



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

FISHERIES RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING

APRIL 13, 2016, 9:30 AM

Regional District Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

AGENDA

	PAGE #
1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
Recognition of Traditional Territories.	
2. <u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u>	
<i>(motion to approve, including late items requires 2/3 majority vote)</i>	
3. <u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES</u>	
a. Fisheries Resource Committee Meeting held June 29, 2015	3-7
<i>THAT the minutes of the Fisheries Resource Committee meeting held on June 29, 2015 be received.</i>	
4. <u>PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS</u>	
5. <u>CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION</u>	
a. The Tyee, January 2016	8-17
Re: Climate Change a 'Considerable Threat' to Aboriginal Fisheries, Study Finds	
b. Minister of Fisheries, July 9, 2015	18-19
Re: Response to Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District letter concerning renewal negotiation for the Pacific Salmon Treaty	
c. Minister of Fisheries, July 21, 2015	20-22
Re: Response to Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District letter concerning Area G Troll access to Interior Fraser River Coho Salmon.	
d. Copy of Correspondence from Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council to the Minister of Fisheries	23-24
Re: Nuu-chah-nulth Opposition to Hake Reduction Fishery Proposal	

THAT correspondence a-d be received.

6. REPORTS

- a. West Coast Aquatic Activities regarding Barkley Sound & Salmon Treaty Transition Funds and Developments - T. Lem (Verbal)
- b. Report on Area 24 Roundtable and Area 23 Harvest Table - T. Lem (Verbal)
- c. Department of Fisheries & Oceans Update – A. Goruk (Verbal)
- d. Ministry of Environment, Fisheries Update – D. Chalmers (Verbal)
- e. Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Update – D. Hall (Verbal)
- f. Alberni Valley Update – P. Cote, J. McLeman (Verbal)
- g. West Coast Update – D. St. Jacques, J. Osborne, T. Bennett (verbal)

THAT verbal reports a-g be received for information.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. LATE BUSINESS

9. ADJOURN

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL FISHERIES RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2015, 10:00 AM

Regional District Downstairs Board Room, 3003 4th Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

DIRECTORS Dianne St. Jacques, Chairperson, Mayor, District of Ucluelet

PRESENT: Tony Bennett, Director, Electoral Area "C" (Long Beach)

Josie Osborne, Mayor, District of Tofino

Penny Cote, Director, Electoral Area "D" (Sproat Lake)

Jack McLeman, Councillor, City of Port Alberni

Sheena Falconer, West Coast Aquatic Management

Don Hall, Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council

REGRETS: Dennis Chalmers, Andrea Goruk

STAFF PRESENT: Robert Gunn, Contractor
Shelli Lyle, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

The Chair recognized the meeting this morning is being held in the Tseshaht First Nation and the Hupacasath First Nation Traditional Territories.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY: Director Bennett

SECONDED: Director Osborne

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

a. **Regional Fisheries Resource Committee Meeting – May 13, 2015.**

MOVED: Director Bennett

SECONDED: Director McLeman

THAT the minutes of the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee held on May 13, 2015 be adopted with the addition of Tuna to item 8 and correction to page 5 4th line change NTC to Nuuchah-nulth.

CARRIED

4. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

a. **Brad Beath, South Coast Recreational Fisheries Manager, DFO, regarding Update on Halibut Fishery.**

Mr. Beath reported the DFO is assessing the halibut catch primarily through the creel survey, in Area 23 the data is gathered from Ucluelet sometimes Poet Nook or Bamfield and Port Alberni in June and is available by mid July. Indications are halibut started off pretty well with a higher catch and slightly larger than in previous years. The majority of the effort is in the offshore area and is typically weather dependent. Catch limits are the same as 2014, 1 halibut per day, 2 in possession, 133 cm/70 lbs, 2nd fish 90 cm/30 lbs. Considerable effort is being put into an electronic survey called IREC. Mr. Beath will let the ACRD know when the IREC data information will be available, will also make it a component of the website.

Mr. Beath reported the tuna daily limits are 20 and possession of 40, this is the most generous limits for species. The tuna catch will be earlier due to the lower levels of water and higher temperatures. In May the mackerel were in Nootka Sound, haven't heard of any in the Barclay sound as of yet. Seeing plankton blooms off shore, haven't seen too many warm water species yet.

5. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION

6. REPORTS

a. Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council Update – D. Hall (Verbal)

Mr. Hall reported with the rain last week some fish moved up and passed thru the Somass counters, however fish migration is very poor and they are backing up in the inlet. Nuuchah-nulth Justification Trial adjourned for the summer. There were hard discussions last week and relationships between the nations and DFO have been damaged by the process.

With regard to herring, Nuuchah-nulth would welcome a letter supporting their call for a completion of the new Herring Framework before DFO discuss opening the WCVI to a herring fishery again.

MOVED: Director Bennett

SECONDED: Director Cote

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee send a letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans regarding the need to complete a new Herring Framework before re opening the WCVI to a fishery.

CARRIED

b. West Coast Aquatic Update – S. Falconer (Verbal)

Ms. Falconer gave an update on the following items: Clayoquot and Barkley Risk assessments are in progress and the Chinook assessment is finished. Round tables are proceeding in the Clayoquot, Barclay and Nootka. Mosquito Creek Habitat Restoration Project will be complete mid August there was a breach which lead to sediment in the river. The City of Port Alberni is spearheading the Somass Watershed Management Committee there will be a meeting in late summer or early fall. Chinook Management plan is in progress a risk assessment has been completed and an application submitted for funds to Environment Canada to prepare a management plan. Dumping program is being explored with the ACRD Directors and work with the DFO on a Fisheries Education program to provide information on what is happening to fish in this period of low water flow.

The Barkley Salmon Stewardship Working group's priorities for 2015-2016 are harvest, hatchery/enhancement, habitat and Hydro/Water Management.

Director Bennett reported attending a meeting where discussions were held regarding the mitigation funds and reconvening the PST subcommittee. There is currently 18-19 million still in mitigation funds from Area G

MOVED: Director Bennett

SECONDED: Director Cote

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee host a conference call with Don Hall, NTC, Council of Ha'wiith, Area G Trollers, local government and other interested stakeholders to develop a basis of next steps, focusing on lobbying the minister as well as the candidates in the next election.

CARRIED

Ms. Falconer will get more information regarding membership on the stewardship working table regarding allocation for the next meeting.

Central West Coast Salmon Enhancement Soc completed a business plan for Kennedy Lake and the Flats some time ago. This report was based on coho restoration but it has helped other species. Director Bennett will get a copy of the business plan for the committee.

The Province is considering a ban on fresh water fishing due to the low levels of the rivers and streams, endorsed a no harvest in lake and rivers because of the extreme conditions last Friday.

c. Alberni Valley Update – P. Cote, J. McLeman (Verbal)

Director Cote reported the low levels in the lakes are very concerning. The foreshore is being damaged because of the wake surfing boats. Confirmed evasive species, a snapping turtle was found at Cougar Smith Park, it was transferred to Victoria to a wildlife rescue facility. Hector road restoration project is in progress the issue is dumping.

d. West Coast Update – D. St. Jacques, J. Osborne, T. Bennett (verbal)

Director Bennett reported concerns regarding the outbreak of swimmers itch at the Kennedy Lake swim beach. This will be a West Coast Committee meeting agenda item.

Chairperson St. Jacques gave an update on the Seafood Expo Conference. Interesting information regarding salmon and oyster farms. The Norwegian Ambassador spoke and explained Norway has zero use of antibiotics in their farmed fish. This industry is the #3 export for Norway. Fish farms feed 7 billion people and they foresee this growing to 9 billion.

Chairperson St. Jacques reported on the hake fishery issue regarding the Russian embargo on Canadian products. DFO has made a quick decision to allow 4 factory trawlers to run their processed fish out to a Russian factory ship. The on shore facilities that employ many are not allowed to do this, there needs to be a level playing field. Chairperson St. Jacques will attend a meeting tomorrow in Vancouver for more discussions. If the decision is the shore based processors can't sell to the Russians and the trawlers can the issue needs to go to the media and public.

MOVED: Director Osborne

SECONDED: Director Cote

THAT the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee receives Reports a-d.

CARRIED

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. **Administrative Memorandum**

Updated Committee Terms of Reference

MOVED: Director Bennett

SECONDED: Director Cote

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee receive and adopt the Fisheries Resource Committee Terms of Reference.

CARRIED

8. LATE BUSINESS

9. ADJOURN

MOVED: Director Bennett

SECONDED: Director Osborne

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 12:00.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Dianne St. Jacques, Chairperson



- [About](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Follow](#)
- [Support](#)
- [RSS](#)

SEARCH THE TYEE:

OR BROWSE BY TOPIC:

Topic

- [Aboriginal Affairs](#)
- [BC Election 2013](#)
- [BC Politics](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Election 2015](#)
- [Energy](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Federal Politics](#)
- [Film](#)
- [Food](#)
- [Gender + Sexuality](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Labour + Industry](#)
- [Local Economy](#)
- [Media](#)
- [Media](#)
- [Municipal Politics](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Photo Essays](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Rights + Justice](#)

- [Science + Tech](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Urban Planning + Architecture](#)

- [News](#)
- [Culture](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [National](#)
- [MediaCheck](#)
- [Solutions](#)
- [Join](#)

Independent media needs you. [Join the Tyee.](#)



News

Climate Change a 'Considerable Threat' to Aboriginal Fisheries, Study Finds

Due to warming, marine creatures are migrating north.

By [Larry Pynn](#), 14 Jan 2016, Hakai Magazine





By 2050, aboriginal catches are expected to decline significantly, a new study finds. [Salmon photo](#) via Shutterstock.

RELATED TYEE STORIES

- [Six Ways Climate Change Is Getting Personal in BC](#)

It's here and already causing people to struggle and adapt in new ways.

- [The Scallop Farmer's Acid Test](#)

How more CO2 in BC waters has a shellfish industry fighting for its future.

- [Salmon of the Future](#)

- Read more: [Aboriginal Affairs](#), [Environment](#)

[Editor's note: This article is from Hakai Magazine, an online publication about science and society in coastal ecosystems. Read more stories like this at [HakaiMagazine.com](#).]

Seafood has sustained the First Nations of British Columbia for millennia. The annual migration of Pacific salmon, in particular, is lifeblood. Each year, millions of salmon swim and leap their way up major river systems such as the Fraser and Skeena all the way to landlocked communities in the province's interior. But now, climate change is threatening to strike at the heart of those time-honoured connections by pushing marine life farther north in search of cooler waters.

As a [new study](#) warns, "unprecedented climate change poses a considerable threat" to First Nations' food, cultural, and economic values. By 2050, aboriginal catches are expected to decline significantly, depriving Indigenous people from 16 coastal communities of up to CAN\$12 million annually in commercial fisheries, the study shows.

Warming and changing oxygen concentrations in the ocean, spurred on by anthropogenic climate change, will send marine life swimming northward at an average rate of about 10 to 18 kilometres per decade. For the 98 fish and invertebrate species studied, this will equate to an average drop in annual catches of 4.5 to 11 per cent, with the declines being much higher for certain species.

The study shows that two critical species will suffer the greatest declines: salmon by 17 to 29 per cent; and their prey, herring, by 28 to 49 per cent. Catches of green sea urchin could shrink by as much as 36 per cent, flounder and sole by 30 per cent, shrimp and prawns by 18 per cent, and halibut by 13 per cent.

Aboriginal groups located in British Columbia's more southerly waters are expected to suffer the greatest catch losses: up to 27 per cent for the Tsawwassen First Nation near the Canada-United States border, compared with 6.6 per cent for the Haida First Nation off the province's north coast.

The study projections are shocking to First Nations people such as Tracy Winbush, an executive member of the First Nations Fisheries Council of BC. "It's a fearful thought, it really is. Climate change is such a big issue," she says.

'Everyone will be affected'

Annual salmon runs are critical to many of B.C.'s aboriginals. Frozen whole, canned, smoked, or dried on wind-blown racks such as those in the semi-arid Fraser Canyon, they provide an economic and nutritional food source lasting all winter. With less salmon, Indigenous communities may have to resort to more expensive and less healthy store-bought foods or turn to other wild foods such as deer with unknown consequences on those populations.

While the study looked at the effects of declining catches on coastal First Nations, interior peoples reliant on migrating salmon (salmon left after communities farther downriver have taken their share) also stand to suffer greatly.

Winbush is typical of aboriginal people living in Merritt who drive to the Fraser Canyon to harvest salmon because of already diminished stocks in the local Nicola River system. She laments a century of human-caused impacts that have harmed the fish, starting with the Hell's Gate rockslide during railway construction in 1913, along with poorly regulated and toxic industrial developments, and large-scale commercial fishing. Yet the latest projected declines from climate change may be the most challenging threat of all.

[Dick Beamish](#), an emeritus federal fisheries researcher, says the results are consistent with other related findings on climate change. But he cautions that one of the underlying assumptions of the

research is that current fish distributions are based on water temperature, when they may actually be influenced by food availability or ocean currents. He notes that the cascading effects on the ecosystem from the loss of key species will also affect a long list of marine predators. And, he cautions natural climate trends may temper or amplify the effects of anthropogenic warming.

Potential solutions to the looming crisis include global commitments to reduce greenhouse gases under the 2015 Paris Climate Conference, joint management of key marine resources with First Nations, reduced fishing pressure on species at greatest risk, and restoration and enhancement of existing habitats.

"It can't just be First Nations doing their best," Winbush concludes. "It's all of us -- everyone will be affected by the loss of these fish and the economics they bring in." 🌱

Read more: [Aboriginal Affairs](#), [Environment](#)

Larry Pynn covers environment for the Vancouver Sun. This article was produced by [Hakai Magazine](#), and is reprinted with permission.

 Email  Print

What have we missed? What do you think? We want to know. Comment below. Keep in mind:

Do:

- Verify facts, debunk rumours
- Add context and background
- Spot typos and logical fallacies
- Highlight reporting blind spots
- Ignore trolls
- Treat all with respect and curiosity
- Connect with each other

Do not:

- Use sexist, classist, racist or homophobic language
- Libel or defame
- Bully or troll
- Troll patrol. Instead, flag suspect activity.

Please enable JavaScript to view the [comments](http://disqus.com/?ref_noscript) powered by Disqus.

Most Emailed

- [Seven Ways TPP Favours Mega-rich Foreign Investors, Not Canadians](#)
- [You Thought We Canadians Controlled Our Fisheries? Think Again](#)
- [In Supreme Court, a Battle Over Fracking and Citizens' Rights](#)
- ['The Ted Commandments': Photojournalism Tips from a Canadian Legend](#)
- [Why We May Never See \\$100-a-Barrel Oil Again](#)
- [Deborah Drever's Unlikely Road from 'Oops' Candidate to Star Legislator](#)
- [Return of the Oscars Whitewash](#)
- [They're Americans, Not Idiots](#)
- [Tye Presents: A Special Evening on Fracking with 'Slick Water' Author Andrew Nikiforuk](#)
- [TransCanada's \\$15 Billion Lawsuit: More to Come under TPP?](#)

Most Popular

- [Seven Ways TPP Favours Mega-rich Foreign Investors, Not Canadians](#)
- [Why We May Never See \\$100-a-Barrel Oil Again](#)
- [In BC, Help Out of Poverty... Unless You're on Income Assistance](#)
- [Byelection Battle: Meet Candidates Vying for Vancouver Mount-Pleasant](#)
- [Come Listen to the Man Fracking Powers Tried to Silence](#)
- [They're Americans, Not Idiots](#)
- [Return of the Oscars Whitewash](#)

We've reeled in the Hook, for now. Find out why [here](#).

Tye Video Picks



Submitted by Tye staff, Today

Is sealing a dying industry? Critics ask Trudeau to stop subsidies, fund transition.

Where do these videos come from? From you. [Suggest one here!](#)

Reported Elsewhere

- [Gregor Robertson apologizes to three people deemed 'suspicious' in mall photos](#)

(via the Toronto Star)

- [Sixty-two people have the same amount of wealth as half the world](#)

(via The Age)

- [Evidence of suspected match fixing in tennis revealed](#)

(via BBC News)

- [Shock figures to reveal deadly toll of global air pollution](#)

(via The Guardian)

- [Where will \\$125-billion in infrastructure spending go?](#)

(via The Globe & Mail)

- [Medical marijuana supply chain and distribution at cross roads](#)

(via the Vancouver Sun)

- [Exploring the riches of 'the 40,000-mile volcano'](#)

[*\(via the New York Times\)*](#)

- [Is there such a thing as a safe gun?](#)

[*\(via The Atlantic\)*](#)

[See more »](#)

[**Your BC: The Tyee's Photo Pool**](#)



[Join The Tyee's Flickr group »](#)

[View previous selections »](#)

Most Commented

- [Why We May Never See \\$100-a-Barrel Oil Again](#) (152 comments)
- [They're Americans, Not Idiots](#) (138 comments)
- [Canada's Top Court Will Hear BC Teachers' Bargaining Rights Case](#) (96 comments)
- [Homeless Victoria Campers Won't Budge: 'We Are Part of the Solution'](#) (87 comments)
- [Return of the Oscars Whitewash](#) (77 comments)
- [In Supreme Court, a Battle Over Fracking and Citizens' Rights](#) (59 comments)
- [Time Has Come: 'Kill a Worker, Go to Jail,' Says Steelworker Boss](#) (52 comments)
- [Seven Ways TPP Favours Mega-rich Foreign Investors, Not Canadians](#) (48 comments)
- [Deborah Drever's Unlikely Road from 'Oops' Candidate to Star Legislator](#) (38 comments)
- [Does Justin Trudeau Want Fair Elections or Not?](#) (359 comments)

In the last federal election, most major national newspapers in Canada endorsed the Conservative Party.

The Tyee doesn't endorse politicians. Just good journalism.

SUPPORT INDEPENDENT MEDIA. JOIN US.

The Tyee:

- [About The Tyee](#)
- [National Pool](#)
- [Contributors](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Funding](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Master Classes](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Submissions](#)
- [Support The Tyee](#)



Articles:

- [News](#)
- [Culture](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [National](#)
- [Mediacheck](#)
- [Solutions](#)
- [Video](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Tyee News](#)
- [Weekly Archives](#)

Other News:

- [Reported Elsewhere](#)

Columns:

- [Steve Burgess](#)
- [Murray Dobbin](#)
- [Michael Geist](#)
- [Ian Gill](#)
- [Crawford Kilian](#)
- [Andrew Nikiforuk](#)
- [Shannon Rupp](#)
- [Bill Tieleman](#)
- [Dorothy Woodend](#)

Your Account:

- [Follow The Tyee](#)
- [Subscribe by email](#)
- [Subscribe by RSS](#)



[Managed Hosting by Gossamer Threads](#)



JUL 09 2015

Ms. Josie Osborne
Chair
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
3008 Fifth Avenue
Port Alberni BC V9Y 2E3

Dear Ms. Osborne:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 2, 2015, concerning the renewal negotiations for the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

I assure you that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) recognizes the importance of consultation and engagement with British Columbia coastal communities on the future of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. DFO is currently developing an approach for the negotiations for renewal of the Annex Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty that are expected to commence in January 2016.

Representatives from First Nations, commercial and recreational fishing and conservation organizations are among the members of the Pacific Salmon Commission's Canadian Panel and Technical Committee. The Department will work with the Panel as we develop mechanisms for communication throughout the negotiation process. DFO welcomes input from the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District regarding potential approaches for information exchange and engagement with coastal communities. Your input may be submitted by email to Ms. Angela Stadel, Manager, Consultations Secretariat, at < angela.stadel@dfo-mpo.gc.ca >.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

Gail Shea, M.P., P.C.



June 2, 2015

Honourable Gail Shea, Minister
Fisheries and Ocean Canada
Ministers Office House of Commons
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6

Dear Minister:

Re: Pacific Salmon Treaty Mitigation Funds

I am writing once again to draw your attention to our on-going concerns with progress on the Pacific Salmon Treaty Mitigation Fund. As you are aware, as a region, we have been steadfast in our support for the WCVI Area G troll fleet, whose members took most of the pain associated with the 2008 changes in the treaty.

While we reluctantly accepted the Treasury Board decision to allocate the majority of these funds to a troll licence buy-back program, we do suggest to you that this process may have run its course. We note that the recent rounds have resulted in very few completed purchases and that Area H has now been excluded from the program. We suspect that there is probably somewhere between \$17 and 18 million left in the fund.

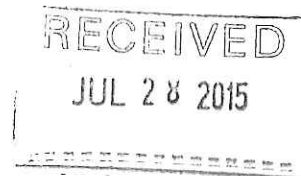
We respectfully suggest that it is now time to develop new approaches with the remaining funds to support our reduced troll fleet, which it must be admitted appear to be determined to stay in the industry. The 2015 Chinook fishery plan will likely be very hard on the troll fleet due to stock abundance and we feel that some economic measures need to be taken to mitigate this expected adverse situation.

It is worth noting again that with the next round of treaty negotiations due to begin in 2018; our troll fleet is still one of Canada's best pressure points on the Washington and Oregon stocks and hence on Alaskan catch ambitions.

Meanwhile, we request that an update on the state of the buy-back program be forwarded to us.

Yours truly,

Jose Osborne, Chair
Alberni Clayoquot Regional District



JUL 21 2015

Ms. Josie Osborne
Chair
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
3008 Fifth Avenue
Port Alberni BC V9Y 2E3

Dear Ms. Osborne:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 2, 2015, concerning Area G Troll access to Interior Fraser River coho salmon in British Columbia.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) appreciates the importance of the commercial fishery to the communities and groups in your region. As you may be aware, DFO adopts a cautious approach to, and is committed to, managing all fisheries in a manner that conserves fish stocks and provides for sustainable fisheries. The Department prepares Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMPs) each year to identify fishing opportunities and constraints for the coming season, which are developed based on DFO scientific analysis of environmental conditions and stock assessment. IFMPs contain information on conservation objectives and decision rules for managing fisheries under variable abundance levels.

In the 2015/2016 Salmon IFMP, the objective for Interior Fraser River coho (including Thompson River coho) is to manage Canadian fisheries to an exploitation rate of 10 percent or less. The Department intends to continue to manage Canadian fisheries to minimize impacts on Interior Fraser River coho populations consistent with the management objective. Specifically, the exploitation rate limit for Interior Fraser River coho in Canadian fisheries is intended to provide limited incidental impacts while fishing for other stocks or species where Interior Fraser River coho may be encountered.

DFO received input from First Nations, recreational and commercial harvesters, including the Area G harvest committee, regarding fishery recommendations for the coming year which were considered in the development of the final 2015/2016 IFMP which was approved and released on July 2, 2015.

.../2

Similar to past years, the 2015/2016 IFMP includes considerations for the Department to provide opportunities for the Area G commercial fishery to retain coho by-catch during the chinook fishery after September 15 when impacts on Interior Fraser coho are expected to be low.

Should you have further questions, you may contact Mr. Jeff Grout, Pacific Region's Regional Salmon Manager, by email at < Jeff.Grout@dfo-mpo.gc.ca >, or by telephone at 604-666-0497.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Shea".

Gail Shea, P.C., M.P.



June 2, 2015

Honourable Gail Shea, Minister
Fisheries and Ocean Canada
Ministers Office House of Commons
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6

Dear Minister:

Re: **Area G Troll Fleet Access to Fraser River Coho**

The preliminary stock assessments for the West Coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI) for the 2015 salmon season look very bleak. As you are aware, we have communities and groups in this region who are still dependent on these stocks for their livelihood. Any additional landings on the WCVI help to sustain the fleet and the infrastructure that supports it.

We are writing to ask you to make available some access to Fraser River Coho on the WCVI to the Area G troll fleet as the fishing Plan for the Fraser River stocks is developed. We ask this as we understand that the Coho returns to the Fraser are expected to be strong and some should be available for harvest, while they are in prime condition, by the Area G fleet.

Yours truly,

Josie Osborne, Chair
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District



Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

AHOUSAHT
DITIDAHT
?IIHATIS / ČIINAXINT
HESQUIAHT
HUPACASATH

HUU-AY-AHT
KA:'YU:'K'T'H'/CHE:K:TLES7ET'H'
MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT
NUCHATLAHT
TLA-O-QUI-AHT

TOQUAHT
TSESHAHT
UCHUCKLES AHT
YUUE.U?E?ATH

P.O. BOX 1383
PORT ALBERNI, BC
V9Y 7M2

Tel: 250-724-5757
Fax: 250-724-2172

The Honourable Gail Shea
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
13th Floor, Station 13E228
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6
(via email only)

Dear Minister Shea:

Re: Nuu-chah-nulth Opposition to Hake Reduction Fishery Proposal

It has recently come to our attention that the B.C. Hake industry has asked that you consider providing a Ministerial exemption to the Fisheries Act to allow the commercial hake fishery to fish for a reduction (meal) fishery. The majority of the commercial hake fishery takes place in Nuu-chah-nulth territories on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

The proposal for a reduction fishery did not come to our attention through any consultation process or communication with DFO staff. There has been no notice or correspondence provided by DFO that this significant issue was even being considered by DFO or you as Minister. The Hake industry did not inform Nuu-chah-nulth Nations about this request. A concerned member of the DFO Groundfish committee brought this matter to the attention of Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations.

The Government of Canada has a duty to consult with First Nations when an action may infringe on the aboriginal rights of First Nations. Having not been informed of this proposed action by DFO, Nuu-chah-nulth Nations have no information on which to base the determination of any possible infringement. The first step must be for DFO to provide sufficient information for Nuu-chah-nulth Nations on which to evaluate any possible infringement. It is not sufficient for DFO to make this determination unilaterally and without informing Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations about the proposed fishery.

At face value, the hake industry is proposing to conduct a reduction fishery for hake that is prohibited by the Fisheries Act. Below is Section 31 of the Fisheries Act.

31. (1) No one shall catch, fish for, take, buy, sell, possess or export any fish for the purposes of converting it into fish meal, manure, guano or fertilizer, or for the manufacture or conversion of the fish into oil, fish meal or manure or other fertilizing product, except under authority of the Minister.

Nuu-chah-nulth Nations have witnessed reduction fisheries for herring and dogfish in their territories. Reduction fisheries were outlawed by the Fisheries Act for good reason: to conserve and protect Canadian fisheries for human consumption. Canada enshrined a serious principle when it outlawed reduction fisheries. Canada will allow fisheries for human consumption, but will not allow fisheries to turn fish into meal or oil for other purposes, including for feeding other fish or poultry for eventual human consumption. This principle should not be cast aside for the short-term economic benefit of a few. As the hake industry acknowledges in correspondence to DFO, this short-term fix will not solve the long-term economic problems facing the hake industry.

In addition to directing your staff to inform and consult with Nuu-chah-nulth Nations on this proposed fishery, we also recommend that you deny the request of the hake industry to reopen a reduction fishery in British Columbia that is clearly prohibited by the Fisheries Act. We understand that the Fisheries Act provides you as Minister the authority to grant an exemption, but we are at a loss to understand why you would even consider violating this core principle of the Fisheries Act under these short-term circumstances.

On behalf of Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations,



Debra Foxcroft, OBC
President



Ken Watts
Vice-President

copy: Nuu-chah-nulth Nations
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Fisheries Committee
MP John Duncan
MP Finn Donnelly
MP Jean Crowder
Sue Farlinger, DFO
Rebecca Reid, DFO