



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL FISHERIES RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2016, 9:30AM

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)

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

Sheena Falconer, West Coast Aquatic Management

Andrea Goruk, DFO, South Coast Division

Don Hall, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

REGRETS:

Josie Osborne, Mayor, District of Tofino, Jack McLeman, Councillor, City of Port Alberni, 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 9:35 am.

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY: T. Bennett

SECONDED: D. Hall

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

a. **Regional Fisheries Resource Committee Meeting – April 13, 2016.**

MOVED: D. Hall

SECONDED: T. Bennett

THAT the minutes of the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee held on April 13, 2016 be received as amended.

CARRIED

4. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION

- a. **LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM ACRD TO FEDERAL MINISTERS, MAY 11, 2016**
Re: The Aboriginal Fishing Rights of Five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations
- b. **THANK YOU LETTER FROM NTC TO ACRD, JULY 7, 2016**
Re: The Aboriginal Fishing Rights of Five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations
- c. **LETTER FROM ACRD TO FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA, JULY 5, 2016**
Re: Negotiations of the new PST Chinook Annex
- d. **LETTER FROM ACRD TO FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA/MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AUG 2, 2016**
Re: Vessel Processing of Hake by Domestic Harvesters
- e. **MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA, AUG 12, 2016**
Re: Response to Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District letter concerning the fishing rights of five Nuu-chah-nulth Nations
- f. **WEST COAST AQUATIC, AUG 29, 2016 & SEPT 2, 2016**
Re: Pacific Salmon Treaty – Region Wide Forum & Tentative Date
- g. **AVICC MEMBER UPDATE, SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**
Re: Review of Changes to the Fisheries Act and Public Engagement
- h. **ALEX DYER, PLANNER, ACRD, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016**
Islands Agriculture Show, Port Alberni-February 3-4, 2016

MOVED: T. Bennett

SECONDED: D. Hall

THAT correspondence a-h be received.

CARRIED

MOVED: T. Bennett

SECONDED: P. Cote

THAT members of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Fisheries Resource Committee attend the Roundtables and the West Coast Vancouver Island wide forum to document community interest related to the renegotiation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty scheduled for Monday, October 31, 2016, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in Port Alberni, location to be announced.

CARRIED

T. Bennett to advise Committee on further details.

5. REPORTS

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

- Barkley Sound Sockeye fishery was successful – total catch approximately 670,000 Sockeye
- Chinook and Coho fisheries are now taking place. The Chinook run was re-forecasted downward in-season by over 50%, but is still in the moderate zone (50,000)
- In Nootka the run size for Chinook was also re-forecasted downward in-season by 75%, however the escapement target was exceeded; commercial fishery is complete. Chum fishery is planned
- Chum fishery is also planned in Nitinat area
- Offshore Chinook – Area G troll fishery in ongoing. The total catch to date is 49 k (TAC 65 k), however it is unlikely TAC will be achieved.
- Wide spread closures in fresh water systems in Region 1 due to low water with the exception being the Nitinat area which re-opened September 2nd due to improved conditions.

The Pacific Herring Renewal Initiative is in the planning stages and is a long term initiative. It has 3 elements; 1) management framework, 2) fisheries management reforms, and 3) data collection and survey program. The goal is to have a new management framework that is sustainable, robust to change and will meet the various interests and objectives related to herring.

The Fisheries Act Review is being led by the Fisheries Protection Program in National Headquarters. Regional staff will be included. The scope of the review is focused on the “serious harm to fish prohibition” and does not include section 10 (Use of Fish).

WCVI Shrimp – closed June 21st as a result of the eulachon by-catch threshold for Area 124 and 125 being reached. Subsequently the survey showed low shrimp biomass there. 3.6 million obs. Of shrimp were landed before the June 21st closure. Still open in Barkley Sound but no one is fishing. The WCVI will not open until next May 15, 2017. The pilot to test the use of lights to reduce by-catch did not get organized before the west coast was closed. Not sure if this will go ahead. The old shrimp trawl fishery organization has dissolved and two new organizations are being started, representing different aspects of the industry.

b. **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Update – (Verbal)**

D. St. Jacques advised that Dennis Chalmers has retired.

MOVED: D. St. Jacques

SECONDED: T. Bennett

THAT the Fisheries Committee send a letter to Mr. Chalmers wishing him well in his retirement and thanking him for his assistance to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Fisheries Resource Committee with a copy going to the Minister of Agriculture.

CARRIED

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

D. Hall advised that he and others traveled to Ottawa in June 2016 and met with Ministers of Fisheries, Justice and Indigenous and Northern affairs to discuss the T'aaq-wiihak Fisheries Justification Trial and stalled negotiations. The hour meeting went very well and the contingent left feeling cautiously optimistic. Unfortunately, nothing has changed subsequently and the Nations are pursuing other means to move the negotiations ahead.

Update on Justification Trial – The oral arguments are set to begin on September 21, 2016 and should take about three weeks. A decision is not expected before spring 2017.

T'aaq-wiihak fisheries - This summer's fishery had increased enforcement from the Department of Fisheries and was heavily monitored. It is the Department of Fisheries policy to have 3rd party monitoring so the Department is paying for redundant 3rd party monitoring and the Nation's monitoring. The Somass Fishery is being monitored by the Nations monitors with no requirement from DFO for 3rd party monitoring.

Herring – a technical working group is working with DFO on the 2016 WCVI herring assessment and forecast for 2017. The final assessment will be coming out next week. Although abundance appears to have increased slightly from the previous low years unlikely that there are enough fish for a commercial fishery in 2017.

MOVED: P. Cote

SECONDED: T. Bennett

THAT the Fisheries Committee recommend that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District forward a letter to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans asking why the T'aaq-wiihak fisheries is being so heavily monitored and enforcement tightened.

CARRIED

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

Habitat restoration - West Coast Aquatic will be asking for funding from federal government. This is based on the report entitled Somass River Integrated Fish Habitat Restoration Overview. A link to this report has been sent to the Regional District.

West Coast Aquatic is requesting a Letter of Support from the Regional District regarding a request for 15 million (1.5 million a year) from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for Somass Habitat Restoration.

MOVED BY: T. Bennett

SECONDED: P. Cote

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors that a letter of support be sent to West Coast Aquatic regarding their Restoration Project Phase 1 model including the Barkley and Clayoquot.

CARRIED

MOVED BY: T. Bennett

SECONDED: P. Cote

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors that a letter be sent to the Minister of Agriculture advising of the need for more fisheries habitat restoration and highlighting the project by West Coast Aquatic.

CARRIED

MOVED BY: S. Falconer

SECONDED: P. Cote

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors that a letter be written to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for the Federal Fisheries Act Review requesting funding for community groups to attend this review.

CARRIED

MOVED BY: T. Bennett

SECONDED: P. Cote

THAT the above noted motion be amended as follows:

CARRIED

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors that a letter be sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for the Federal Fisheries Act Review requesting both a West Coast based session and funding for non-First Nation groups to attend the Fisheries Act Review Sessions.

The motion as amended was

CARRIED

e. Alberni Valley Update – P. Cote, (verbal)

P. Cote report that there are many bull frogs and huge tadpoles on Sproat Lake. Landslides continue on Dog mountain. The Marine Patrol did level one testing for turbidity in the water. The Ministry of Environment has been contacted requesting they test the water in Sproat Lake. Planning continues for a clean-up day on Sproat Lake scheduled for October 2nd. Great Central Lake residents are also planning a clean-up day in conjunction with Sproat Lake. Docks on Crown Land continue to be an issue.

f. West Coast Update – D. St. Jacques, T. Bennett (verbal)

The price of Fish was high this year for Area G fishers.

D. St. Jacques provided an update on the Groundfish Development Authority – IVQ process. Hake and Groundfish processors and fishers were present. Based on the presentation they get a certain percent of the 10 per cent. Still managing to hang together and make a difference. Included in this group are three coastal representatives, union representation, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans sits in an advisory role as does the Province. It was a good season for Hake until three weeks ago. The Hake quota was large and the activity good. Processor ships have applied pilot project to process more Hake at sea.

D. St. Jacques met with the Minister of Agriculture for an hour. The Fisheries department of the Ministry now only includes two staff members. Retirees have not been replaced and there is no succession planning. This is a Billion-dollar industry and Province is not participating.

MOVED BY: D. St. Jacques

SECONDED: P. Cote

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors that a letter be sent to the Minister of Agriculture reinforcing how important the Fishing Industry is to the Province of BC and requesting a Provincial representative be re-appointed to sit on the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Regional Fisheries Resource Committee.

CARRIED

The Committee would like a reminder noted in the Minutes regarding a community based marine strategy and provincial port strategy for the next Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Annual General Meeting.

MOVED BY: P. Cote

SECONDED: D. Hall

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Fisheries and Ocean requesting an explanation on the oversight on third party monitoring of the Somass Fishery.

CARRIED

D. Hall offered to help with this letter.

MOVED: Tony

SECONDED: Penny

THAT the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee receives verbal Reports a-f.

CARRIED

7. LATE BUSINESS

8. ADJOURN

MOVED: Director

SECONDED: Director

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 11:34 am.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Dianne St. Jacques,
Chairperson