



PUHA NEWSLETTER



Presidents Report Mike Featherstone

The Holiday Season has not brought much to cheer about for our sea urchin industry this year. Typically, December is one of our biggest months with strong demand and good prices. So far this season the

Covid situation has caused havoc both domestically and in our International markets. To compound this the weather has been one of the worst in recent history. On the home front, the increase in Covid

cases and the Government recommended restrictions have resulted in a shortage of labour. Some workers have opted just to stay home and isolate, leaving many plants operating at lowered capacity.



PRESIDENTS REPORT



MARKETING REPORT

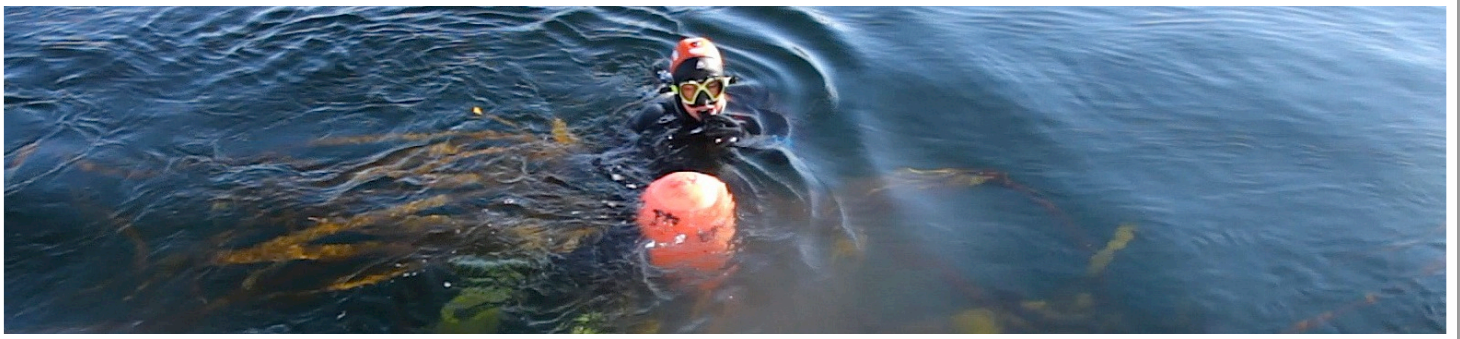


D&D PACIFIC REPORT



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On the International side, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, and the USA are dealing with their own Covid challenges. All these markets are facing either complete closure of restaurants or limited hours and seating. In Japan, many people just opt to stay home and stay safe. Unfortunately, the world is not out of the woods yet when it comes to the effects of the Covid epidemic. Indeed, it seems to have gotten much worse over the past month.



Both the Red and the Green markets have been affected!

From a good start in August and September both the green and red landings have been lower than the past years averages. December has been particularly poor, although the market has been wanting product close to Christmas. Overall, the red landings are the lowest in the past 6 years, the green landings are down but not as significantly.



With the release of the numerous vaccines and the passing of winter, hopefully we can put these challenges behind us and look forward to brighter days.

The PUHA AGM had been postponed with the hopes of an in person meeting early in 2021. Currently that is not looking probable. More likely PUHA will hold a virtual meeting in February. Once we determine a date PUHA will send a mail out and e-mail notification to all members.



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There are a number of quota recommendations for both the red and green fisheries, which need to be discussed and reviewed prior to the next 2021-22 season. PUHA is in discussions to determine the best way forward to facilitate these consultations. This is particularly important for green sea urchins as the IFMP rolls over this year.



PUHA has a new website that is launching before the New Year. Check out the new website and the other social media. Ron is looking for new posts every week. Take some photos of your boat, your product and your crews.



Merry ChristMask and Happier New Year!





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Industry News



China punishing Australia Rock Lobster: <https://www.seafoodnews.com/Story/1186810/Cheap-Lobsters-on-Offer-for-Australian-Christmas-Tables-as-Prices-Plummet-Due-to-China-Import-Ban>

China slams door on seafood imports from COVID-impacted countries (seafoodsource.com)

<https://www.macleans.ca/society/environment/sea-otters-are-back-with-a-worrying-vengeance-in-b-c/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-54598758>



https://www.fishsafebc.com/blog/2020/11/30/a-young-skippers-story?utm_source=Cyberimpact&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Safety-Profile-A-Young-Skippers-Story

https://www.fishsafebc.com/blog/2020/12/14/cleaning-amp-covid-reminders-for-safe-sanitization?utm_source=Cyberimpact&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Cleaning--Covid--Reminders-for-safe-sanitization

<https://futureoftheocean.wordpress.com/2019/05/01/speaking-up-for-sustainable-fisheries/>

<https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/526193-sustainable-fisheries-are-facing-a-moratorium>

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/national-fisherman/market-barriers-constrain-alaska-urchin-fishing>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-easter-moderate-livelihood-fishery-1.5794895>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7414976/acadian-fisherman-mikmaq-fishery/>

[Sea otters are back with a worrying vengeance in B.C. - Macleans.ca](https://www.macleans.ca/news/bc/sea-otters-are-back-with-a-worrying-vengeance-in-b-c/)



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The pandemic is continuing to profoundly impact people, markets and whole countries around the world and has now totally derailed all our plans and intentions to finish off our 3-year marketing project with visits to more trade shows and other related events than we have ever attempted previously. A project amendment was approved for our project this year that reflected all the cancellations we faced and reallocated some of the funds to renewing the website, the video on the fishery and enhancing our social media presence, in part through Instagram. Mike and Ron are taking care of that as they have access to some great pictures but getting video or photos from guys in the field would also be really helpful in that regard.

This is the last year of our current project. It will carry us through to the end of fiscal (March 31) and I am putting together a new proposal for the next two years. As you might guess things are still in a lot of flux at this point and I am watching and waiting on how things develop before I finalize. The last show cancelled for this fiscal was the 2021 Seafood Expo North America (SENA), originally scheduled for mid March 2021, but now delayed until next fiscal in mid July is the first show on deck. I think is probably a bit optimistic but not completely out of the question given that vaccines are now circulating and I am expecting the Province will renew its offer of an information counter at nominal cost. I will include expenses for a couple of guys to attend but am thinking getting an on-site in-country representative might be a better option so am going to do my best to keep it flexible in case the vaccination program does not match expectations.



The Seafood Expo Global (SEG) 2021 has been rescheduled for mid-September 2021 but this one too strikes me as a bit premature since it will held for be the first time in Barcelona - meaning it is likely to be a bit of a gong show. Also, since Spain has been one of the countries in the EU hit hardest by COVID I am thinking it is better to wait for the April 2022 version.

The 2nd edition of the Canadian Seafood Show is similarly scheduled for Montreal in mid-September but again I am figuring because the show is so small, the payoff is likely too limited and not worth the risk. I will be talking to some of the guys about that before we decide one way or the other.

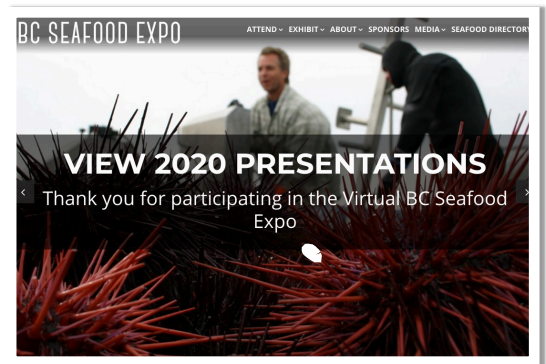
I am also waiting on a date and venue for the Seafood Expo Asia (SEA) which I am expecting in early January. I am thinking it is likely going to be in Singapore in November but according to the organizer there is also a chance that it might be back in Hong Kong. Hong Kong is still our second largest market and remains a priority to get back to visit. If the SEA is in Singapore we might look at attending the Bar and Restaurant show in Hong Kong in September, though again I will be approaching people like Paddy, Francis and Pat for advice prior to committing to that. Hong Kong recently increased its in-hotel quarantine period to 3 weeks and even though I am pretty sure that is going to be lifted by summer I am not sure if a full on mission there is warranted this year. There have been lots of changes there: COVID is hammering their tourism and food service sectors and the new security legislation imposed by China is also affecting what people there are comfortable with. I will continue monitoring the situation as best I can but I think Hong Kong too might be best left as a wait and see.



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The China show is set to go again at the end of October and I think from that point onwards we can probably be pretty much assured that things can roll out as planned- SENA 2022 (March), SEG 2022 (April), B&R Hong Kong 2022 (September) and/or SEA 2022 (September in Hong Kong or November in Singapore), CFSE 2022 and SENA 2023. If the SEA reverts back to Hong Kong on a permanent basis we should also try to find something in Singapore other than the Hotel and Restaurant show because that show is part of Canadian pavilion program which is not eligible for by AgriMarketing Program funding. Side trips to Japan and/or Vietnam also remain on the table. At any rate, the deadline for the new proposal is the end of January and I am just waiting to see how things develop but expect to have everything ready to go before middle of the January.

There has also been some other stuff going on. I took part in the first virtual BC Seafood Show, a kind of experimental video conferencing-based event hosted by the Comox Valley Economic Development group using a new platform- TradeModo. We each had a virtual booth setup that included links to our websites, and the idea revolved around being on hand on a “Zoom-like” video conferencing function so you could have a video conversation with people stopping by the booth. There was a common area where everyone could mix but it was actually kind of uncomfortable and no one reported much of anything happening there. There were buyers from Asia attending though I expect they were calling in from Asia. We did not get any visitors at our booth which was not really surprising as it was pretty much brand new to everyone. People were, and are, more simply just trying to figure what might work in the absence of face to face trade shows and were kicking the platform's tires rather than jumping in. I wouldn't say the event was a roaring success though also not a fail either. It did give us a taste of what does and does not work and I am continuing to work with the Trade Modo guys as they/we are continuing their work to set up a virtual electronic platform to facilitate international business development. I think it is likely to develop into a useful and cost effective service, at least for introductions so am carrying on. Longer term, I expect once the introductions phase is done subsequent face to face shows would help and may even be needed to take the relationships to a higher level but these sorts of options are likely to continue growing as travel becomes more troublesome and/or expensive.



I also participated in a virtual trade show hosted by the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service in Vietnam. Vietnam is, or at least was, quickly developing as an international tourist destination with large resorts serving tourists from places like Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and China so it is on our radar. This one was structured a bit differently and used Zoom as the platform. They also pre-arranged business meetings with various buyers for Canadian companies/associations in assigned “breakout rooms” where business could be privately discussed. It too was sort of an introductions-type service and seemed to go quite well, although I cannot say any concrete business emerged from it. That is not real surprising as this must be seen, like our trade show booths, as an opportunity to set the table so they can become aware of and more familiar with our product(s) and then it has to be up to our exporters can follow to meet, greet and develop business. I met with one large company that was more specialized in dairy, vegetables and meats than seafood and another smaller seafood specialist but had to explain to both that discussing concrete terms was beyond my remit and suggested that they get a hold of companies through the contacts page on the website.



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They are interested in our products though I got the impression they were searching more for local consumption so might not be able to meet our price expectations. I was able to walk them through the website by sharing the screen and carry on a conversation without losing a connection so I am thinking there is more can be done with this as well.

Moving on from the marketing side, there have also been some recent developments on the North Shelf Bioregion Marine Protected Areas Network Initiative. The Marine Protected Areas Technical Team (MPATT) reassured(?) us that there was quite a bit happening behind the scenes as they are digesting

all the comments and advice they received at the various meetings over the last year or two and they just wanted to touch base on what is coming.



Things have slowed down a bit because of COVID and the date for the Phase I initiation has been pushed back a year to June 2022. The First Phase of the actual network implementation is expected by 2025, Phase II by 2030 and Phase III TBD - they are wanting to stay flexible on that so they can accommodate developments and changes of all sorts. They are still working on the draft Scenario 2 and hope to

introduce it in February/March 2021 and have it out for review by April 2021. Their intent is to bring in stakeholders earlier than on the first go round so they can accommodate concerns “more actively” and iteratively during the development process. The timetable still seems a bit ambitious but they are planning on connecting with the various sectors to get their/our views on the best way to engage over the next few months through Fall 2021. Acknowledgement that a South Coast Marine Planning exercise is also active, though at an early stage, also slipped out.

The other project we are participating in revolves around the ecological and socioeconomic modelling of returning sea otters to the Haida Gwaii area. There is generally one zoom meeting per month and it is at the stage where the main researchers/modellers are gathering data and others are figuring out what sort (s) of questions they would like to see addressed. The group is working well and it is interesting getting the different perspectives on the direction it should be heading.

There was a guest by name of Mike Miller who works for the Sitka Tribes in Alaska at the last meeting who talked about their experience with them there. They have an active harvest program in Alaska to keep them in check, it's all regulated and it sounds like the enforcement agencies are pretty aggressive. It sounds like the actual carrying capacity they are seeing is actually considerably lower than was assumed at the beginning. The numbers around Sitka settled in around 1,200 as opposed to the low thousands that were predicted. It sounds like they moved on and expanded their range more quickly than expected as their numbers increased. The local impacts in Sitka Inlet were on small razor clam beds and then abalone. Mike reported that they noted increases in the kelp abundance where the otters are present and this led to increased herring spawn success which is kind of re-invigorating their whole system. Gray whales and lots of seabirds are showing up to take advantage of the spawn - it is a huge caloric boost for them. Interestingly local populations of urchins and abalone also increased in Sitka Inlet even with the otters present and the local catch of Dungeness crab apparently increased from 3.5 M lbs in 2009 to about 6.6 M lbs in 2020.



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The sea otter population in SE Alaska was estimated at 10,500 in 2002/03 and 25,700 by 2012 during which time the harvest increased from 920 otters/year to about 2,000/yr. Young males are considered the best for harvest as their skins are marginally thinner and so easier to process, but it kind of limits the size of the products that can be manufactured from the pelts.

I believe it the "K_uu project" is scheduled to last for a couple of years and will involve a number of iterations as the models are assembled, tested, assessed and tuned. Everybody involved is anticipating ecosystem changes in response to otters showing up and are hoping the models will provide some advice on what might be expected and how they/we might best respond so the impacts are not all bad. There may be some substantial opportunities that come out of it and it makes sense being part of the team looking into it so we are not left on the sidelines looking in with no influence.

One final note: the A'Tlegay want to do another survey in the Discovery Pass area so we can get a trend on the urchin populations there so they can determine whether to support a quota increase for the area. We did it last in September 2018 and it took a couple of days with 2 boats. If anyone can be available it would be a great help. I am assuming we can borrow the survey gear again from PBS and that I would be on board one of the boats to take care of the data, data processing and etc. Thanks

Good fishing eh- and as always- stay safe.





Industry News

SCMP- [China's R&D, tech investment inflows show deepening global economic integration despite US decoupling push](#)

[The future of business travel from Techexplore](#)

SCMP- [Divided future: brace for more volatility](#)

SCMP Nov 21 2020- [For Trump and the US: lessons from China and others on aristocratic excess](#)

Nov 22, 2020: [Hong Kong hits three-month high with 73 new Covid-19 cases expected](#)

Nov 24, 2020: [Xi's muscular approach in Tibet, Xinjiang and Hong Kong will backfire](#)

Nov 24, 2020: [You will need a 'Covid-19 passport' to fly in the future](#)

Nov 25, 2020. [Corona virus roaring back in parts of Asia](#)

Dec. 1, 2020: [How Chinese millennials, shadow banks could fuel a financial crisis](#)

Dec 7, 2020: [Japan prepares \\$700bn stimulus as virus resurges](#)

Dec 5, 2020: [Small Data, Big Implications on COVID transmissability](#)

Dec 3, 2020: [Even as political relations worsen, Canada-China trade thrives](#)

Nov 30, 2020: [Plastic contaminants harm sea urchins](#)

Nov 29, 2020: [South Korea braces for bed shortages as coronavirus cases near nine-month high](#)

Dec 10, 2020: [Japanese legislature passes law to ban import of IUU seafood](#)

Dec 12, 2020: [Global trade is booming — just without the U.S.](#)

Dec 14, 2020: [Pound for Pound, Taiwan Is the Most Important Place in the World](#)

Dec. 14, 2020: [Fishermen Are Respecting Channel Islands MPA's, OSU Analysis Shows](#)

Dec 14, 2020: [Are Sea Otters Affecting Dungeness Crab Season?](#)

Dec. 14, 2020: [Canada makes commitments to bolstering blue economy](#)

Dec 16, 2020: [Alaska geoduck biomass is down, but sea cucumbers on the upswing](#)

Dec 16, 2020: [NYTimes.com: How Russia Wins the Climate Crisis](#)

Dec 23, 2020: [WAO- Half-measures won't protect us from the new covid-19 variant](#)

Dec 26, 2020: [SCMP- Chinese asked to stay home for the holidays as 20 new infections reported](#)

Dec 26, 2020: [NYT- Why China Turned Against Jack Ma](#)



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RED SEA URCHIN FISHERY – December, 2020

North Coast Fleet

- The fleet was small during the Sea Cucumber fishery in October
- Quality is still a major issue as vessels struggle to find any urchins with acceptable roe
- Weather is a close second in what has hindered harvest this fall
- Currently, the fleet is active in the Principe group of QMAs, and in Otter Pass
- The North Coast Protocol created by PUHA and DFO to replace the contracted on-grounds coordinator is being tested by certain vessels as being not workable. A review of the protocol will require DFO comments

South Coast Fleet

- Vessels have been active since August out of Victoria to Port McNeill
- Increased vessel activity this season due to the area selection process that happened this spring
 - More RSU tabs designated south for the next 2 seasons
- Quality is an issue this season as the north coast
- Weather is a close second
- QMA from Sooke to Comox have been achieved, with the exception of QMA17 which is a live market QMA
- Currently, vessels are active from Campbell River to Port McNeill looking for quality
- Port McNeill QMA 12K opened December 10th, 2020 and closed just before the 24th of December

General

- DFO C&P is on the dock and the fishing grounds more this season than noticed before
- Breaches to the conditions of licence have increased this season
- Hails to harvest and Hails to offload are not being met as per the conditions of licence – this issue improved November and into December
- Harvest chart delivery by the deadline as per the condition of licence is showing signs of problems this fall. Charts are late for many vessels
 - Reminder – chart filled out by midnight – chart submitted to D&D within 30-days of the harvest date – DFO C&P are aware of the timeline and will be asking to show charts for corresponding log pages



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

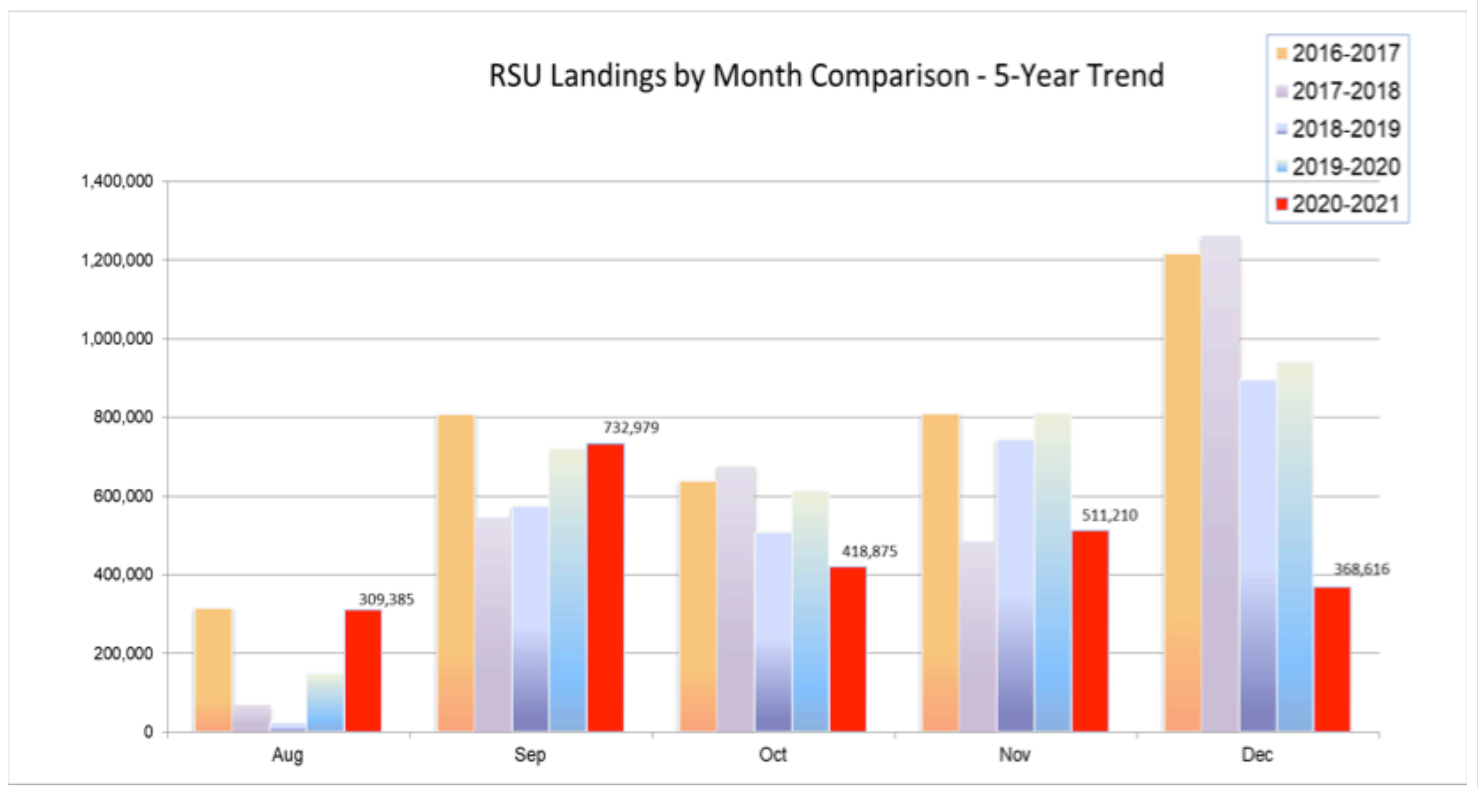


Figure 2 – RSU Landings by Season to Date - 5-Year Trend

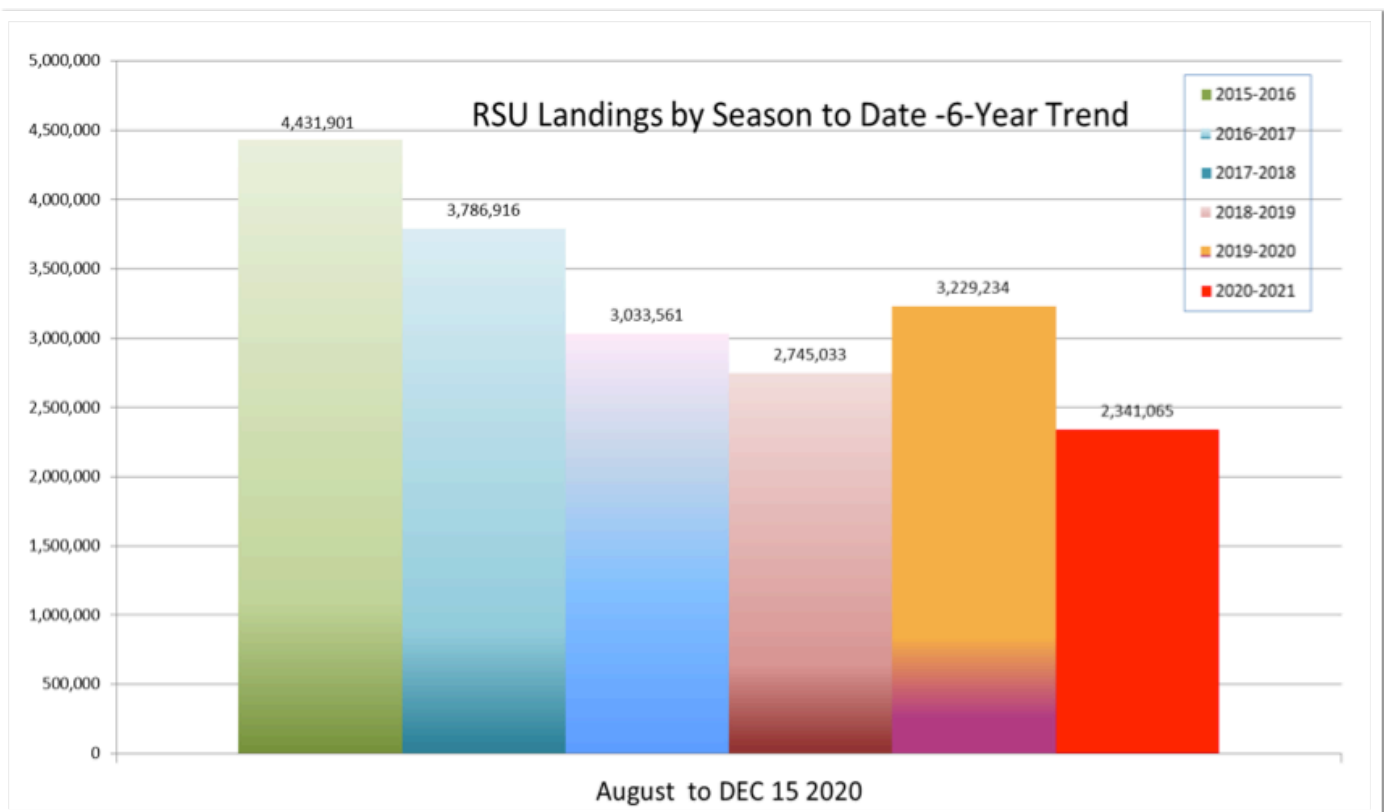




Figure 3 – RSU North Coast Catch Comparison by Month – 2-Year Trend

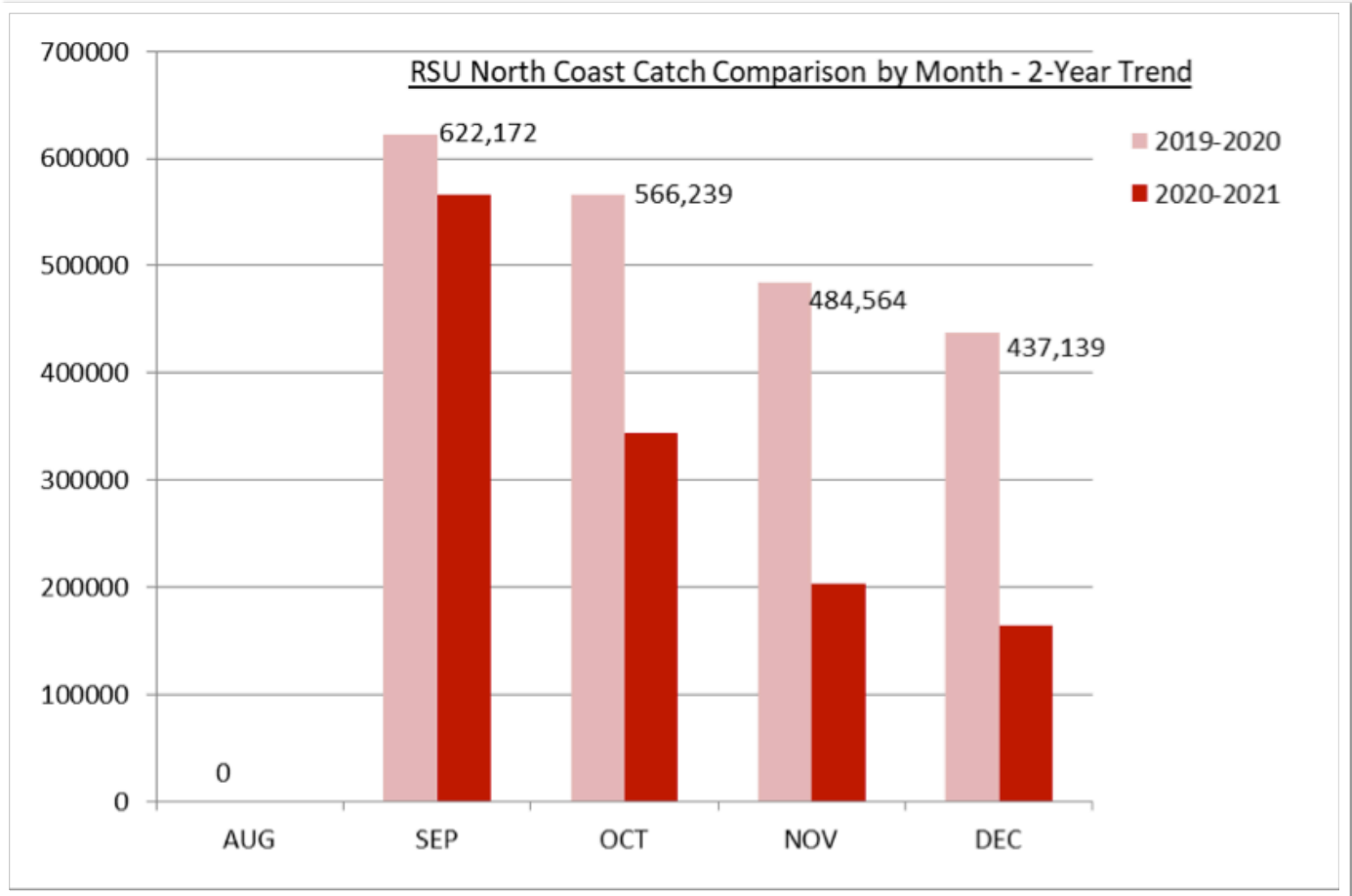


Figure 4 – RSU South Coast Catch Comparison by Month – 2-Year Trend

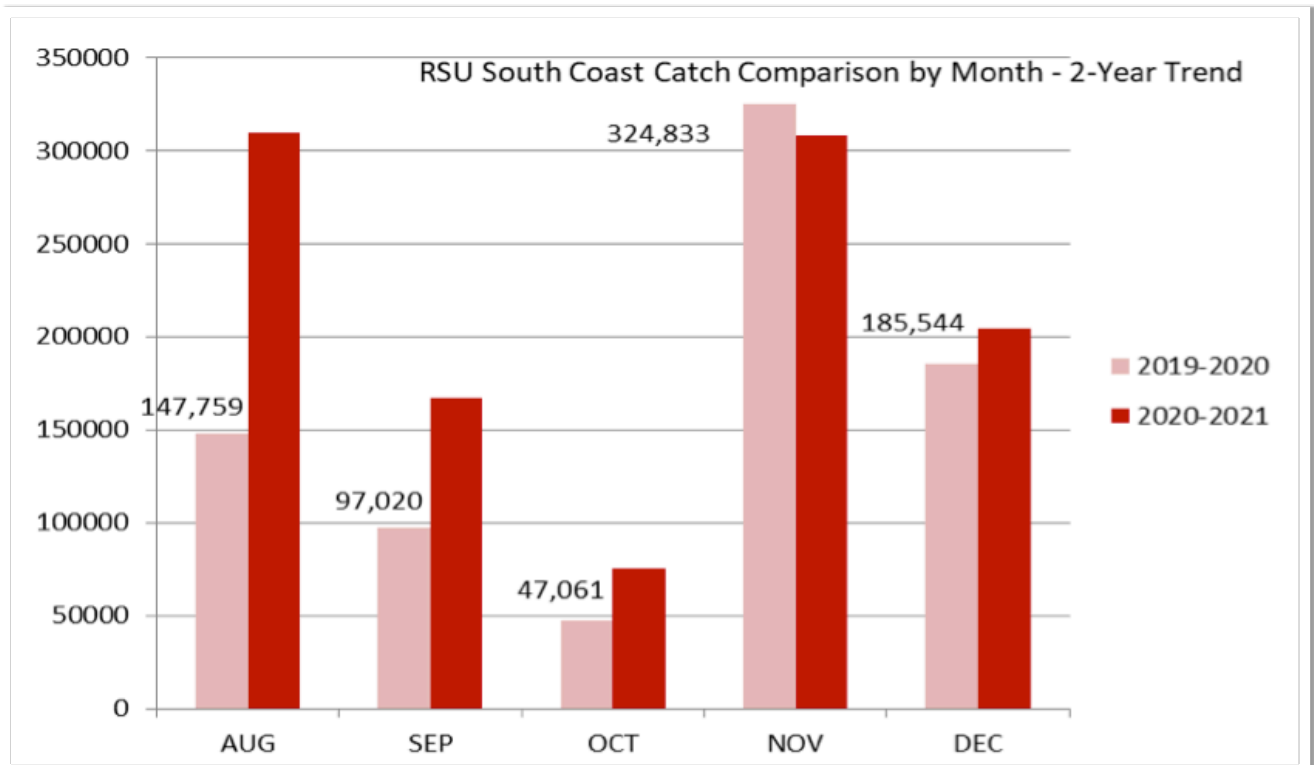
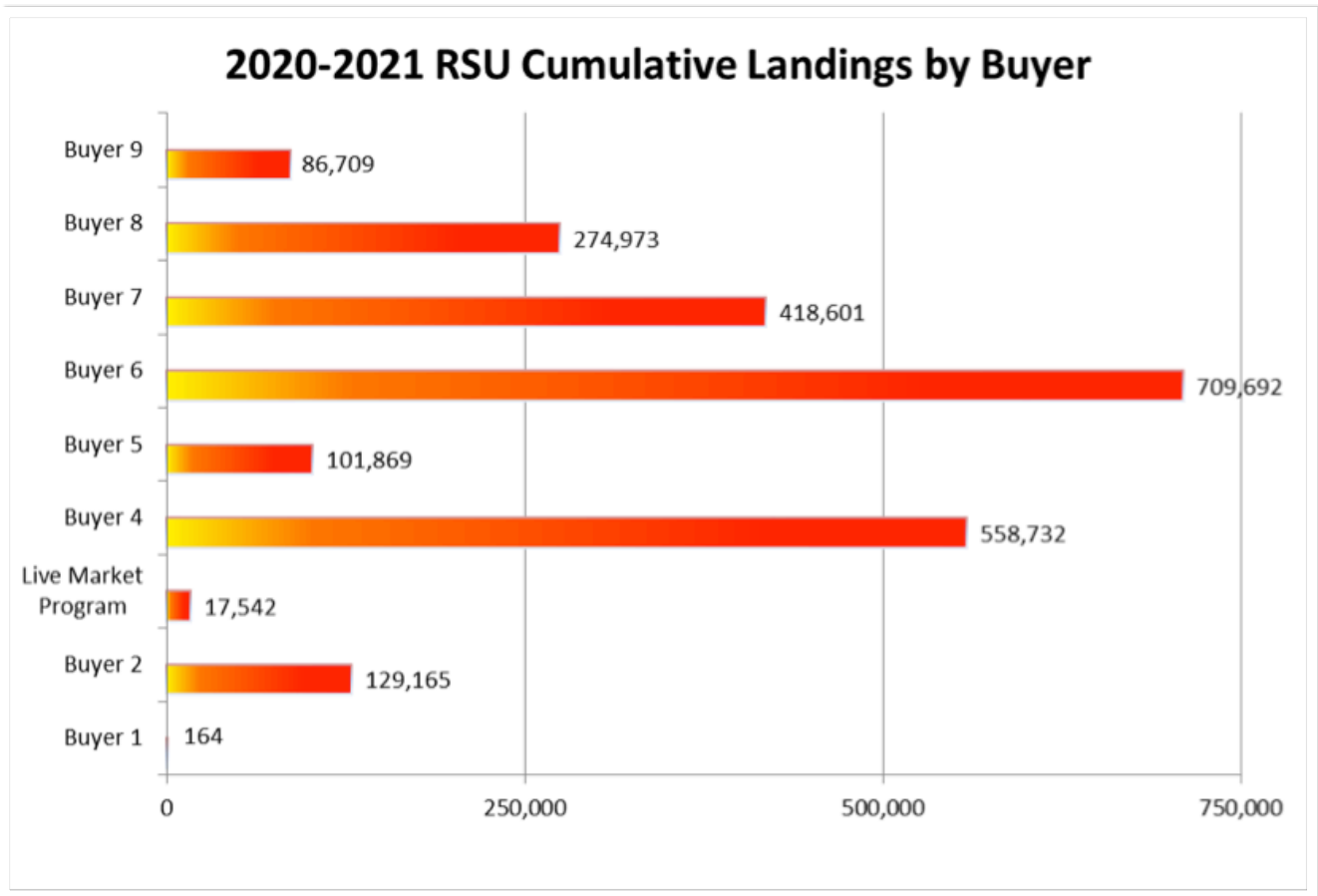




Figure 5 – RSU Cumulative Landings by Buyer

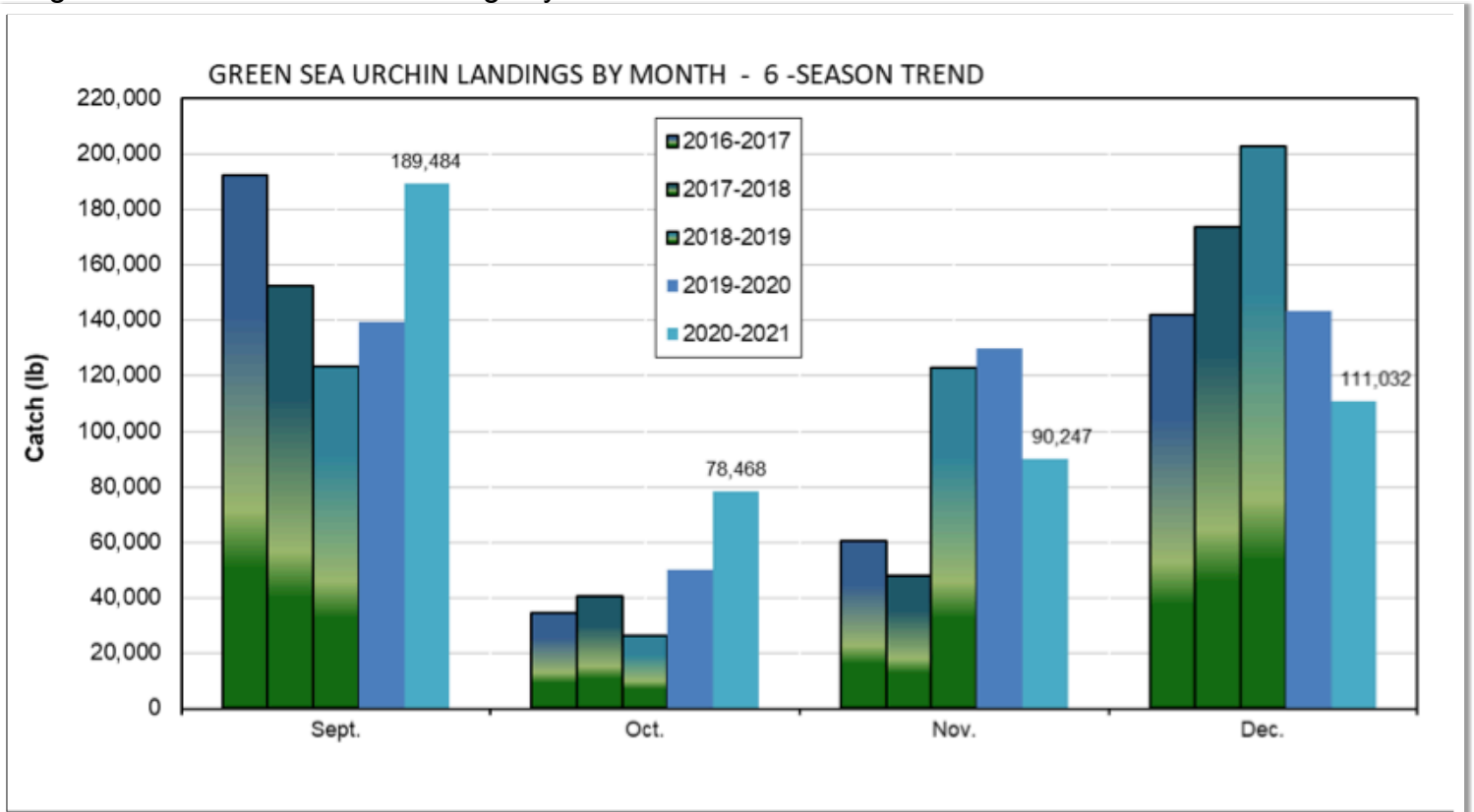




2020-21 GSU FISHERY- December 27th, 2020

- The 2020-21 GSU fishing season is active and trying to get ahead of a busy market
- Russia may play a bigger role in the market this season
- QMA 11 has a 3,000 lb. that is left in the water annually. We tried to have a vessel fishing sea cucumbers this year harvest some greens in the QMA, but maybe next year
- Currently, harvest is out of Kelsey Bay and Port McNeill
- Campbell River has only a clean-up in one QMA
- Great effort by vessels producing quality with so many greens south of Kelsey Bay
- Harvest data good
- Adherence to Conditions of Licence overall good
 - Hails to fish the only real breach as market orders come in last minute

Figure 5 – GSU Historical Landings by Month– 6 Season Trend to December 27th 2020





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

Figure 5 – GSU Historical Landings – 2020-21 to December 27th 2020

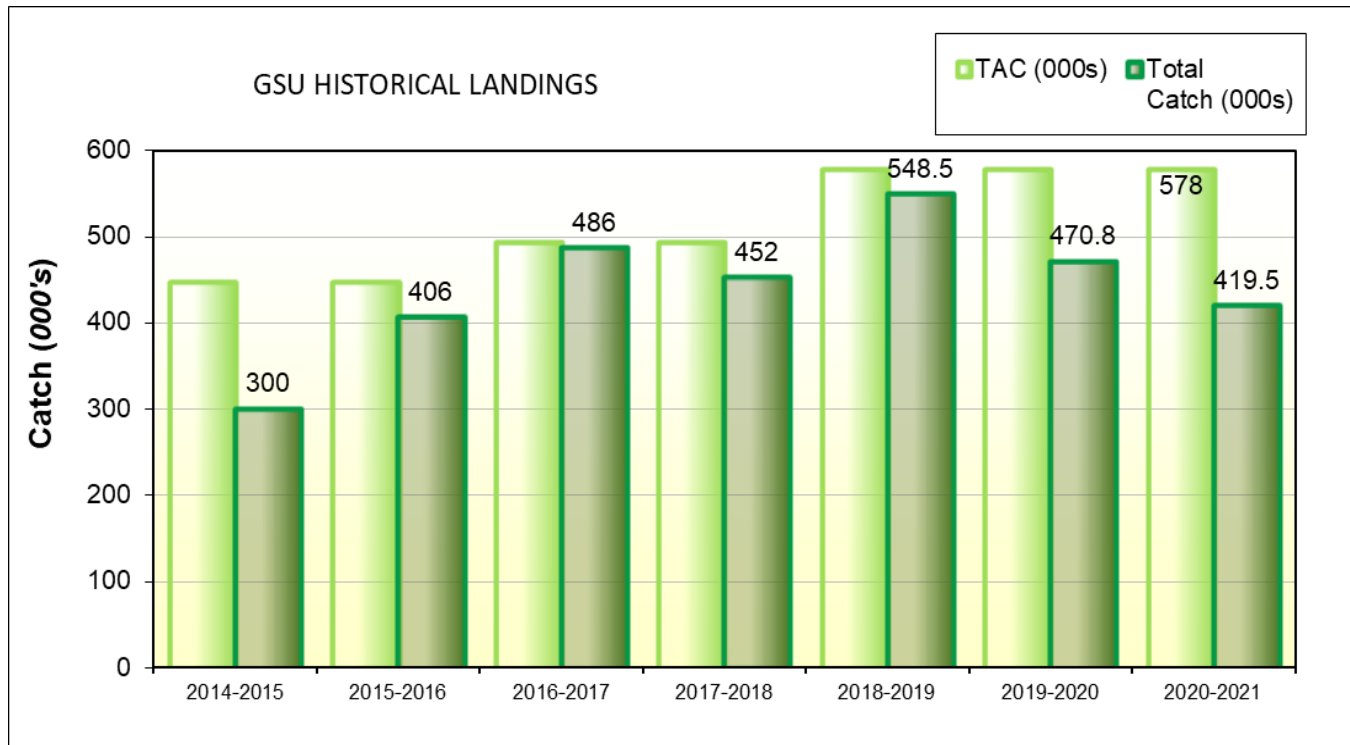


Figure 6 – GSU Landings by Buyer to December 27th 2020

