

Minutes from PSCHA AGM held August 10, 2020

Parksville Community Center

132 Jenson Avenue East

Attendees: Thom Liptrot, Barb Shanks, Bob Hegedus, John Parkin, Al Shanks, Clint Ridgway, Raf Kalus, Eric & Lourdes Gant, John Lindsay, George Dennis, Glen Dennis, Cory Jackson, Xiu Qi Chen, Mark Ullanowski, Eric Ponsforis, Mike Dennis, Charlie Grieves, David Lansdowne, Grayson Russell, Christina Burridge, Geoff Krause, 2 signatures that are not legible

There were 45 Licenses represented in person or by proxy.

Motion to approve agenda: John Lindsay motioned, Mark Ullanowski seconded. Carried.

Motion to approve 2019 AGM minutes: John Lindsay motioned, Mark Ullanowski seconded. Carried.

President's Report

Other than the obvious uncertainty going into this season, we have a few changes this year.

Two years ago, we surveyed Finlayson Channel in the Kitasoo territory with the intent to establish the Biomass and arrive at what the quota would be. It was agreed at that time, that this survey was to gather data to further our talks with Kitasoo regarding implementing their desires for a network of refugia zones.

Less than a year ago we received a request from Kitasoo to be able fish their six central coast licenses in their territory exclusively on an annual style rotation. Their hopes are to create work within their community.

Our fishery is a quota fishery, but in most respects, it is still a shotgun opening and we achieve the quotas in each area quickly and move on. So we have been working on a collaborative fishing plan that would put their fish plant to work and also an environment that would help new fisherman/divers to break into the fishery safely and remain in their territory.

In October Finlayson north and south will re- open for approximately 30,000 lbs annually.

It was also agreed to end the Experimental fishing areas (EFA) in Tolmi and Laredo Inlet.

Because of the high exploitation rates applied to certain parts of the EFA we will wait another year or so for recruitment before surveying.

One of the concerns brought up with Kitasoo was the possible cost over runs with validation. It has been proposed to arrive at what the average number of offloads a license has coast wide and use that as a base line. The cost of extra offloads will be absorbed by Kitasoo.

Nootka Survey

In 2019 Nootka , Zeballos, and Tahsis were surveyed. Results were good. A total quota of 45,000 lbs has been applied to this area on a annual based fishery.

In the central coast we are giving Queens Sound and Kildidt a rest, resulting in a quota shortage of 164,000 lbs.

Three licenses in the central will be moving to Nootka on a temporary basis until we bring Queens Sound and Kildidt back into the rotation. These areas will be re-surveyed at the appropriate time to apply sustainable quotas.

Motion to move Thom's licenses to West Coast: Charlie Grieves motioned, John Lindsay seconded. Carried.

2020 Quotas

With the uncertain market for the upcoming season , and the temporary shortfall in the central. It was decided by PSCHA to rather than push to bring forward quota to maintain the 16,000 lb quota,we reduce the quota for one year to 15,000 lbs.

DFO is on board with this decision and has assured Quotas to return the following season to 16,000 lbs.

Opening dates for 2020. The season is set to start October first the same as last year.

Please refer to PSCHA website for 2020 management plan and monitor for updates.

License Movement

Tab 41 & 81 (Paladin International Food Sales)

Tab 57 (Reifel R)

Tab 46 (Rajkowski, Ted)

Tab 48 (Lansor Holding Co Ltd)

Tab 34 (Forstbauer, Walter)

Tab 20 (Comox Diving Services Ltd)

Tab 83 (Paddy Wong)

Motion to accept lottery results: Al Shanks motioned, John Parkin seconded. Carried.

Financials

May 2019 to April 2020 Financial Statements were presented to members and one member asked about the GST owing on the statements as it was substantially higher than previous year (\$5484.45 vs \$173.44). As the balance sheet shows a snapshot of the accounts on a particular day, detail is needed to show how where the totals come from. Attached to this email are the details of the GST ledger from each year shown on the Balance Sheet presented.

Motion to approve Financial Statements: Raf Kalus motioned, Clint Ridgway seconded. Carried.

NSB Report

There has not been a lot going on with regard to the North Shelf Bio-region MPA Network process since about the end of February when a forum including all the advisory groups was held in Vancouver. The purpose of the meeting was to collect more feedback and present an update on where the Marine Protected Areas Technical Team (MPATT) are at with the whole thing after having digested and accommodated the many comments they collected last year. Non-government types were really hoping for a meaningful reveal on an updated and revised network plan but that didn't happen.

Advice from all the different sectors involved, including commercial fishing, tourism, forestry, recreational fishing groups, and of course environmental NGO's was presented by each group. The most informative report came from the commercial fishing meetings this past winter held by Bruce Turris, Brian Mose, Grant Dovey and Mike Atkins and detailed industry's proposed compromises and tradeoffs to minimize costs while achieving the majority for the targets in the MPATT draft plan.

I suspect they are waking up to the reality of what they are proposing and while their sympathies remain with the conservation sector, they are navigating a social and political minefield and want to preserve as much ambiguity in everything they commit to for as long as possible. The most definitive statement re: fishing I took from them at the meeting was- and I quote from the Meeting report- "There is a recognition of the need to find ways to make the existing fisheries management regime align better with integrated spatial planning and we are working on this."

They also indicated they would keep working on a revised network scenario and prepare a narrative report summarizing changes for Advisory Committee members and develop/share the methodology for their upcoming socio-economic analysis on a revised scenario. A, or perhaps another, revised draft scenario along with the socio-economic analysis will be shared over winter/spring 2021 and they anticipate moving forward with seeking endorsement of their Action Plan including the "Final network scenario" in early summer of 2021. However we still have and will still have then this Covid thing happening so... time will tell

It seems a lot of FN communities are still on the fence as they are similarly interested in not closing off economic opportunities so there are chances to find more compromises as many of the uncertainties revolve around protecting culturally significant areas.

Election of Officers:

Directors stood as a slate consisting of Thom Liptrot, Bob Hegedus, Clint Ridgway, Barb Shanks, Paulo Demee, John Parkin, Al Shanks, George Dennis, Raf Kalus, Alfa Wong. Nominations from the floor were called 3 times with no more names.

Motion to elect slate as presented. Charlie Grieves motioned, John Lindsay seconded. Carried.

BC Seafood Alliance

Christina Burrige of the BC Seafood Alliance spoke briefly about what she has been working on over the last few months to help the industry cope with Covid-19—making sure fisheries can open by developing protocols to keep harvesters, crews and communities safe and working with the government on support programs and to deal with market issues. On the support programs, she noted that the harvester benefit and harvester grant application process opens on 24 August and will be accepted until 21 September. She suggested people apply sooner rather than later if they can.

She then spoke about some of the things we still need to worry about in addition to Covid-19, particularly a government committed to Reconciliation and large-scale marine planning, using fisheries a political and social currency. This is playing out as loss of access—the original Northern Shelf Bioregion draft zoning scenario would reduce commercial access by 40 per cent and take \$100 million annually out of the coastal economy. We can also expect increased First Nation influence and control over fisheries as the federal and provincial governments sign Reconciliation agreements that include fisheries. We are likely to see more SARA listings that will reduce fishing opportunities for some species. It's not clear yet what DFO will do about the FOPO report on West Coast licensing policy but we expect some kind of consultation process. And, lastly, we know commercial fisheries are losing public support—just look at the roe herring fishery—so we need to improve communications and messaging.

To deal with all these issues, the Alliance is evolving. This fiscal year we opened the members to individual companies not just harvester associations based on a flat membership fee. To date, 13 processors have joined the 11 harvester members and five associate members. She thanked the PSCHA members for their support and help to build a resilient, properly resourced organization with broad representation across industry.

Questions ranged from the harvester grant and benefit, to the market situation, FOPO, marine planning building relationships with First Nations and cucumber aquaculture.

Monitors Report

Thom presented info from D&D Pacific's Report. Highlights below

2019 Fishing Season was October 1, 2019 to December 7th, 2019 with scheduled Quota Management Area (QMA) openings and closures

- An Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy (ARFS) initiated in 2011 continues
- Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2019 was 1,360,000 pounds split weight
- ZD Quota remained at 16,000 pounds split weight per licence
- Area Licensing in 2019 (one licence can be registered in several areas):
 - NC = 31 licenses.
 - CC = 28 licenses
 - ECVI = 23 licenses
 - WCVI = 3 licenses

North Coast

- The North Coast was active for less than 3 weeks with 17 vessels
- 3 in-season re-designations occurred in the north coast in-season

2 Central Coast

- Harvest in the central coast ceased in first week of November due to vessel issues, and resumed harvest activity in December
- The central coast fishery had 17 vessels active
- 10 re-designations occurred during the season: the highest number of re-designations D&D has had to date in one region
- 7J was closed in-season, and the back-up QMA 10A was utilized for the remaining quota of 7J (24,576) to be harvested

West Coast Vancouver Island

- 3 tabs active, with one tab being fished by two vessels
- FZD tab has the option to be fished simultaneously by two vessels promoting as much economic opportunities as possible
- Vessel issues with the FZD tab resulted in both vessels not active at the same time, resulting in a break in harvest from Nov 8th to Nov 29th. Re-designations occurred and the tab was finished on Dec. 06, 2019.

License Activity

- Eighty-five licenses were active and fished by 35 individual vessels – 13 fished 2 regions, 2 vessel in 3 regions
- The FZD01 tab was allowed by DFO to have two vessels fishing the tab simultaneously in the west coast region
- Re-designations occurred this season. Five licenses re-designed 3 times

Buyer / Processor Activity

- There were seven buyers active for the 2019 season (8 in 2018)
- Landings were mainly shared between three buyers purchasing 75% of the product. The remaining 25% was split between five buyers

- Comments from buyers are few. They were related to random issues with their vessels, packers and logistics within their own business plan
- Comments relating to product were minimal

Problems & Issues

- Problems were minor this season and were dealt with as they occurred
- 2 licenses are still outstanding on missing information as of June 1st 2020

9 Conclusion

- Minor issues occurred, and were dealt with in real time
- The sequential opening format supported the fishing effort and processing capacities
- All Harvest Data and Charts received by D&D from industry have been digitized, and delivered to DFO's Shell Fish Data Unit with the exception of two tabs
- Electronic Charts, IFMP and other relevant fishery information provided by D&D online was received well and will continue
- It is D&D's point of view that problems and issues that arise in commercial fisheries are best resolved in a timely fashion, and the Management of the 2019-2020 season would not have been so effective if it was not for the dedicated time and effort of;
- The On-Ground Coordinators who were in contact with D&D daily ensuring communication was relayed both to the fleet and to D&D. We thank all of them
- The Buyers/Processors who assisted D&D in issues that arose during the course of the fishery
- DFO Resource Management for expediting D&D requests in the short timeframe of the Sea Cucumber fishery

Motion to keep D&D Pacific as validation contract. Bob Hegadus motioned, Raf Kalus seconded. Carried.

Marketing Report

Most of the shows we attend were cancelled this past year. The first each year is the Seafood Expo Asia (SEA) in Hong Kong but demonstrations sometimes numbering into the millions against a new extradition bill led to cancellation of the show. It was re-scheduled to Singapore in November this year but the COVID -19 crisis has resulted in the cancellation of that as well.

The China Fisheries and Seafood Expo is another major event we attend each year. We collected the contact information from some 55 visitors to our booth. It was again a very good show even though there was some worry about China's reaction(s) to events unfolding in Hong Kong and the ongoing deterioration in relations with Canada because of the Ms. Meng Wanzhou arrest, but unsurprisingly everybody seemed entirely and typically hospitable and generous.

Next up was the Seafood Expo North America in Boston in mid-March 2020. Covid was breaking out all over by then and that show too was cancelled.

Covid is of course still with us- and likely to remain as such for some time yet. The 2020 China show was cancelled a couple of weeks ago, depending on the roll out of the promised Covid-19 vaccines it seems

likely that the 2021 Boston show will likewise suffer a similar fate, leaving us with no shows this year.

We are funded Agriculture and AgriFood Canada through the end of this fiscal and will be de-committing funds and putting together a new proposal to carry us through the next 2 years. I am hoping international travel will be up and running by about this time next year so am thinking shows for Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Boston and Barcelona (Spain) are possible targets. It will make for a busy year but the government program is raising its contribution to 75% from 50% so it is a great opportunity to get ambitious. There will of course be full consultation with PSCHA executive as the proposal is developed.

Motion to accept 2020 Management Plan as presented earlier by Thom. John Lindsay motioned, Mark Ullanowski seconded. Carried.

Motion to adjourn meeting. Charlie Grieves motioned, Raf Kalus seconded. Carried.

Meeting adjourned!