

**Minutes from PSCHA AGM held June 29, 2022**  
**Beban Social Centre 2, Nanaimo, B.C.**

Attendees: Thom Liptrot, Barb Shanks, Bob Hegedus, Clint Ridgway, George Dennis, Cory Jackson, John Parkin, Mark Ulanowski, Glen Dennis, Mike Dennis, Alfa Wong, Geoff Krause, Sheila Wood, Darin Macey, Charlie Greaves

There were 45 licenses represented in person or by proxy.  
15 in attendance

**Motion** to approve agenda: Sheila Wood moved, seconded by Barb Shanks – approved

**Motion** to approve 2021 AGM minutes: Barb Shanks moved, seconded by Sheila Wood – approved

**President's Address**

Slow start to season. Kyuquot new area 2 quotas. Nootka done in 4 days per license.  
Survey info. Queen sound - numbers came back - 2 areas north 50k and south 20k. Lots of fallback in central, none in north. Kitsoo survey north & south, Mathieson & Finlayson annual quota figured out this year. Hopefully do all Millbank this year. Small cukes in Alaska. Lower Mathewson is a concern for us but counts look good.

**Lottery draw 5 tabs:**

70, 29, 71, 53, 3

70 & 71 go east coast. 29, 53, 3 go west coast

**Motion** to accept lottery results: Bob Hegadus motioned, John Parkin seconded – approved

**Financial Statements**

Barb was directed to move pertinent trade show travel expenses to Trade Show instead of Travel. That account is for survey travel expenses.

Discussion about reducing validation fee for areas that incur extra costs/times. It was decided that rather than decrease their fees the vessel should bill the association.

**Motion** to accept Financial Statements: Alfa Wong motioned, Charlie Greaves seconded – approved

Discussion on fuel and boat rates. Plan is for more surveys this year.

**Motion** to cover higher fuel costs by increasing boat day rate from \$1,800 to \$2,000: Charlie Greaves motioned, Bob Hegadus seconded – approved

**Motion** to have terminology "Fishermans Rights" used. Thom will bring it up with Seafood Alliance. Charles Greaves motioned, Thom Liptrot seconded -approved

Current slate of directors presented: Thom Liptrot, Barb Shanks, Bob Hegadus, Cory Jackson, John Parkin, Clint Ridgway, Paulo Demee, Alfa Wong . Thom called 3 times for further nominees.

**Motion** to accept slate as presented: Barb Shanks motioned, Sheila Wood seconded – approved

**2022 D&D Pacific Presentation**

**CANADIAN PACIFIC SEA CUCUMBER FISHERY**

**SEASON SUMMARY**

- **Management Plan Review**
- **2021 Fishing Season** was October 1, 2021 to December 7th, 2021 with scheduled Quota Management Area (QMA) openings and closures
- **An Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy (ARFS)** initiated in 2011 continues in its' 3-year cycle to 2022
- **Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2021** was 1,360,000 pounds split weight

- **ZD Quota** at 16,000 pounds split weight per licence
- **Area Licensing** in 2021 (a Vessel can be registered in several areas):
  - NC = 33 licenses. (31 in 2020)
  - CC = 24 licenses (25 in 2020)
  - ECVI = 21 licenses (24 in 2020)
  - WCVI = 7 licenses (5 in 2020)
- **Harvest Summary & Fishery Dynamics**
  - The 2021 fishing season opened October 1st in the North Coast in QMAs with product heading to Prince Rupert destined for processing plants in the lower mainland of BC, and QMA 6E with product heading to the plant in Klemtu
  - Harvest effort was organized and the fleet worked through Quota Management Areas (QMAs) efficiently
  - First dive date: October 1st 2021. Last dive date: December 5th, 2021. No extensions required this season
  - The Association utilized a sequential QMA opening format for the 2021 season
  - As in the past, landings dominated in October by very strong margins: Almost 80% of landings occurred in October. This is the same patterns as in prior seasons as the fleet size drops near the end of the QMA Schedule
  - 83 licenses were registered this season. Two tabs not released by DFO in the North Coast
  - Thirty-one vessels were active in 2021 (31 in 2020)
  - 15 vessels active in two licence regions
  - One vessel was active in three regions
  - Total landings amounted to 1,334,289 lbs
  - 25,711 lbs. of the TAC remained in the North Coast region due to 2 FZD tabs not being issued by DFO
  - 98.11% of the TAC was achieved

## **Activities by Region and QMAs**

### ***North Coast***

- The North Coast was active for the month of October with 13 vessels
- Two in-season re-designations occurred in the north coast
- Prince Rupert and Klemtu were the landing ports
- 2 vessels fished the NC region and packed their own product to port and utilized a packer during the season

### ***Central Coast***

- Harvest in the central coast commenced Oct 10, 2021 and ceased in first week of November
- The central coast fishery had 14 vessels active
- 4 re-designations occurred during the season (1 in 2020)
- Klemtu and Port Hardy were the landing ports

### ***East Coast Vancouver Island***

- Harvest started on October 8st, and continued until the last day of harvest Nov 20, 2021
- 2 in-season re-designations occurred in the ECVI in-season
- 10 vessels were active overall
- Multiple Landing Ports used on the East Coast of Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast
- Primary Landing Ports were Port Hardy and Wal Can Seafoods on Quadra Island
- The PSCHA utilized fallback quota throughout the season
- 11A moved 4908 lbs to QMA 16ABC
- 11B moved the entire TAC to QMA 16ABC
- An overage occurred in QMA 120 resulting in the last QMA 16D leaving product in the water

### ***West Coast Vancouver Island***

- Harvest started on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October and finished in Gold River November 19, 2021
- 7 tabs active, with 3 tabs being fished by one vessel
- Tofino and Gold River were the landing ports
- Harvest was spread out over the course of the season

## Landings by Quota Management Area

- Overall achievement rate of 100.19% (100.43% last season)

## License Activity

- Eighty-three licenses were active and fished by 31 individual vessels
- Eight re-designations occurred this season

## Buyer / Processor Activity

- There were 11 buyers active for the 2021 season (down 1 from 2020)
- 30% of the product was to 1 buyer. Remaining 70% split between 10 buyers
- The number of processing plants are similar to previous seasons which indicate more custom processing in certified plants for other 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 and related to size of product received
- Certain buyers took breaks throughout the season in order to maintain processing levels due to manpower and time to process

## Compliance

- The Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association (PSCHA) provides fleet coordinators who assist in daily logistics from the fishing grounds with managers at D&D. The coordinators communicate to the fleet updates from D&D on fishery related issues
- 76 incident reports were issued this season (68 in 2019)
- Breakdown of Incident Reports:
  - High Priority: 0
  - Medium Priority: 76
  - Low Priority: 0
- Medium Priority of Incidents varied in definitions, and their infractions to the Conditions of Licence.
- The majority of Incidents related to:
  - Missing Harvest information, NTO's, Incorrect or missing harvest data, Wrong statistical sub area or wrong QMA recorded on log page.
  - The majority of Non-Compliance issues were dealt with each vessel during the course of the fishery.
  - Reports were received, forwarded to DFO C&P and/or dealt with D&D in a timely manner

## Problems & Issues

- Problems were minor this season and were dealt with as they occurred
- 2 licenses were not issued for the 2021 season. D&D and PSCHA were not aware of this until mid-season in the north coast

## Conclusion

- Minor issues occurred, and were dealt with in real time
- The sequential opening format supported the fishing effort and processing capacities
- Changes to the sequence of openings occur in-season
- All Harvest Data and Charts received by D&D from industry have been digitized, and delivered to DFO's Shell Fish Data Unit
- 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 2021-2022 season would not have been so effective if it was not for the dedicated time and effort of;
  - The PSCHA On-Ground Coordinators who were in contact with D&D daily ensuring communication to the fleet from 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
  - Ha'oom Fisheries Society for organizing their vessels with D&D and the PSCHA prior to the fishery, and
  - Kitasoo First Nation for organization of their vessels and processing facility for validation in Klemtu

- The PSCHA Management staff for organization of the fishery logistics prior to the opening of the season

**Motion** to keep D&D Pacific as Validation Contractor. Bob Hegadus motioned, Clint seconded -approved

**2021 Fishing Season discussion**

George Dennis asked Alfa Wong & Charlie Greaves about the methods of processing. Charlie said the processors follow same practices. Alfa says staffing can affect which method the buyer wants. There were 95% less flights out of China compared to same time prior year. Glenn Dennis asked who would take over as north coast on grounds monitor from Al Shanks. Cory Jackson will.

**2022 Management Plan presentation – DFO (Thom presented)**

**Planning for the 2022 Fishery**

- Total Allowable catch = 1.36 million pounds (no change)
- Individual quota (16000lbs) no change
- is Year 3 of the 3 year cycle of the Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy (ARFS).

**Comparative License Numbers**

Licence Area	#licenses in 2021	#licenses in 2022
North Coast	33	32
Central Coast	24	29
East Coast VI	21	18
West Coast VI	7	6
Total	85	85

**North Coast License Area – 2022 Fishery**

QMA	Commercial Quota (split lb)	Fishery Type	Last Harvest
5E Anger Island	99,814	3yr Rotational	2019
5F Principe North	80,193	3yr Rotational	2019
5G Principe South	87,400	3yr Rotational	2019
6A Gil Island	132,273	3yr Rotational	2019
6C Trutch Island	93,732	3yr Rotational	2019
6E Princess Royal Ch	8,989	Annual	2021
6J Surf Inlet	9,599	Annual	2021
Total	512,000	32 Licenses	

**Central Coast Licence Area – 2022 Fishery**

QMA	Commercial Quota (split lb)	Fishery Type	Last Harvest
7H Upper Mathieson	12,730	Annual	2019
7I Lower Mathieson	18,364	Annual	2019
7L Roscoe Inlet	47,630	3yr Rotational	2018
7N Finlayson North	0	Annual	2021
7O Finlayson South	8,603	Annual	2021
7P Milbanke Sound	8,000	Annual	2021
7Q Seaforth Channel	88,153	3yr Rotational	2019
7R Queens Sound North	50,000	3yr Rotational	2017
7S Queens Sound South	20,000	3yr Rotational	2017
8C Spider/Kildidt	53,708	3yr Rotational	2017
9B South Rivers Inlet	157,172	3yr Rotational	2019
Total	464,000	29 Licenses	

#### East Coast VI Rotational

QMA	Commercial Quota (split lb)	Fishery Type	Last Harvest
12G SW QC Strait	31,067	3yr Rotational	2019
12H Turnour Island	88,439	3yr Rotational	2019
12I Gilford Island North	114,760	3yr Rotational	2019
Total	234,266	14.6 Licenses	

#### East Coast VI Annual

QMA	Commercial Quota (splitlb)	Fishery Type/HR	Last Harvest
11A Belize Inlet	12,696	Annual	2021
11B Seymour Inlet	13,626	Annual	2021
11D Slingsby Channel	5,598	Annual	2020
15A West Redonda Island	26,364	Annual	2021
15B East Redonda Island	30,810	Annual	2021
15C South Desolation	38,683	Annual	2021
16A Sechelt Inlet	18,291	Annual	2021
16B Jervis Inlet	20,537	Annual	2021
16C Texada Island	25,221	Annual	2021
16D Lasqueti Island	29,845	Annual	2021
18A Gulf Islands South	18,738	Annual	2020
Total Annual	240,409		
Total Licence Area	288,000	18 Licences	

#### West Coast VI

QMA	Commercial Quota (split lb)	Fishery Type	Last Harvest
24A North Clayoquot	20,000	Annual	2019
24B South Clayoquot	12,000	Annual	2019
25A Nootka/Tahsis	20,000	Annual	2020
25B Muchalat/Tlupana	28,000	Annual	2020
23A Southeast Barkley Sd	16,000	Rotational	2019
Total	96,000	6 Licences	

#### 2021 Harvest Questionnaires

- DFO started sending questionnaires out with harvest logbooks in 2014. Hoping for comments from harvesters while they are out on the fishing grounds
- 11 questionnaires returned in 2021 (15 in 2020)
- In certain QMAs some cucumbers are smaller than before
- Water visibility was a challenge in QMA 6G Kitimat Arm
- Good densities seen in the North Coast QMAs
- Would like to thank the harvesters who take the time to fill out the questionnaires

#### Comments from 2021 Questionnaires

- Most of the QMAS scheduled for harvest in 2022 were last harvested in 2019 – comments worth looking at prior to the 2022 season
- 10 questionnaires returned
- Harvesters reported seeing lots of juvenile sea cucumbers
- Suggestion to split Seaforth Channel and Milbanke Sound into 2 separate QMAs – done
- Fishing in lower Mathieson Channel was slower than previous years

## IFMP Timeline

- June 22, 2022 – Sea Cucumber Sectoral Meeting
- First week of July – draft 2022/23 IFMP begins 30 day consultation period
- Early August – IFMP goes for sign-off by RDG
- Mid September – Licensing begins
- October 1 – North Coast Licence Area opens
- October 8 – Central, ECVI, WCVI licence areas open

Advice needed on the following:

- Licence movement between licence areas
- Schedule of openings for QMAS in NC, CC and ECVI licence areas
- Quota recommendations for the ECVI annual QMAS
- Any recommended boundary changes for the upcoming season

## Mathieson Channel Survey Results

Subarea	2010 Survey		2022 Survey	
	PDE (c/m-sh)	ASW (g)	PDE (c/m-sh)	ASW (g)
7-7	6.0	206	11.2	169
7-9	9.7	251	11.2	192
7-10	10.8	177	7.1	167
7-11	5.7	255	8.9	126
7-29	11.6	170	15.9	130

Survey completed by the KX team and contract divers with support from DFO Science for the transect placement and analysis.

## Queens Sound Survey Results

Subarea	2013 Survey		2021 Survey	
	PDE (c/m-sh)	ASW (g)	PDE (c/m-sh)	ASW (g)
7-18	2.4	325	5.6	219
7-23	2.1	314	7.6	233
7-25	3.8	327	2.7	213

## Break for lunch

## Marketing & Expo report by Geoff

- China and Hong Kong remain the predominant destination for BC Sea Cucumber products
- Sales in 2020 fell to about \$7.25M from about \$11-12M range in the 4 previous years
- Recovered to about \$14.25M in 2021
- Sales to April this year (2022) are about \$3.45M compared to \$2.07M for same period last year
- China reduced its quarantine period to 7 days in designated quarantine hotels with 3-5 days under home isolation
- Collaborated with UHA and PUHA at the 2021 China Fisheries and Seafood Expo in Qingdao
- First show attended since covid was Seafood Expo North America (Boston Show) in March
- Shared an information counter with PUHA
- Number of visitors to booth was comparable to prior years, with Asian attendance lower than prior shows
- Attended Seafood Expo Global in Barcelona, sharing booth with PUHA and UHA. The BC booth was badly executed, no samples to offer in the booth, nor any displays of seafoods from our province. The new crew assigned to organizing the show were only assigned to it a couple months prior
- Next up will be the SEA (Seafood Expo Asia) in September
- Is a bit of a boutique show that allows smaller players to shine

## **BC Seafood Alliance – Power Point presentation by Thom Liptrot**

Why we still need a Reconciliation Transition Plan for BC Commercial Fisheries

Northern Shelf Bioregion (NSB) MPA Network Central coast NMCA

- Risks to science, fisheries management and industry contributions in Pacific Region
- Reallocation w/o compensation
- Potential changes to West Coast Licensing
- Coastal First Nations FRRA
- GayGahlda Framework with Haida

Scenarion 3 process is expected

- We expect announcement of significant interim closures timed for February's Impac 5
- A statement of principles and objectives will come sooner – a way to demonstrate ecosystem-based management at a broad level
- Scenario 2 will be rewritten and renegotiated but likely to be FN led
- FN's want greater control of surveys and monitoring
- May be a role for IFMPs in providing advice
- Likely to take years but uncertainty for industry

NSB: What's Happened Recently

- December 2, 2021 letter from RDG pauses Scenario 2 Network Action Plan: inconsistent with DFO policy and management
- Plan to announce some limited closures to coincide with Impac 5 conference on marine planning February 2023
- Other closures to be considered through IFMP processes as management measures under Sustainable Fisheries Framework
- Role for MPT and for thorough socio-economic analysis but Scenarion 3 process seems to leave little role for our MPT or for solid socio-economic analysis of impact on industry and infrastructure
- Renewing our calls for a reconciliation Transition Plan since the direction is clearly political
- Need to flesh out our key principles
  - Industry consultation and engagement
  - Compensation
  - Minimizing disruption
- Signed an MOU with Lax Kw'alaams to work together on a range of issues

Other Alliance Priorities

- NSB and related marine planning (e.g. Central coast MOU for NMCA, BC's Coastal Marine Strategy) our main focus
- Making case for provincial exemption from Motor Fuel Tax and Carbon Tax (ie. \$0.16 per litre)
- China: plant audits and access to CIFER list
- Other trade: Ukraine, UK, Canada free trade deal, Vietnam aquatic animal health issues
- Science: strategic plans for groundfish and invertebrates
- Possible changes to licensing policy

BUT access is always the priority, and we greatly appreciate your support

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by John Parkin, seconded by Cory Jackson – approved  
Meeting Adjourned at 315pm.