



PUHA NEWSLETTER



Presidents Report Mike Featherstone

These are unprecedented times and the speed and extent of the changes could never have been imagined. The near complete shutdown of the global economy, the self isolation and the social

distancing have been devastating to most people. Our thoughts and prayers go out to anyone who has suffered a loss or been touched by the Covid 19 pandemic. The red urchin

fishery has continued through these trying times, although the landings and activity have been much lower than a typical year. fisheries, we are a relative bright spot.



PRESIDENTS REPORT



MARKETING REPORT



D&D PACIFIC REPORT



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PUHA is fortunate to have very diversified markets, so as one market slowed or stopped there have been other markets still open and taking product. Currently our main market in Japan has almost stopped due to that country's emergency measures. Fortunately, the Korean, Taiwan and Hong Kong markets are still taking product. As well, in the past few weeks, the US market has also started to open.

Over 10 years ago our Japanese market collapsed due to the IUU Russian fishery. The result of that collapse was like the devastation which most BC fisheries are experiencing currently. Landings dropped 60%, prices dropped 40% and we suffered for 6 years. Hopefully the Covid 19 pandemic effects will not last that long, but the world will most certainly be vastly different on the other side of this disaster.

With the benefit of the marketing funding from Agri-food Canada, PUHA has worked hard to expand our markets in the last 10 years. Along with Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea (which have replaced 40% of the Japanese share) we have started working with Singapore and most recently were scheduled to attend a trade show in Vietnam this past March.

Undoubtably, these efforts have provided us some strength and stability during this crisis.

The other initiative PUHA undertook, when our collapse struck, was the switch to a VMS monitoring and on grounds coordination system. This saved our fishery considerable costs, which we are still the benefactors of today. We see the Government and DFO consulting and collaborating in similar regards during this disaster and we hope all fishing associations and fisherman can come out the other side stronger and more resilient. The point being, in the face adversity, fisherman can pull together and be proactive to develop alternatives to the status quo which we will make the industry stronger in the future.

The BC Seafood Alliance and Fish Safe BC have been working hard to develop procedures and protocols for fishing vessels, community access, fish plants, fisherman and fish companies support. There are many programs and these programs and support are much appreciated and have helped keeping our workers safe and our business going.





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Here are some of the links and updates relative to our industry:

1. Financial support for out of work fishermen: these discussions are still under way, many fishermen do not qualify for assistance under the current programs, we have made the government aware of these shortfalls and next week we expect a new announcement in this regard. BC Seafood Alliance (BCSFA) in collaboration with the Fisheries Council of Canada (FCC) to draft recommendations and talk to Government.
2. Financial support for fish plants: \$65 million was announced April 25 by PMJT on his morning Covid 19 update. The program is to support worker safety and purchase freezing equipment(?) Given the money the government has been handing out to other industries and parties it seems that this amount will do very little and it is doubtful much of the money will even make it to the West Coast. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2020/04/government-of-canada-announces-new-canadian-seafood-stabilization-fund-to-help-canadas-fish-and-seafood-processing-sector.html>
3. Fish Safe Resource and Signage Page: These COVID-19 specific materials can make the job of educating your crew simpler and more effective. Download these signs and useful reminders
 - for you and your crew. <https://www.fishsafebc.com/resources-and-signage>
 - for Employers, vessel operators and general information <https://www.fishsafebc.com/info-and-useful-links>
4. WorksafeBC Diving Certificates: March 24 it was announced that all divers who hold valid Certificates expiring on or before June 1st may continue to dive until August 1st.
5. Information on Food Safety: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/food-safety/covid19.html>
6. Masks mandatory for air travel effective April 20th: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html?topic=tilelink#a4>
7. Government programs for wage subsidy and GST the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS): <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html>
8. For unemployed crew members they may qualify for the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CREWS) :<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cewb-application.html>

Other work is underway to expand the benefits to unemployed fishermen who do not qualify under this program.



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Although the Covid 19 situation is garnering most of people's attention, there are a few other items which should be mentioned.

Prior to the lockdown, DFO and PUHA divers were able to complete the index survey at Fulford Reef for green sea urchins. As of this time no other surveys are scheduled however, we are in discussions with the Haida and Gwaii Haanas folks, to start a new survey program in the area of the Kelp Restoration project.

Regarding the kelp restoration project, 5 boats participated in the maintenance and harvest in the study area and adjacent areas. The fishing in the adjacent areas was undertaken in areas that were previously removed from the commercial fishery. This is certainly an important step forward towards the PUHA goal of reopening and fishing in areas closed for ecological or historical concerns.

During the restoration work, our media and video guru, Ron Ross, joined the fleet and gathered lots of great interviews and video footage, which we will use in our new media development.

Geoff has provided an update on all our postponed and future marketing plans.

The annual sectoral meeting has been cancelled, PUHA will be providing any quota change recommendations for inclusion in the IFMP, no major changes are contemplated. The only significant undertaking prior to the 20/21 red season will be the area reselection. All licence holders should have received their designation forms. After the first round of selection 9 licences have moved from north to south. The full report is available at the end of this newsletter.

PUHA is still planning to hold an in-person AGM, although that will be dependent on Government policy regarding meetings. The AGM is currently scheduled for August 20th in Naniamo at Beban Park.

Stay safe and follow the guidelines for public and work activities. We will persevere and get thru this together.





Marketing Report/Geoff Krause Page 5

Just to give a quick update on where things are at as far as show plans for the next year, this virus thing, covid-19, has, as I am sure everyone has noticed, knocked everything for a loop. The Boston show, aka Seafood Expo North America or SENA, was cancelled last month as was a show in Singapore (Food and Hotel Asia or FHA) and a tour of Vietnam we were interested in and signed up for. Next up on our schedule was the BC Seafood Expo in Courtney, but this too has just been postponed until mid to late September.

The Seafood Expo Asia (SEA), our #1 show for the past number of years while in Hong Kong, usually happens in the first week of September. The show was cancelled last year because of the demonstrations in Hong Kong and because there was not much letup in those by December there was some talk about having it this year a little bit later in September in Singapore. Of course, just to complicate matters, DivCom also organizes the Seafood Expo North America (SENA- aka the Boston show) which it has tentatively rescheduled for September 23- 24. As luck would have it, the BC Seafood Festival and Fish Expo in Courtney and even the Canadian Seafood Show in Montreal are also both scheduled for around the same time.

Problem is, as above, the pandemic is complicating everyone's schedule and is still threatening to toss wrenches into everyone's plans. All of the show plans above assume that the panic of the pandemic will be over by September and travel restrictions, including mandatory 2 week quarantines in, for example, Canada, the US, Hong Kong, China and Singapore on each end of the trip, will be lifted. This is still very much up in the air for any and all but most especially for the shows in September. I expect it is likely still going to be a consideration for the China show in November and possibly even for the SENA (Boston show) in March 2021. It is notable that one of Singapore's four airport terminals is being closed as a economizing measure until travel recovers, something they do not expect to happen for at least 18 months.



Another complicating factor is the increasing pressure for all governments to lift restrictions on going out and getting about because of the overwhelming economic impacts and implications and the ever increasing need to get countries back to business so people can make a living. Public health experts do not see it that way because we are still early in the process and feel the risks of relapse are simply too high to take the risk. Most countries including Canada, the US and Japan still sorely lack adequate testing and case tracking capacities needed to identify people who are infected or exposed so they can be isolated and prevent subsequent ongoing infections. This virus spreads like wildfire and even countries that seemed to have things under control and started opening up, like Singapore and Japan, have had to lock down again because the numbers of cases quickly started growing as soon as the restrictions came off. That experience might change down the road as more countries try it, but it looking like a bit of a longshot.



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There are a number of parallels between this pandemic and the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic which infected around a third of the total human population and killed off somewhere between 50 to 100 million people. There are, for example, still no effective treatments and to this point the only effective defence is social distancing, just as with the Spanish flu. Despite repeated assurances, the availability of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for front line workers is actually impacting the numbers of responders able to assist in the effort. Effective testing, tracking, identification and isolation are absolutely necessary prerequisites for controlling the spread without social distancing in the absence of effective vaccines, vaccines which are still at least a year or more away, and all such efforts require adequate numbers of doctors, nurses, paramedics, and etc to maintain the effort. This is going to be a slog for everyone, but most especially for them. It is also worth recalling that the 2018 Spanish Flu pandemic came in three waves, the first starting in early spring and subsiding by about June taking 5% of the total mortalities, then a second wave in August through November that took about 60% and the third wave the next spring that took ~35%.

It is true that our medical technologies have come a long way since the early 20th Century, but there is still a lot we do not know about this virus and still a lot of conflicting information coming out about it. For example, it looks like the mortality rate is around 1% , apparently lower for younger people and higher for older people, but not all the time. There are also signs that multiple organs, including the immune system itself, are attacked not just the respiratory tract as was first thought. Even tests confirming immunity after recovery from infection are still indeterminate and ongoing. Hopefully more definitive information will be out within the next couple of weeks but there are still a lot of unknowns with this disease and the course of infection we can expect.

Getting back to the shows we can and possibly should do this year, no decision on the location of the SEA has yet been made but Hong Kong is a very important market for us and I believe we should attempt to get back in there if it is possible (i.e. if the pandemic and associated travel issues have settled down). The Bar and Restaurant (B&R) show is held in early September in Hong Kong, usually at the same time as the SEA, and it carried on last year so I am thinking if DivCom goes for Singapore in later September we could still take in the B&R in Hong Kong in early September. Just so you know, we left our booth and refrigeration payments with the organizers in the interests of simplicity last year so the SEA is already mainly covered for us this year no matter where it is held. We also have funding this year for a show in Hong Kong that is kind of looking for somewhere to go so I expect we will not have much trouble with the budget if we decide to go for both. That of course assumes they are held in different cities.

As mentioned, the 2020 Boston show has already been rescheduled to September but the BC government is not attending, preferring instead to hold off until the 2021 show in March 2021. This means that if we were to go to the September 2020 show we would have to get our own much more expensive booth. Given the uncertainties of guaranteed travel access by then, perhaps especially because of the pressure to “re-open the US for business” and the potential for serious relapse, I’m thinking we have to hold off on that decision as long as possible even if it is deemed worthwhile.



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We have funding in place for the second annual Canadian Seafood Show in Montreal, but again with Montreal as a Canadian hotspot for infection and all the uncertainties that brings with it, I am not sure attending is worth the cost. The BC Seafood show in Courtney, though even smaller, is local and might provide a good opportunity to coordinate with other BC seafood producers and develop a collaborative perspective on what our markets and our opportunities are going to look like once this is all over. Our world and our markets are changing and simply assuming they are going to return to the old normal is not likely to be the best we can do. In this too, there's still not yet a lot that can be said about them with a lot of confidence - we are still waiting on developments but I am sure that people the world over want their lives back and will do what it takes to make that happen ASAP. However, not being sure yet when that time is, the best advice I know of for the situation(s) at hand remains: Stay calm. Keep your eyes open; and Carry on. And oh yeah- Stay Safe.

On another late-breaking matter, the US is conducting a review of foreign fisheries as part of it's Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA) and part of that process involves listing the official names for target species for a whole range of fisheries. You might wonder what that has to do with BC dive fisheries as interaction(s) between divers and marine mammals are not just rare but also not threatening, at least not to the animals. It is however an official process and John Nishidata from Grand Hale noticed that the names used in the US draft List of Foreign Fisheries (LOFF) for Pacific urchins and cukes did not match what we have on our export documents. The problem as I understand it is that if the names do not match at the time of inspection, the product will not be allowed into the US. This is something that could only lead to trouble so I was asked to step up and see what could be done. The BC Seafood Alliance was keeping eyes on the situation and noted that the final version of the LOFF will be out in July and that any industry comments should go through DFO which is accepting comments to April 22 so there was a bit of rush on it.

It was all kind of new to me but I did confirm that the names used in the document for GSU was *Psammechinus microtuberculatus* while RSU was identified under the old familiar name of *Strongylocentrotus franciscanus*. This is a name that is still accepted by some countries but not Canada or the US and the official name in Canada was changed a few years ago to *Mesocentrotus franciscanus* to match the name used in the US.

Just so you know, *P. microtuberculatus* is much different species found around the Mediterranean, in particular in the Aegean and Adriatic seas and possibly in the Atlantic to the Brittany coast of France. It is, from what I can see, nowhere in North America. I have no idea how the US got that name for our species but it does seem to be the case.

I also found reference to BC's California Sea Cucumber from dive fishery - listed more generally as "nei (Holothuroidea)". I am not sure if that is a problem or not but feel we should be looking at discriminating/identifying this BC fishery product by its proper and accepted name, *Parastichopus californicus*, just to be on the safe side. This might not be the end of the story as some very recent genetics work has officially led to a name change at the genus level from "Parastichopus" to "Apostichopus" but I am not sure this is reflected in the export and/or other regulatory literature yet.

I got our comments through to the fellow looking after things on the DFO end, a Mr. Lee Harber, the Marine Mammals authority for the Pacific Region, and got an acknowledgement back that they would be making the corrections as indicated. I am scheduled to join a conference call with a committee he heads on Thursday so hope to get a better idea of the process and where it is going. At any rate, I hope we are all good now with regard to the LOFF requirements and that trade with the US will continue as seamlessly as we have come to expect.



RED SEA URCHIN FISHERY - to April 15th 2020

North Coast Fleet

- Two groups active around weather, lower mainland plant workers and cargo space on the limited flights to Asia
 - One fleet in Haida Gwaii
 - The other fleet is in North Dundas



South Coast Fleet

- South coast fleet worked up to the Covid-19 shutdown around the 20th of March

Reminder from DFO

Area Licensing Selection Process Red Sea Urchins

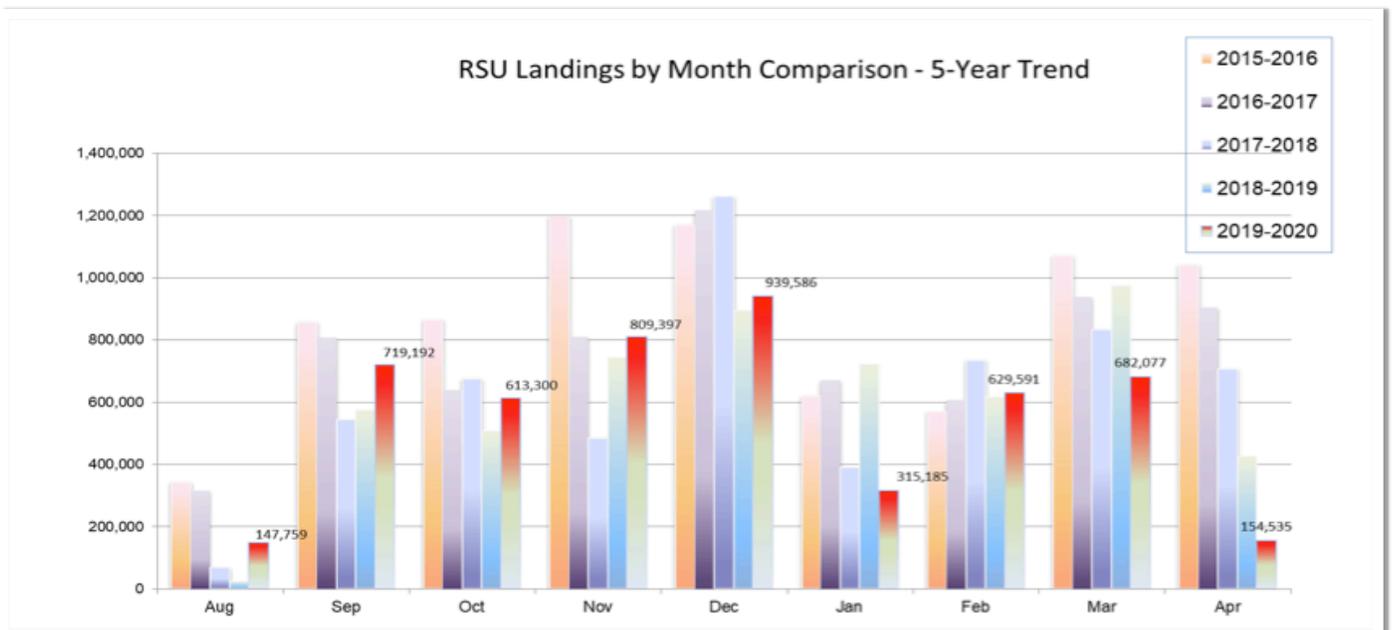
A licence area selection process is being held to give commercial Red Sea Urchin (ZC or FZC) licence eligibility holders an opportunity to change licence areas for the next two seasons (August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2022). An information package and selection forms were emailed March 30, 2020 to all ZC and FZC licence eligibility holder email addresses on record with DFO licensing.

If you are a ZC or FZC licence eligibility holder and did not receive this email please contact Pauline Ridings at Pauline.Ridings@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

For more information please contact Pauline Ridings at Pauline.Ridings@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Figure 1 – RSU Comparison by Month to Date - 5-Year Trend

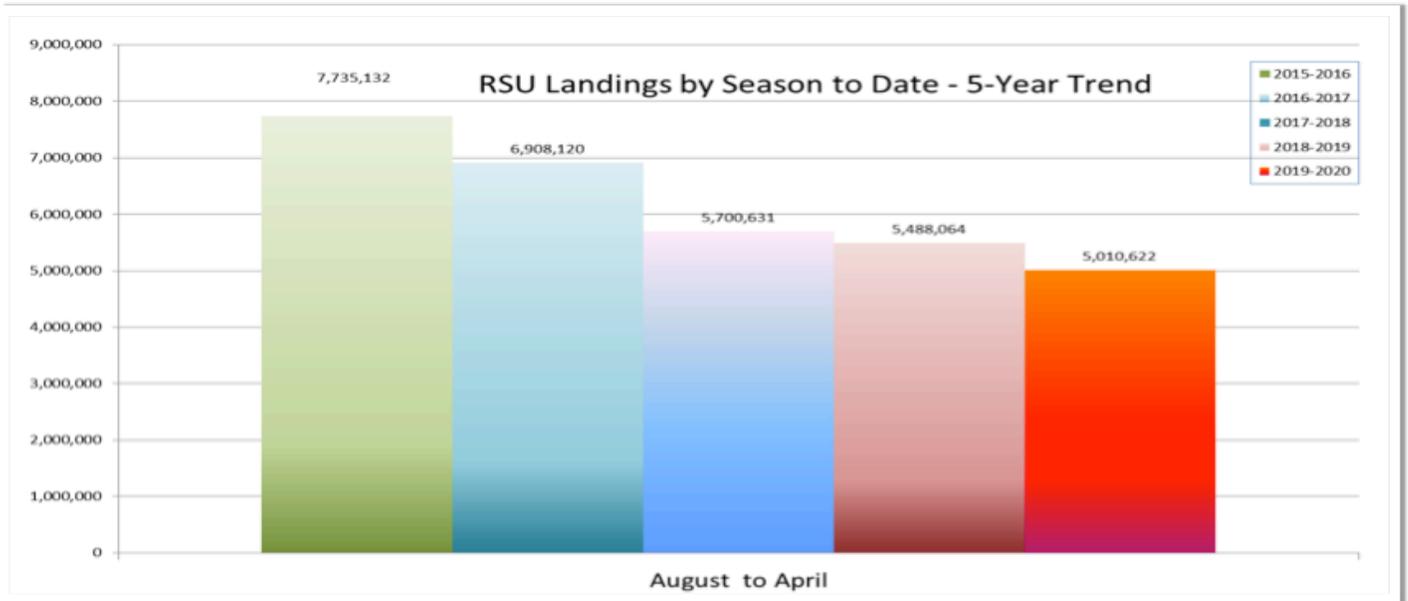
Note: April data for current season only to April 15th



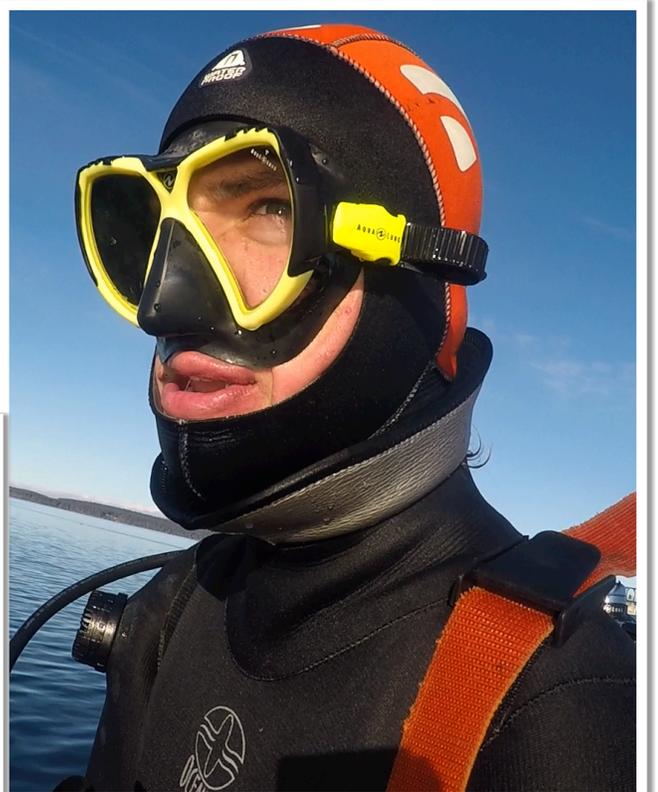
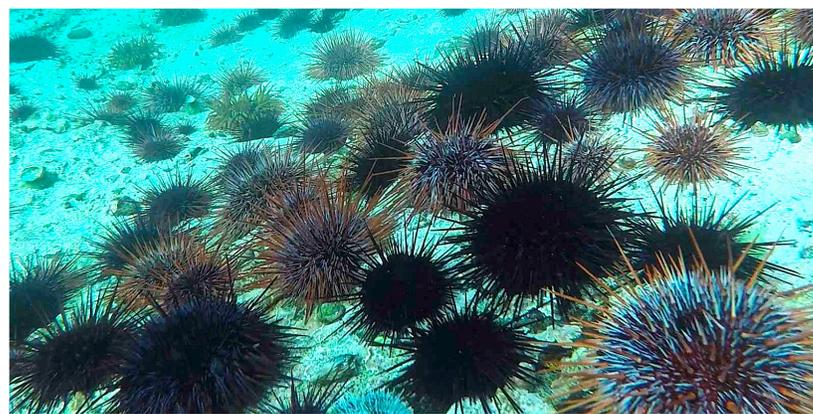


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Figure 2 – RSU Landings by Season to Date - 5-Year Trend



Note: April data for current season only to April 15th



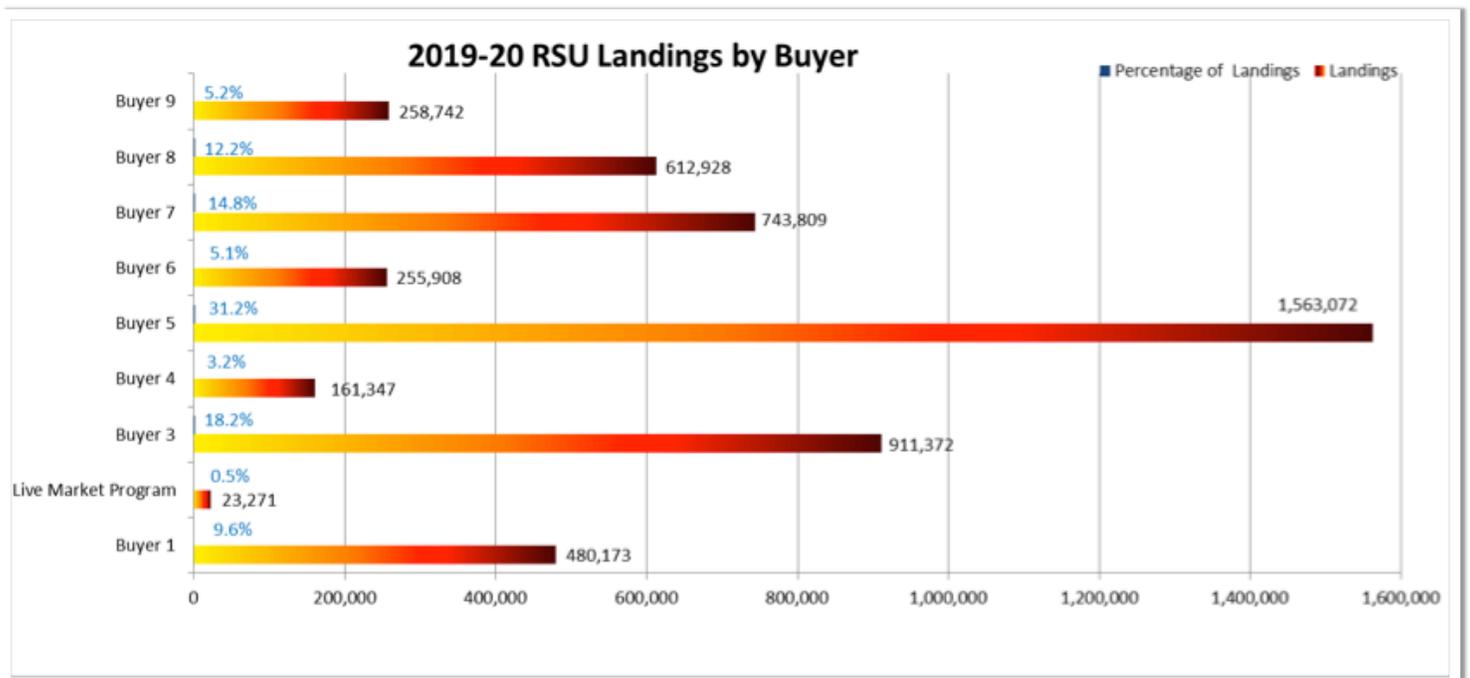


RSU Harvest Chart Data Submission

- Overdue charts continue to be an issue this current season, a requirement prior to 1994. We have chart data missing from September 2019
- A few reminders
 - Charts completed by midnight of the harvest day
 - 30 day requirement for submission to D&D
- These conditions are not being met by multiple Vessel Masters
 - DFO contacting licence holders
- Digitization of the 2018-19 seasons' harvest data will now run into June of 2020 due to outstanding chart data, backing up our digitization of the current season
- On a brighter note, Harvest charts available online has reached 7300 downloads. Good to see it being utilized by vessel masters more often



Figure 3 – RSU Landings by Buyer





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2019-20 GSU FISHERY– to April 15th 2020

- The 2019-20 fishing season is open until August 31st 2020
- No landings since the 1st of March

Note: Figures 4 & 5 reflects the GSU fishery increase of the total allowable catch the past two seasons.

Figure 4 – GSU Historical Landings by Month– 6 Season Trend to February 1st 2020

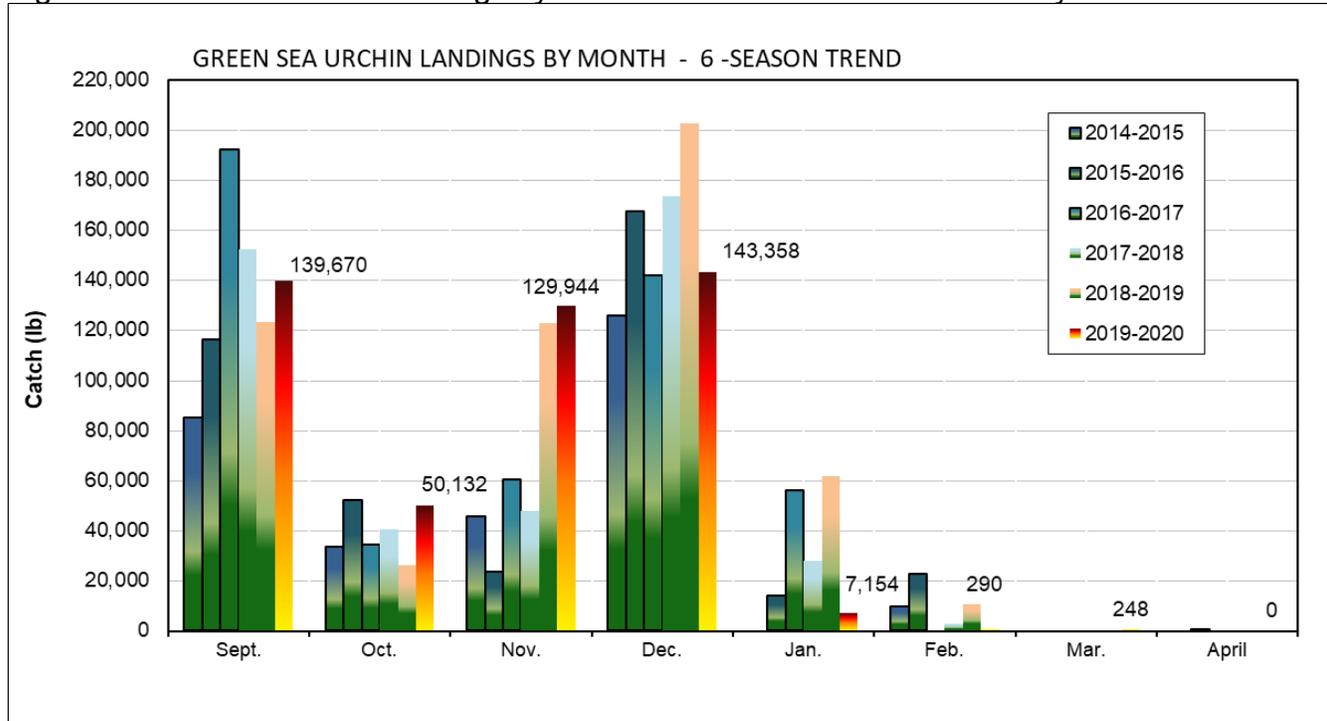
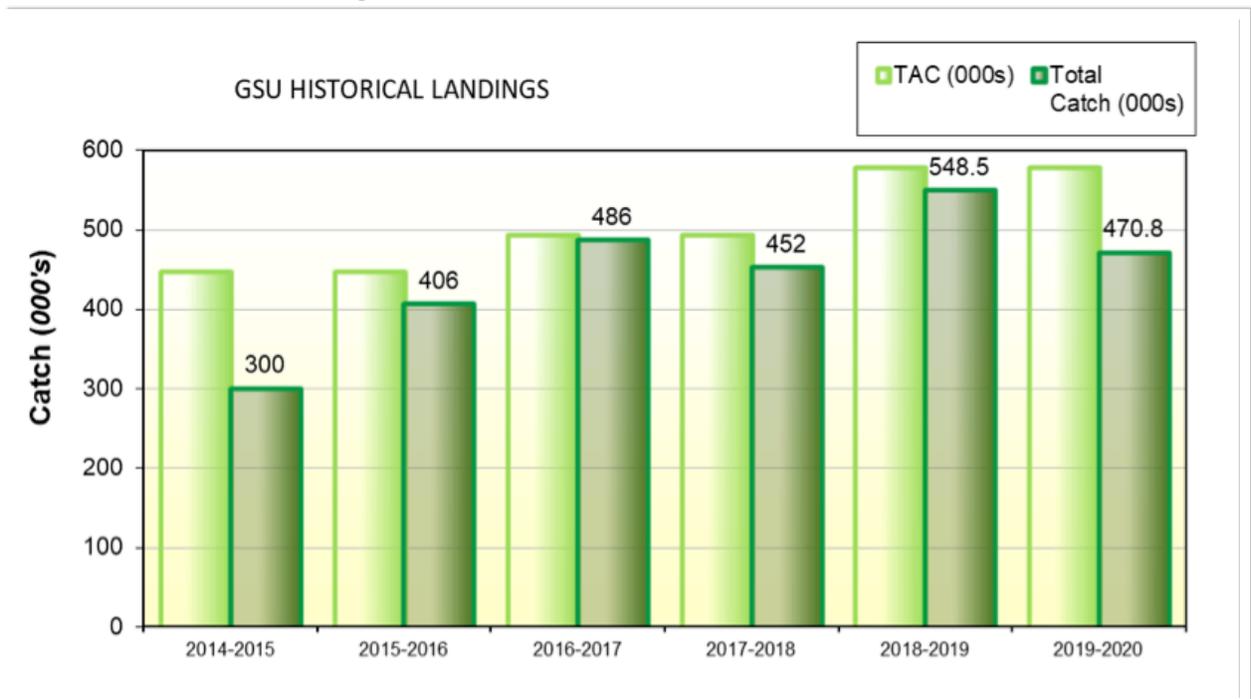


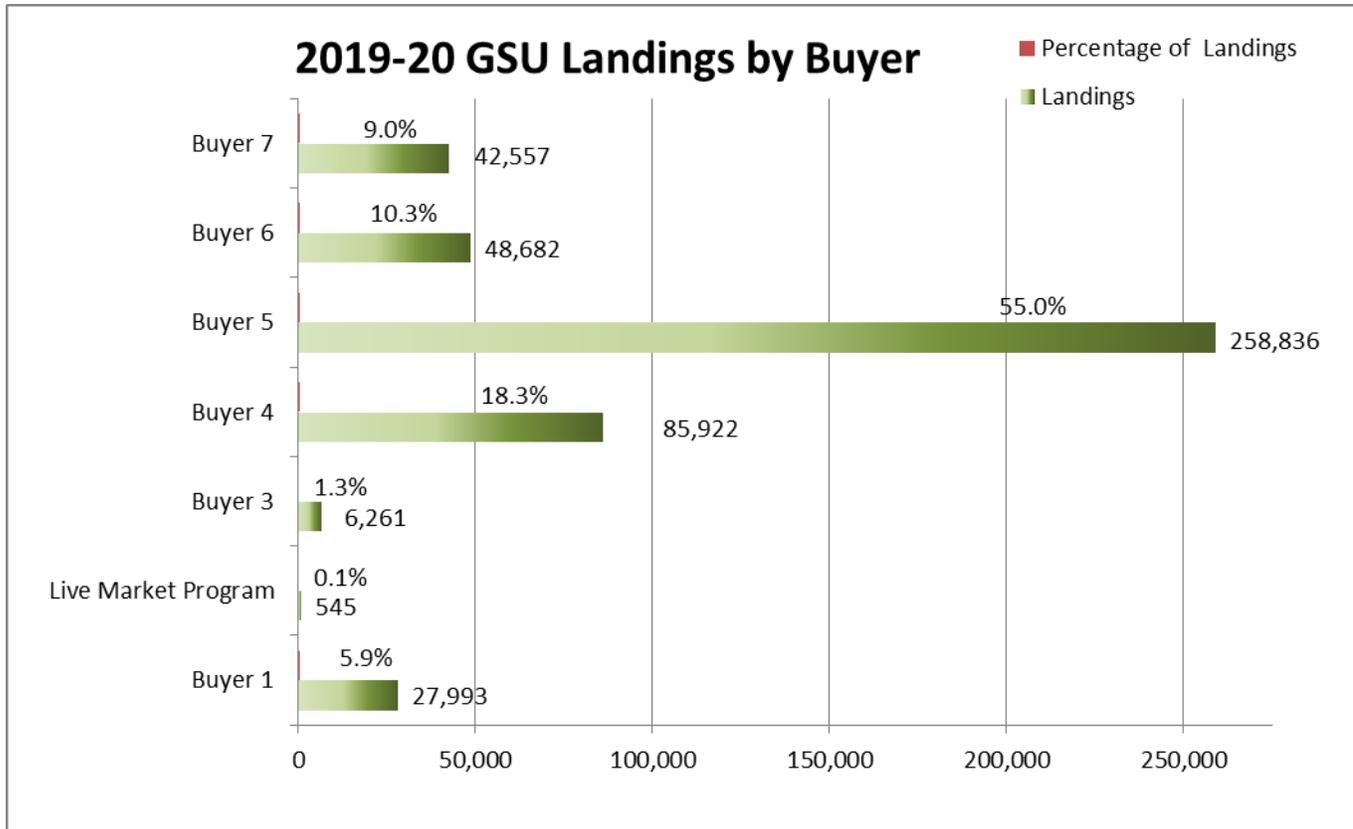
Figure 5 – GSU Historical Landings





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Figure 6 – GSU Landings by Buyer



For Quota Management Area (QMAs) and their harvest landings – go to d-dpacificfisheries.com for red and green urchin quota updates

