

February 14, 2018

To Commercial Fishing Industry Participants,

**Re: Commercial Fishing Industry advice to the Gwaii Haanas AMB**

The Gwaii Haanas Archipelago Management Board (AMB) is proposing to close 48% of the Gwaii Haanas marine waters (out to 10 kms) to commercial fishing to protect important ecological and cultural features. The AMB is made up of three representatives from the Council of Haida Nations, two from Parks Canada, and one from DFO. The AMB proposal (see map below) was presented to commercial fishing industry representatives at workshops held on November 9 and 16 as part of a consultation process originally scheduled to conclude on December 8, 2017. Representatives of the commercial fishing industry asked the AMB to extend consultation with the commercial fishing industry until the end of February 2018 to allow industry to complete a structured process that would provide meaningful input consistent with the Gwaii Haanas objectives to protect ecological and cultural features while minimizing the economic impacts to the commercial fishing industry. In December 2017, the AMB agreed to the proposed industry process and extended the consultation period as requested.

Last December commercial industry organizations were contacted and asked to coordinate the identification of 4-6 fishermen from their fishery with extensive fishing experience in Gwaii Haanas and have them attend a series of industry meetings. The fisheries included were:

- Sablefish (trap and longline)
- Lingcod
- Geoduck
- Prawn
- Salmon (troll, seine, gillnet)
- Halibut
- Dogfish
- Sea Urchin
- Crab
- Herring (gillnet, seine, spawn-on-kelp)
- Rockfish
- Groundfish Trawl
- Cucumber
- Tuna

During six days of meetings (January 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, and 17) fishery specific maps (each a separate fishery layer) were developed resulting in 14 fishery layers for 19 different fisheries. Each layer proposed boundary revisions that respected the AMB's targets for ecological and cultural features and principles of boundary continuity and connectivity. More than 70 experienced fishermen with incredible knowledge of the Gwaii Haanas fishing grounds were involved in these meetings.

The next step was to overlay these individual fishery layers to see where there was commonality (agreement) and differences. The collective area of commonality fell short of the AMB cultural and ecological targets and had problems with continuity and connectivity. At a meeting on the morning of January 31 all of the groundfish sectors met (approximately 30 fishermen) to reach agreement on a single map for groundfish (the groundfish layer) that reasonably and justifiably balanced the conflicting objectives of minimizing the loss of commercial access with achieving

ecological and cultural targets set by the AMB. On the afternoon of January 31, the shellfish, herring and salmon sectors met (approximately 40 fishermen) and reached agreement on a single map for these fisheries (the shellfish/herring/salmon layer) that achieved a similar balance. The next day, February 1, we overlaid the groundfish layer with the shellfish/herring/salmon layer and the tuna layer and more than 40 experienced fishermen from the 19 different fisheries worked diligently to propose and agree on boundary revisions that allowed for viable fishing opportunities while respecting the AMB's cultural and ecological targets and planning principles of continuity and connectivity.

After 8 days of meetings and many phone calls the product is a single commercial fishery map that we plan to present to the AMB on March 8th and 9th in Skidegate. This map represents hundreds of hours of work by more than 100 experienced fishermen with in excess of a thousand years of experience and knowledge. Prior to presenting the map to the AMB we have set additional industry meetings to present the results, show how it was achieved, explain the tradeoffs made, and answer industry questions. The following meetings have been scheduled:

- **Thursday, February 15, 9:30 a.m. Dorchester Hotel, 70 Church Street, Nanaimo**
- **Thursday, February 22, 9:30 a.m. Delta Town & Country Inn, 6005 Hwy 17A, Delta**
- **Thursday, March 1, 1:00 p.m. Crest Hotel, 222 - 1st Ave., Prince Rupert**

We have also arranged a meeting with local Haida fishermen that fish Gwaii Haanas for March 2 and are communicating with Environmental Organizations regarding the industry advice. **We encourage fishermen to attend one of the above meetings.** Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the upcoming meetings, process or above information.

Sincerely



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cc: Brian Mose  
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Archipelago Management Board (AMB) Proposed Gwaii Haanas Closures

