



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL FISHERIES RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016 9:30 AM

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

DIRECTORS Dianne St. Jacques, Chairperson, Mayor, District of Ucluelet
PRESENT: Tony Bennett, Director, Electoral Area "C" (Long Beach) (via Telephone)
Josie Osborne, Mayor, District of Tofino
Penny Cote, Director, Electoral Area "D" (Sproat Lake)
Jack McLeman, Councillor, City of Port Alberni
Andrea Goruk, DFO, South Coast Division
Don Hall, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
Tawney Lem, West Coast Aquatic

REGRETS: Dennis Chalmers, Province of BC

STAFF PRESENT: Robert Gunn, Contractor
Tracy Bond, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY: Director Cote

SECONDED: Director Osborne

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

a. **Fisheries Resource Committee Meeting held June 29, 2015**

MOVED: Director McLeman

SECONDED: Director Cote

THAT the minutes of the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee held on June 29, 2015 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

5. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION

- a. **The Tye, January 2016**
Re: Climate Change a 'Considerable Threat' to Aboriginal Fisheries, Study Finds.
- b. **Minister of Fisheries, July 9, 2015**
Re: Response to Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District letter concerning renewal negotiation for the Pacific Salmon Treaty.
- c. **Minister of Fisheries, July 21, 2015**
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**
Re: Nuu-chah-nulth Opposition to Hake Reduction Fishery Proposal.

MOVED: Director Osborne

SECONDED: Director Cote

THAT correspondence a-d be received.

CARRIED

6. REPORTS

- a. **West Coast Aquatic Activities regarding Barkley Sound & Salmon Treaty Transition Funds and Developments - T. Lem (Verbal)**

T. Lem updated the Committee on the Barkley Sound & Salmon Treaty Transition Funds and Developments. Area "G" is concerned that the salmon mitigation funds have not all been used and next round of the Salmon Treaty Negotiations are beginning. So far there have been 13 rounds of licence buy-back and we do not know how much money is left. The retirements are going for about \$110,000 each so there could be as much as 417 million left. No interest is being earned on this money. DFO appears to be staying the buy back course. The Year Five review has still not taken place. West Coast Aquatic did hold a discussion with the three areas "F", "G" and "H". The impacts for

area "G" are clear. A fifty per cent decline in fish. Area "F" and "H" did not lose any fish but they have advised they have been impacted. There was general agreement that the money should be moved before the next round of negotiations take place. The group agreed to meet again for another round of discussions. The group would like to see the money put into trust, have it managed and receiving interest. West Coast Aquatic would like to do a proposal to DFO. They will be consolidating letters from all who have expressed an interest to be involved and forward this information to DFO with a letter from West Coast Aquatic in this into 1 letter to DFO showing support.

D. Hall advised that there are six chapters in Pacific Salmon Treaty. Four are up negotiation renewal and two chapters apply to our area. The Coho and Chinook chapters apply to our area. Negotiations have begun. Basically the southern US will want to retain the 30% reduction from the West Coast, Canada will want to retain the 15% reduction from Alaska, and Alaska will want to eliminate their 15% reduction. There are competing interests for Chinook. We need to protect our WCVI Chinook and maintain harvesting of Chinook from other areas. The lead Commissioner for Canada is who we need to contact as well as Paul Sproat, Commissioner, and Dr. Brian Riddell, Commissioner. If the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District is to write a letter the timing should correspond to the next executive session which will be held in October 2016. The main PSC sessions will be held in January and February of 2017.

MOVED: Director Osborne

SECONDED: Director Cote

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee recommend that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors forward a letter to the Pacific Salmon Treaty Commission's Lead Commissioner, Rebecca Reid, with copies to Commissioner Paul Sprout, Commissioner Brian Riddell and West Coast Aquatic offering assistance in developing Canada's position with regards to Chinook in the Pacific Salmon Treaty Negotiations.

CARRIED

b. Report on Area 24 Roundtable and Area 23 Harvest Table - T. Lem (Verbal)

T. Lem advised West Coast Aquatic has a roundtable website. It is www.roundtables.westcoastaquatic.ca The Stewardship fund is now at approximately \$180,000 and this will be the first year that some money from this fund will be awarded. The roundtables meet a four times a year and the groups each have approximately twenty members each.

c. Department of Fisheries & Oceans Update – A. Goruk (Verbal)

A. Goruk provided an update on Herring. There were no commercial fisheries this year. Comprehensive assessments were done. Small spawns occurred in February but the main spawning occurred in mid march. This year the Barkley spawn was larger, the Clayoquot spawn the same as last year. The following are Salmon forecasts:

- **Barkley Sockeye**
 - Preliminary forecast: 700,000 to 1,000,000
- **Terminal Chinook**
 - Mid-point preliminary Chinook forecasts: Conuma 77k, Robertson Creek 100k
- **Offshore AABM Chinook**
 - AABM TAC 133,300
- **WCVI Chum**
 - Chum forecast not available yet
 - Returns expected to be low for wild stocks but could see hatchery surpluses
- **WCVI Coho**
 - Outlook low to near target

d. **Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Update – D. Hall (Verbal)**

D. Hall advised that there was some food Herring harvest that took place early this spring.

The witness portion of the Justification Trial in ended mid March. This portion of the trial lasted just over a year. The next portion of the Trial includes written arguments which are limited to 600 pages. The written arguments are due mid-August with the oral summaries of the trial to begin September 21, 2016. The trial is expected to end in October 2016 but no decision is expected until the spring of 2017 at the earliest.

DFO has allowed some flexibility in the T'aaq-wiihak Fisheries in Clayoquot Sound. There is now an ability to fish and retain for sale a limited amount of halibut. All 14 Nations have met to discuss the Chinook Management Corridor on the west coast of Vancouver Island. This is a 1-mile conservation corridor that is very hard to enforce. The Nations will put forward a request to DFO that there be no fishing allowed in the corridor.

Eight crab trap licences have moved to Tofino this year. The trap limit remains the same so with the additional licences this means each licence receives less traps. This is a significant issue for the First Nations.

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

P. Cote advised there was a good clean up of the wharf disintegration Great Central Lake. There is now an annual clean up of Sproat Lake and Great Central Lake. Sproat Lake had high water this winter. The lake is in good shape but the Dog Mountain fire is still a concern. There is still debris coming off the mountain into the lake. This could be a problem with fish spawning. The Carp numbers are up.

J. McLeman advised that the Esso property now belongs to the City of Port Alberni. The Lady Rose is going to have a ferry.

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

J. Osborne advised that float homes and derelict vessels are a continuing issue in Tofino. Tofino has not received much tsunami debris from Japan so will be sending funding received to the north coast. Tofino will be building a sewer treatment plan by 2020.

D. St. Jacques reported that Hake meetings are about to begin. Ucluelet Council toured Barkley plant. This plant is making lobster bait as it is more lucrative. There are approx. 35 workers. Council also toured the Ucluelet Harbour Seafood Plant. They are working year around with approx. 60 workers. They have been processing shrimp, gulf hake and as of April 12th off-shore hake. The plants are very clean and the wages are good. These plants have a large impact on the local economy. There is not enough ice and ice plants are beginning to start up. The Sports Fishery is just beginning.

MOVED: Director Cote

SECONDED: Director Osborne

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

CARRIED

7. LATE BUSINESS

- a. Request from Nuu-chah-nulth Fisheries for support for the Nuu-chah-nulth nations presently in litigation with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

MOVED: Director Osborne

SECONDED: Director Cote

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee recommend that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors write a letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard expressing support for the five Nuu-chah-nulth Nations (Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht and Tla-o-qui-aht) presently involved in litigation with Canada and urging the Minister to find other means of

resolving this costly and time consuming action toward a speedy and just end that will assist the economic well-being of both the First Nations involved and the surrounding communities.

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee is to take place on September 14, 2016.

CARRIED

9. ADJOURN

MOVED: Director McLeman

SECONDED: Director Cote

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 11:05 am.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Dianne St. Jacques,
Chairperson