

ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

FISHERIES RESOURCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Regional District Board Room

Present: Chairperson Dianne St. Jacques, Glenn Wong, Ken McRae, Tony Bennett, Alistair Thomson (DFO), John Fraser, Don Hall, Dennis Chalmers, (Ministry), Stephan Ochman, Kelly Poirier

Regrets: Andrew Day,

Staff: Robert Gunn, Liz Parfitt

1. Dianne St. Jacques called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

MINUTES:

2. Moved by K. McRae, seconded by T. Bennett, "That the minutes of the meeting of June 28, 2006, be accepted as amended."

"Carried"

CORRESPONDENCE:

3.

- Ministry of Agriculture & Lands Re: Recent Landslides in the Beaufort Range
- The Honourable Loyola Hearn, Minister of Fisheries & Oceans Canada re: Recent Landslides in the Beaufort Range

Moved by T. Bennett, seconded by K. McRae, "That this correspondence be received, and that the Fisheries Committee write to Wilf Luedke, requesting the results of DFO's assessment of the situation with regard to fish habitat."

"Carried"

REPORTS:

4. Robert Gunn

- report from Jock Bray at Port Fish

5. D. Hall for the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council
- Shellfish Development Corporation is undergoing a transition to the Seafood Development Corporation, an expansion to cover all seafood.
 - NTC Fisheries litigation is set to resume in October '07
 - Concerns that the US is targeting the West Coast Commercial and Recreational fisheries for conservation under the Pacific Salmon Treaty
 - The Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council is drafting a letter to Paul Sproat expressing their unwillingness to accept the sacrifice of the West Coast Fishery to appease the United States. Alaska must scale back their fishery.
 - Committee members asked Don to speak to the Coastal Communities AGM in March to rally the troops.

Moved by T. Bennett, seconded by G. Wong, "That the Fisheries Committee also write to Paul Sproat to decry the sacrifice of the West Coast Fishery to appease the United States, and our demand that Alaska scale back their fishery".

"Carried"

6. Alistair Thomson for DFO
- March 7 meeting with industry regarding overview of treaty, allocation, treaty ratification etc.
 - Somass Sockeye returns are very low, at those levels fishery may be limited to First Nations and Recreational, no commercial fishery.
 - Chinook face a rosier picture, expect similar fisheries as in 2006
 - Coho expect a better return this year
7. Dennis Chalmers for Oceans & Marine Fisheries, Ministry of the Environment
- The Ministry is changing it's main focus to work with DFO Management
 - Province supports groundfish integration
 - Hake and Halibut close to Marine Stewardship Certification (MSC) if certified it will be the first in BC
 - Hake treaty recently signed by George W. Bush, no more yearly fight over quotas. Canada's quota is 24.6%
 - Will know the Hake TAC soon, it should be similar to last year
 - The Province supports shore based processing
 - The Groundfish industry has concerns regarding corporate control. Controversial regulation to lock quota to each vessel has been delayed twice and is no been delayed again for 2 years.

Moved by D. St. Jacques, seconded by T. Bennett, "That the Fisheries Committee request the Groundfish Integration Committee send a representative to speak to an upcoming meeting."

"Carried"

8. John Fraser for the Tofino
- Things are very slow in Tofino at this time.

9. Dianne St. Jacques for Ucluelet
 - Dianne presented a review of the 2006 season
10. K. McRae for Port Alberni
 - Port Fish have 70 people working full time
 - Port Fish are likely to resume surimi processing this year
 - The owner of Port Fish would be interested in relocating the fleet to Port Alberni if better breakwater facilities were available.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

11. The Fisheries Committee will arrange a visit to the Omega Hatchery and the Hatchery at Great Central Lake.

NEW BUSINESS:

12. Robert Gunn presented a proposal which has been set forth by the BC Conservation Foundation to begin the funding of a water system planning effort on our river system. It is hoped that additional funds will be provided by local government and First Nations once an agreement is reached on an approach. It was recommended that the Regional District and the City appoint a technical rep and a political rep to this process, and if requested that the Regional District be prepared to act as the administrative authority for any planning process from the funding being sought.

Moved by K. McRae, seconded by T. Bennett, "That Wilf Luedke, A/Area Director South Coast, DFO, be asked to make a presentation to the Regional District Board and other interested parties regarding their proposed planning process for the Somass Water System."

"Carried"

ADJOURN:

13. The next meeting of the Fisheries Resource Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 23rd, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in the Regional District Board Room.
14. The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Dianne St. Jacques, Chair

Robert Gunn