



P. U. H. A. NEWSLETTER

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President's report --mike featherstone

The 2004/2005 season collapsed in the middle of May with the urchins spawning and too much product arriving to the processors at one time. There was a bit of desperation near the end as most boats tried to increase their landings to clean up their remaining quota. It is difficult to say if more measured and controlled fish landings could have extended the fishery but there is no doubt that 100,000 lbs landing in a single day with a faltering market is a certain death sentence. This year over 1.1 million pounds are still remaining in the water.

With the fishing now stopped, the task of preparing and planning for next year is now on our minds. The first step is the quota planning session to be held in Nanaimo on May 26th at Beban Park (10:30 am). Once the recommendations from the quota planning session are compiled they will be submitted to DFO and a draft management plan for the 2005- 2006 season will be presented at the Spring AGM to be held in June.

The Spring AGM will focus on the draft management plan, draft budget and the goals and objectives for the next season. There will be updates on the marketing strategy, the logistics study and the research program. We encourage everyone to come and participate in these important meetings. Hope to see you then!

Quota Planning Session 2005

The quota planning session for 2005 will be held at Beban Park, Nanaimo Thursday May 26, 2005 (10:30 a.m.). This meeting is one of the key meetings of the year for all divers, tenders and skippers! The purpose of the meeting is to review the last season with an eye to making improvements and adjustments based on what worked and what could use some tuning. At the meeting the group works together and proceeds step by step through last years management plan evaluating the present quota and recommending any revisions to that quota. Other items of discussion include the area boundaries, the timing of the openings, the fishing protocols and the overview of the past season.

Please come to the meeting and provide your input to make next year better!

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D. & d. pacific report

The 29th of April was the last day of fishing for urchins in the north coast. The two fleets were working towards each other during the month of April. The fleets combined once on the west side of Aristazabal Island. Landings were steady at approximately 40,000 lbs per day on average with some loads over 90,000 lbs. It is understood by D&D that the fishery closed due to market reasons, as large supply by the north coast fleet was too much for the market in Japan.

The two fleets worked without an On-grounds monitor, and with minor problems, the program worked well in all respects. At this point in time, we have many vessels asking if the season is over. As far as D&D is concerned, the fishery may resume harvest activities sometime in the near future, but with far less vessels, and may be in Tree Nob or Dundas Islands. The reason for this is that there may not be a packer to facilitate only a few vessels from Moore Islands, but vessel can bring their own product in from Tree Nob or the Dundas area. Please consult with your buyers on this topic.

PUHA had a vessel in the south coast survey the last two areas with quota (Bamfield and Sidney Inlet). As a result of the surveys, the product was skinny and then brown in colour. No commercial harvest occurred.

The north coast completed 88% of the quotas this season so far. It was first predicted by buyers in January that only 70 to 75% of the quota was to be taken this season, so it looks like the fleet did well considering the poor market for Canadian product.

The south coast, as usual completed 97% of its quota areas. Bamfield and Sidney Inlet are the two areas that have the most difficulty in completing due to quality. It will be interesting for PUHA to keep an eye on these areas to find “when” these two areas are best to harvest. Sidney Inlet has been achieved in previous seasons, but Bamfield has always been hard to complete.

D&D wants to emphasize that all harvest charts need to be delivered to our head office within 28 days after the fishing dates. Failure to submit the charts on time or even worse, after the season closes will cost you. DFO is now charging for late submissions of harvest data after the season closes. When asked why the charge of money for the late digitization of data, the response was that DFO can either charge the person in court for the failure of the 28 day requirement and charge a fee for late digitization of data, or post reminders to fishers about the data delivery timeline, and have the fisher learn that poor chart delivery will cost you.

D&D has noticed that there are the same persons late with data every year and in every fishery they participate in. DFO is now planning to get tough with these individuals.

The middle of May, PUHA will hold a “quota planning meeting” in efforts to work out the logistical problems with the fishing schedule. This process is very important, and requires as much input as possible from the fleet. Attendance is encouraged as all information is required to setup a productive schedule that will hopefully eliminate most conflicts on the grounds will benefit everyone, not just a few.

As a reminder, you can visit our website www.d-dpacificfisheries.com to get up to date in respects to harvest and landing info by quota areas. If you have any pictures or comments you would like to post on our site, please let us know

European seafood show report

This year the ESE took place April 26 to 28 in Brussels. PUHA joined with KiKu Fisheries and Grand Hale Marine Products to staff the booth and demonstrate 3 product styles –fresh, frozen and canned. The PUHA booth was in the Canadian Pavilion and the design of the booth was open and inviting due to the joint efforts of PUHA and BC Seafood who combined space to enhance our presence. Robert Clarke from “C” Restaurant was the chef for the Canadian Pavilion and combined smoked salmon rosettes with uni and topped with ikura for a tantalizing taste of B.C.

KiKu Fisheries entered both canned and frozen products into the Seafood Prix d’Elite Competition. This highly visible event evaluates and recognizes the best new seafood products at the fair. Both products passed into the finalist level, which brought a steady stream of visitors by the booth to sample the products and gather more information regarding cost and availability. Grand Hale provided beautiful fresh tray products which garnered many favorable comments and interest.

The goal of PUHA attending this show is to get direct access to other global markets outside Japan. With our attendance we built product awareness around the globe and this year we will respond to 38 qualified enquires from 24 different countries! It may surprise you to know that uni or sea urchin caviar is widely known in Malta, Spain and France. We even had meetings with a sushi chef and company representatives from Istanbul (there are 12 sushi bars in Istanbul).

Just down the Hall from the Canadian Pavilion was Tsujiki Europe. This large booth had every type of sushi imaginable which they demonstrated all day with a sushi chef going from beginning to end. Sushi bars are becoming more common place all over the EU! Tsujiki Europe imports mostly frozen uni from B.C.

On the financial side the total cost to PUHA was around \$2,000 (booth and equipment) - thanks to the funding provided by Agri-Food and Agriculture Canada. This is the second year of a two year program and a presentation and discussion of the program costs and benefits will be on the agenda at the next General Meeting coming up in June.

