHA will contract another biologist over the next 2 months to complete the data entry and analysis from last years surveys. In the spring we will evaluate the situation and make a recommendation whether to hire a full time biologist or use contractors to work on specific projects. The QCC experimental harvest is still planned for this season but the market has presented economic challenges. PUHA is working with interested processors and harvesters to complete this work. Anyone who would like to participate in the harvest should contact Ross Morris (604 524 0322)..

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The harvest is currently behind last season by 525 thousand pounds, mostly in the north. In terms of licences validated we are sitting only 2 licences behind last year but PUHA is monitoring the situation relative to the budget estimates and is warning DFO of possible shortfalls if all licences are not validated this season. Licence leases have dropped to the \$10,000 range in the effort to get the product fished. Currently it is "wait and see" on what the market does and make plans for an anticipate shortfall in the harvest

## D. & D. pacific report

As most of you know this has turned out to be one of the toughest seasons yet. Global market share and the drop and rise of the US and Canadian dollars respectively has caused a lot of stress for the industry. Lease prices, and the price/pound agreed upon between fishermen and buyers before the fishery opened are now difficult or even impossible to sustain. Everyone is struggling to complete their quota and meet financial objectives. There has been a lot of talk about many licences not finishing this season. As of January 24, 2005, eighty-seven tabs had registered with PUHA. Last season, the remaining number of pounds coastwide equated to just over six licences not fished. However, all licences had registered with PUHA with the exception of one communal tab that was withheld by DFO.

Buyers have indicated that this season may be relatively short and the focus should be on providing quality. Therefore, every effort is being made by PUHA and D&D to adapt the fishing schedule to the changes in the market providing the fleet with the most flexibility as possible. This has resulted in dramatic changes to the schedule. In the south coast there were sixteen areas open concurrently this fall/winter which has never occurred before. That represents 57% of the twenty-eight quota areas in the south coast. Basically almost every area was open from Pt Hardy to Victoria. In the north coast the fishing effort has focused north of Seaforth Channel. Starting on the west side of Aristazabal Island in September and working their way up the outside areas to Dundas then back down ending up in Milbanke/Mathieson area before initiating a clean-up of area previously unachieved. The fleet didn't go any further south than Seaforth Channel. Largely, the co-operation level amongst the fleet has been good and fishers have been working as a group very well. However, dealing with the unstable environments of both market and weather there will always be problems or disagreements to overcome. It seems weather has almost been as unstable as the market this season which has made for an even more challenging hindrance. More frequent consultations with DFO managers has been necessary this season to explain and justify the need for the added flexibility and to stay on top of the opening and closures. DFO managers were hesitant to open so many areas at one time and have concerns of misreporting and quota overages. When the season is over these concerns will be reviewed closely by DFO. At this point in time the relationship and collaboration with both the north & south coast fleets have been beneficial.

Below are figures comparing the fishing effort and total catch from the 2002/03, 2003/04 & 2004/05 seasons.

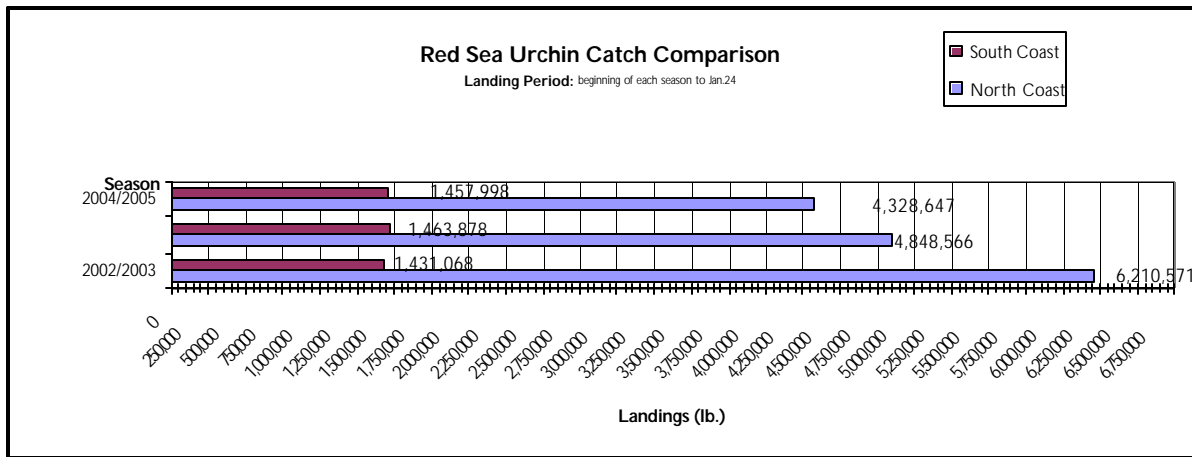
### Beginning of each season to Jan.24

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
# Lic. with landings	96	83	81
Pounds Landed	7,641,639	6,312,444	5,786,645

## Red Sea Urchin Catch Comparison

Landing Period: beginning of each season to Jan.24

Season	North Coast	South Coast	Total Catch	Coastwide Difference ( to 2004/05 season)	North Difference ( to 2004/05 season)	South Difference ( to 2004/05 season)
2002/2003	6,210,571	1,431,068	7,641,639	-1,854,994	-1,881,924	26,930
2003/2004	4,848,566	1,463,878	6,312,444	-525,799	-519,919	-5,880
2004/2005	4,328,647	1,457,998	5,786,645			



## Pacific fisheries technologists conference

To All Prospective PFT Attendees:

There are now fewer than 30 days until the 2005 PFT conference next month, so it's time to reserve your hotel room and register for the conference..

Note: The block of rooms being held by the hotel for PFT attendees, will be "released" on February 01, 2005. There is no guarantee of rooms after that date, so please ensure that you make your hotel bookings early.

We would appreciate an idea of interest for the following two social activities:

- \* A special "Taste of the Orient" Seafood Dinner on the Monday night has been arranged by the Western Canada Seafood Merchants & Processors Association. Tickets will be available at the PFT registration desk on the Sunday evening and the Monday morning.

- \* A tour of the Ball Packaging can manufacturing facilities in Richmond, BC, has been arranged for the Wednesday afternoon. . A sign-up sheet for the tour will be available at the PFT registration desk. If you think you'd like to join the fun of either of the above (no commitment) please let us know. Remember that additional advance tickets are also available for your spouses/partners at the Vancouver Aquarium PFT Banquet on the Tuesday evening.

The conference program is now full... Check the PFT website ([www.pft2005.org](http://www.pft2005.org)) regarding program details and related activities...

See you in Vancouver next month! **FEBRUARY 20—23, 2005**

Ralph Drew, 2004-2005 President  
 Pacific Fisheries Technologists'  
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## Out reach meetings with fishermen & boatbuilders

Just a heads up to upcoming meetings planned by Transport Canada for fishermen's feedback into regulatory reforms dealing with such issues as sea time, certification and stability as well as construction standards. Locations to be advised

- April 25, 2005 Outreach meeting with fishermen in Vancouver, B. C.
- April 27, 2005 Outreach meeting with fishermen in Campbell River, B. C.
- April 29, 2005 Outreach meeting with fishermen in Prince Rupert, B. C.
- March 11, 2005 Outreach meeting with Boat Builders in Vancouver, B. C.