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PUHA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 30, 2008

President's Report—MIKE FEATHERSTONE



Red sea urchin landings are over 1 million pounds behind last season's harvest at this date and over 2.5 million pounds behind when compared to 2005/2006. Russia landed over 2.6 million pounds in November alone, which exceeded the total British Columbia production for all of the current season by more than 300,000 pounds. Interestingly enough, the average selling price in kg/yen is up from around 5200 yen/kg to over 5800 yen/kg. Unfortunately this increase in yen value does not keep pace with the increase in the Canadian currency over the same period. (figures from D&D, Japanese Customs Statistics)

Historically, February is a down month for Russian production and the cold weather is freezing up the harbour at Nemuro, this may provide a market opportunity in February. Processors are indicating that they hope to extend the season and take advantage of whatever market opportunities as they arise, dependent mainly on Russian production.

If you are thinking of selling your licence, the DFO has announced the PICFI Acquiring Commercial Access program which will purchase licences and quota for transfer to Aboriginal groups. Licence holders wishing to register for this first round of buybacks can go to the to the DFO website where PICFI phase one licence acquisition forms are available: http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/PICFI/AcquiringAccess_e.htm

Deadline is February 4.

If you are still planning to fish it is important to ensure your vessel and crew meet all the required Safety regulations. WCB inspection officers are checking for current dive medicals and proper training in Dive Accident Management, CPR and O2 therapy. If you or your crew needs to get this training Grant Dovey from the UHA has organized 2 courses this Spring. (see page 3 for details)

Transport Canada will be requiring all crew to have either Med A1 or Med A4 as of April 30, 2008. Anyone who has completed a Fishing Master IV education or other T.C. training would already qualify. All crew should practice man over board, fire fighting, survival suit use and abandon ship procedures. Training videos, course offerings and everything regarding safety can be found at Fish Safe BC:

<http://www.fishsafebc.com>



“A possible indication of the high stakes involved in Russia’s efforts to bring the Far East’s resources under state control came as First Deputy Governor of the Maritime Territory, Sergey Sopchuk, survived an assassination attempt. He is second in command of the regional administration and fisheries and is one of his most important responsibilities.”

PICFI LICENCE BUY-BACK

Registration forms for PICFI Licence Buy-Back are available on line, with a Registration deadline of February 4, 2008

http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/PICFI/AcquiringAccess_e.htm

MARKETING—GEOFF KRAUSE

We are now into a New Year and the marketing situation has not, as I am sure everyone is aware, improved a whole lot. Russian IUU landings have dropped a wee bit but are still, at about 200, 250 and 400 MT per week in October, November and December respectively, significant. Canadian shipments to Japan in December declined by about 26% this year in comparison to last year from about 60 MT to 44 MT with value slipping by about the same amount. This is basically a continuation of more severe declines in excess of 50% seen in October and November in comparison to last year so there are no real surprises with this. Unit prices in terms of yen are up by about 1% which is kind of OK if you consider the appreciation of the Cana-buck, but the overall benefit doesn’t translate to a lot of good to the bottom line after the currency conversions.

On a somewhat brighter vein, it sounds like things in the Russian IUU fishery kind of went sideways a bit in January. I have been monitoring the temperatures over that way for a bit now and the highs have not been getting much above zero since the beginning of the year and the winds have been pretty steady in the 30 - 50 click range. There are also rumours that the Russian authorities are seeing a bit more success against the crab and urchin poaching operations and that Russian IUU landings in January were way down. The official numbers on that from the Japan customs website will not be ready until the towards the end of February but we shall see. There have also been some predictions from Japan that things should return to normal for the reds and greens within a couple of years but on that as well, we shall have to wait and see.

The marketing Committee had a meeting at the end of January to see what sort(s) of plans we might be able to consider for next year. The CAFI funding that we are running on runs out at the end of the fiscal (March 31) and a new proposal and funding application has been submitted to renew the program.

We have budgeted about \$29k for consulting, materials, video/brochure translations etc, \$10.8k for a trip to the Tokyo Seafood show in July by a processor and a couple of harvesters, \$ 14k for a similar trip to the Hong Kong show in August and \$33.8k for a trip to the Shanghai show coupled with a visit to Japan in November by processors and 4-6 harvesters. You might notice a bit of a move to check out China a bit more closely as a strategy to help reduce our current dependence on Japan. The CAFI program is again being approached to provide funding assistance for 50% of the approved costs with the final proposal/application to be submitted by February 8. Chances are pretty good that the money will be approved but, again, failure to follow through this time will not bode well for future Federal assistance

COURSES FOR WCB REQUIRED DIVER AND DECKHAND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS—grant dovey

I will be posting upcoming 3 day Dive Accident Management (DAM), Level 1, CPR, Oxygen Therapy course dates at the end of the month. They will likely be offered towards the end of February and again at the end of April. These are all required for commercial divers and tenders in B.C. I am waiting for suggested dates and confirmation from the contractors I have solicited for these 3 day events.

In the mean time, I have organized a date for the First Aid Course required by WCB to work as a commercial diver/tender in B.C. This course is put on by DiveSafe International (Kelly Koral Services) in Campbell River. For those of you who have a DAM course, but need to update your First Aid and/or take an Oxygen Therapy course, this is a great offer. DiveSafe has combined the Level 1 First Aid and Oxygen Therapy into a one day course. Previously, you had to go to two different places and take 1.5 days of courses.

Date and Location:

—Sunday, February 10, 2008, Campbell River 08:30 — about 17:00

—Includes: —Occupational First Aid Level 1

—CPR A

—Oxygen Therapy

—WHIMS Training Course

Total cost is \$175.00 each

I had to prebook and have two spaces available. If anyone is interested, please call Grant Dovey direct. You could probably even catch a ride from Nanaimo with the UHA Enhancement crew who will be in this course.

There is also an Essential Wilderness First Aid course with CPR A being offered in Nanaimo for those interested in a more extensive First Aid Ticket. WCB does not officially recognize Wilderness First Aid, so you would need to contact WCB if you plan to take this course and not have an updated Level 1. There are 7 spaces open for the Nanaimo course and a number of other course dates offered on the providers web site.

Nanaimo Date and Location:

—Pac. Biological Station, Nanaimo (course open to public)

—February 11—15, 2008

—Includes Essential Wilderness First Aid and CPR A or CPR C

—Cost is \$429.00

Contact Slipstream direct via their web site, <http://www.wildernessfirstaid.ca/> or 1-800-760-3188

Grant Dovey—Biologist, Underwater Harvesters Association

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Russian Imports into Japan

Following is the translation of Hokkaido Newspaper dated on Jan. 30, 2008, forwarded from Hashimoto-san and translated by Takenaka-san

Quote:

1)Custom house in Nemuro announced the following on Jan. 29, 2008.

(a) Sea Urchin import from Russia, mainly North 4 Islands to Hanasaki-port, Nemuro in 2007 was 9,834 M/T, which is 12% less than 2006. This is the first decrease since 1998.

(b) Imported amount is 4,918,000,000 yen. Main reason of this decrease seems Russia started control illegal catching and illegal export to Japan not only for crab, but also for sea urchin.

2)Imported quantity at Hanasaki-port, Nemuro was 1,203 M/T in 1998 and has been increased year by year. It reached to 11,174 M/T in 2006, which was 70% of total live sea urchin import to Japan.

3)Russia pointed out at the on-ocean meeting in June, 2007 that exported quantity of sea urchin at Kunigo Island is less than 1,000 M/T and there is too big difference between that and imported quantity at Hanasaki-port, Nemuro. Then Russia started strict control and caught at least 3 illegal packer boats during the past 2 months. There are more than 10 sea urchin processing companies in Nemuro, but they say their sales in 2007 was decreased by 10% compared to the year before due to decreased import.

4)Due to increased sea urchin from 4 Islands, ground price for sea urchin caught in Nemuro area dropped by 40% for past 10 years. Also packed sea urchin import from North America was decreased into half. If import from Russia is decreased, distribution and price for sea urchin could be drastically changed. Thus concerned parties are carefully watching this situation and future tendency.

5)Import of live Taraba-crab, Hanasaki-crab at Hanasaki-port,Nemuro in 2007 was 1,055 M/T, 760,000,000 yen, which is about 50% of 2006.

