



# P. U. H. A. NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENTS REPORT—MIKE FEATHERSTON

The 2003/2004 fishing season got off to a soft start on the Island with good quality out of Tofino but poor quality from the Barkley Sound area. This resulted in a little push to get the North coast open. The North opened on October 1 with the quality acceptable and the market stable. The fishery has been progressing slowly mostly due to the weather. The market remains stable, however one company has shut down temporarily as their Japanese buyer has not accepted their pricing. Price is an issue with the Japanese buyers asking for a discount due to the high value of the Yen. Most buyers are holding firm on the prices as any decrease could mean a cut to the grounds price. There is strong resistance for any price reductions

P.U.H.A. is engaged in a market analysis project which is investigating the current market with a goal of formulating a long term marketing strategy. A group of P.U.H.A. directors, a representative from the West Coast Green Urchin Harvesters Association, 2 sea urchin processors, a consultant and a DFO representative are traveling to Japan in November to meet with Japanese sea urchin handlers. The project is funded 50% by grants from Agri-Food Canada. A report should be completed by the beginning of 2004 which will include proposed steps in the development of the program and an analysis of the current situation.

On the local scene I represented P.U.H.A. on the Food Stage at the recent B.C. Home Show. Robert Belcham from “C” Restaurant prepared sea urchin products while I spoke about the fishery and answered questions. Another well know sea food restaurant “Blue Water Café” is featuring sea urchin on it’s special menu. One troubling concern regarding the use of alum in product produced for the local market has resulted in a number of e-mails trying to sort out the situation with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Although small by comparison the local market is lucrative and important to the industry.

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RED URCHIN AT HOME SHOW



MIKE FEATHERSTONE AND ROBERT BELCHAM

NORTH COAST FISHING FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2003

			<b>Quota</b>	<b>Cum. Landings</b>	<b>Remain Quota</b>	<b>% Taken</b>	<b>No. of Vessels</b>
Oct. 1-3	RU-42	Lower West Aristazabal	200,000	131,578	68,422	65.8%	10
Oct. 1-3	RU-31b	Harvey Island	250,000	47,502	202,498	19.0%	3
Oct. 8-10	RU-31a	Moore Islands	250,000	0	250,000	0.0%	0 poor weather
Oct.10-15	RU-32	Calamity Bay	200,000	199,006	994	99.5%	9
Oct.15-31	RU-30	Lower Banks Island	370,000	369,161	839	99.8%	15
Oct.30-31	RU-27b	Mid Banks Island	75,000	70,095	4,905	93.5%	10
Oct.30-	RU-28	Bonilla Island	187,000	17,259	169,741	9.2%	3 currently active
Oct.31-	RU-29	Kingkown Inlet	60,000	0	60,000	0.0%	8 currently active
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			1,592,000	834,601	757,399		



SOUTH COAST FISHING FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2003

			Quota	Cum. Landings	Remain Quota	% Taken	No. of Vessels
Sep.15-20	24-C	Tofino	123,000	123,077	-77	100.1%	5
Sep.20-24	24-B	Wickaninnish	100,000	100,378	-378	100.4%	5
Sep.24-25	24-A	Sydney Inlet	30,000	8,224	21,776	27.4%	4
Sep.25-27	23-B	Ucluelet	84,000	25,216	58,784	30.0%	5
Sep.23-30	12-E	Blackfish Sound	75,000	75,009	-9	100.0%	3
Sep. 1-	12-F	Deserter Island	90,000	33,594	56,406	37.3%	3
Sep.30 Oct.3	12-H	N. Johnstone St.	300,000	300,545	-545	100.2%	6
Oct. 5	12-A	Bates Pass	150,000	104,281	45,719	69.5%	1 currently active
Oct. 5	12-J	Shadwell Pass	100,000	76,621	23,379	76.6%	1 currently active
Oct.5-11	13-E	Cordero Channel	40,000	39,652	348	99.1%	2
Oct.10-22	13-G	Stuart Island	25,000	25,329	-329	101.3%	2
Oct.22-	13-D	Campbell River E.	60,000	50,136	9,864	83.6%	1 currently active
			1,177,000	962,062	214,938		

**Harvesting abalone from B. C. waters is illegal.** Help stop the illegal harvest and sale of northern abalone. Report suspicious or illegal boating activity in Pacific waters to D.F.O.'s **OBSERVE, RECORD and REPORT 1-800-465-4336**. Reports relating to abalone are given priority.

Coast Watch programs are underway to help stop the illegal harvest of abalone. The Haida Gwaii Abalone Stewards (HGABS), the Bamfield Huu-Iya-aht Community Abalone Project (based at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre), and the Kitsoo Abalone Stewardship Project (KASP) encourage working with P.U.H.A. to expand the Coast Watch network to reporting suspicious or illegal activity.

