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# PUHA NEWSLETTER

P.U.H.A.  
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 3

JUNE 20, 2007

## President's Report —MIKE FEATHERSTONE



With the season now over we can focus on moving forward and preparing for next season. After a long day of consultation and a lot of work by the managers, the quotas for the 2007/2008 have been prepared and the draft plan presented. Originally it looked as though there would be a significant quota decrease, however, the managers incorporated many of the industry recommendations so the final numbers are down just over 10% (around 86,000 lbs/licence). The drop in the quotas is in part due to the change from a bed model to a shoreline length model. Divers spent extra time at the quota planning session updating the urchin habitat information to be incorporated into the new model. Now we need the government to provide continuing funding for the PUHA biologist so he can incorporate and update the model.

Due to funding constraints PUHA is participating in just 3 surveys this summer. Two of the surveys are on the long term study areas (QCC and Tofino) and one survey is a biomass survey in the Campbell River area. If there are any extra funds available PUHA will try and spend a few days at the Calvert Island study site in the fall before the northern fishery starts. The budget for the surveys is \$20,000 with one crew deferring part of their payment til the fall (thanks to Herb and the MacBay). DFO is funding the biologist on an ad hoc basis for these surveys.

PUHA continues to advocate government action on the Russian IUU fishery, and we have contacted industry representatives in Alaska and California to set up an alliance to work together on this issue. At the same time PUHA is working with Terry Glavin and world conservation groups to develop a strategy to raise awareness in both Russia and Japan. IUU fishing is a global problem and is having it's effects on crab, prawn and other fisheries.

The Spring General Meeting is scheduled for June 26 at the Beban Park . On the agenda will be the draft 2007-2008 budget, discussions of unequal quotas for south and north (that is to say there will an option for more licences to select south), summary reports from the 2006-2007 season and the discussion of the electronic vessel monitoring system. Hope to see everyone there!

## Marketing — GEOFF KRAUSE



It's pretty much accepted by everyone I think that avoiding high temperatures is critical to seafood quality and extending shelf life. However up to this point we have very limited information on what might actually be happening temperature-wise once the urchins are caught. According to just about everyone involved there is apparently no problem but no one has any real data to back this up. Like the old saying puts it: If you can't measure it, you can't manage it or in this case, no way to identify or isolate problem areas. This is kind of hard to justify especially today when, if there is any one trend happening in the food trade, it is a mounting requirement to provide buyers with more objective tracking data. You can take it to any level you want but you have to start somewhere. I just don't see things ever getting back to the way they were in the good old days when it just didn't matter and everyone still made good money.

This past year saw temperature loggers placed in the urchin bags as they came out of the water and kept with the urchins all the way down to the processors so they provide a continuous record of the temperature history of the product. The whole process is designed to be really easy- just stick the thing in, scratch down some location and time info on a supplied worksheet which is then passed along with the regular paperwork all the way down the line to the plant. The loggers are placed into plastic jars about the same size as an urchin (I call them a mod which is short for model) so they won't fall out through the web and are only pulled out of the urchins when they hit the processing line. The plants know they are coming because the worksheet alerts them to their arrival. They and the worksheets are then set aside until I pick them up, upload the data, reprogram and send them back out to the grounds with a new collection of worksheets. Piece of cake eh- yeah right-well almost.

In general, I'd say we did not too bad. We did get some good indications that the product off a couple of boats at least does not get hammered by high temperature in transit. These were however mainly short packer trips and, because only a couple of boats used them, the results are not representative of what happens in all cases. On my previous temperature profiling trips I found over longer distances that the temperatures in the packer holds especially are pretty variable with the bottom, outside and aft areas being cooler (@~ 5-10 degrees C) and the bulkheads closer to the engine room being a lot warmer (up to 18 degrees C).



# D. & D. PACIFIC

## South Coast

The south coast has achieved almost 77% of their quota, with the majority of pounds remaining in the Barkley Sound area. Bates Pass still has a large amount of quota, but the sea otters seem to have consumed the 78, 000 pounds that are still left in the area. The southern portion of Vancouver Island (Victoria area) is still open as there was some interest speculated for later on in July or August.

The south coast monitoring costs have again far exceeded the budget. The individual offloads in multiple ports on Vancouver Island has left the budget in the red. The single vessel landings at multiple landings ports over time as exploded. The unloading and validation in the south coast has changed dramatically.

## North Coast

There was a landing from the north coast in June. A small sample of less than 400 pounds went to market. D&D expects no more landings from vessels in June. The north coast quota achieved was just under 48% of the catch allocated.

## Coast Wide Fishing Effort

To date, Industry has achieved 52.5% of the TAC. The south coast did not change, but the north coast had less than anticipated landings to finish off the season.

Efforts are being made by PUHA to reduce the 2007-2008 season financial responsibilities to DFO in order to maintain fishing opportunities during the poor market conditions industry is working through as a result of the IUU fishery in Russia.

## Harvest Chart Delivery

The process for chart delivery and cost structure will change for the 2007/2008 season. D&D is experiencing a large amount of work to complete missing chart data from fishers in the red urchin fishery. The problem is that fishers are not following their conditions of licence that relates to the timeframe established for chart delivery deadline submissions. As of January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2007, 12 tabs were missing data from the 2006/2007 fishery. As of April 2007, 5 tabs still were missing data. D&D has been told to charge these fishers for the process to clear their tabs, but to date, no one has paid their bills. D&D re-visits these tabs on average of 6 times in the season in order to clear up missing data. As a result, D&D will be charging for the late data submissions at a rate of \$75.00 per tab flat rate paid prior to the data being processed. It is unfortunate that we have to do this, but for an example, D&D spent 6.5 hours total in April chasing a fisher whom leased a tab, then sub-leased it to someone who sub-leased it again. The whole tab was missing their charts. This was very frustrating. Charts were sent out 7 times by D&D, but the real problem with this example was that the tab was from the 2006-2007 season.

As the red urchin fishery works through this tough market time, some tabs are not being fished. Licence holders may not be aware that if you do not fish your tab, you must send in a nil report to DFO for the season. DFO says they will retain the right to pull your tab if it does not follow the guidelines set out by Licensing.

# Marketing —continued

Back then though I did not have the means to find out how much of that heat is actually taken up by the product. Now however, I think we have the technology, we just have to work on our method a bit.

One of the major weaknesses so far is the difficulty in getting information on exactly where the bag with the logger is in relation to these different areas in the hold. Sometimes there was an indication as to which hold the product was placed, or that it was held on deck, but that was about it. I was hoping to get out and distribute the mods around the packer(s) on some of the longer trips so we could get some idea on differences in different areas but like so many other things this year, things just didn't work out. The information we did get though is included in the CAFI report for the year which can be viewed on and/or downloaded from the PUHA website. Check out the discussion on Page 57 and Tables 3 and 4.

A couple of other things- we did lose a few and there are still a few glitches to work out so they can be shipped more dependably back up to the fleet without getting stuck off in a back room or storage area somewhere because someone does not know what they are supposed to do with them. Last year- 2005/06 – we lost 10 out of 10. This past year we only lost 10 out of 25- so in a way we are getting better. Most of them disappeared in the plants when the crackers just stuck them in the garbage at the beginning of the year because they didn't know or care but that all got sorted out pretty quick. On getting them up to the fleet- this year the only shipments that made it were the ones where I passed them off to Dave or Mike who then personally took them up north. We tried shipping a bunch up on a returning truck for the Charlotte fishery but the whole bunch disappeared en route and did not resurface until the middle of May so we did not get any data on probably the most critical action of the year- late in the season with a long packer ride. Oh well. In summary- I'd say we got a not bad start on it this year and hopefully we can do more this coming year.

**P. U. H. A. BI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
JUNE 26, 2007 (TUESDAY)  
BEBAN PARK—NANAIMO, ROOMS 19 & 20  
9:30 A.M.**

