



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT
FISHERIES RESOURCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Regional District Board Room

Present: Glenn Wong, Tony Bennett, John Fraser, Alistair Thomson,(DFO), Don Hall, (NTC), Dennis Chalmers (Ministry of Fisheries), Denise Mullen-Dalmer, (WCVIAMS) (by teleconference)

Regrets: Dianne St. Jacques, Ken McRae, Stefan Ochman

Staff: Robert Gunn, Liz Parfitt

1. Tony Bennett called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM

Minutes

2. Moved by G. Wong, seconded by J. Fraser, "That the minutes from the meeting held on February 28, 2007 be adopted."

"Carried"

Delegation

3. Gary Logan, Groundfish Coordinator, DFO provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining DFO's three year Pilot Integration Program.
 - Previous to 2006, DFO had 6 licensing definitions with no process to account for bi-catch, the inadvertent catch of Rock Fish, Ling Cod, etc. This was totally destructive and led to a dramatic decline of the bi-catch populations.
 - Under the new guidelines all Rock Fish catch is accounted for, and the catch is managed on an area basis.
 - Catch is monitored at sea using a camera system linked to gear.
 - 100% monitoring at sea and 100% monitoring dockside, using a log book system.
 - There is now a TAC for all groundfish species on the coast.
 - This three-year program, which started in 2006, met with some initial resistance, as there is an expenditure of \$10-12 Thousand to buy the

necessary equipment. In the longer term fishermen are seeing the value and have bought into the program. Compliance is now in the 93% range.

- Cannot fish without monitoring - if equipment goes down fishermen must return to port if radio tech support cannot correct problem.
- This program brings out the best fishermen who are changing their practices and fishing areas to avoid excess bi-catch. Vessels can be restricted if there is not good compliance. The license is on the boat not on the skipper, some bad skippers move around.
- An Advisory Committee made up of members of the First Nations, Commercial and Recreational fisheries is working to set realistic allocations and to truly integrate the recreational and commercial TAC.
- The Fisheries Committee brought forth some questions regarding protection of the West Coast Habitat and the impact of the trawl fleet on sponge and coral, DFO explained that trawl fishermen have great control of the nets which are very expensive, they don't want to trawl over rocky habitat areas because of damage to their nets.

T. Bennett thanked Mr. Logan for his presentation and suggested that the WCVIAMS may be interested in a similar presentation.

Reports

4. D. Chalmers, Ministry of Fisheries

- Presented a statistical comparison of fisheries activity in the Alberni-Clayoquot region as opposed to the provincial totals.
- Coastal Communities grant application has been approved.
- Moving together with DFO towards a 2008 implementation of a permanent license strategy for Sardine licensing.
- European Union is restricting the import of Salmon due to concerns regarding disease. There is a process for some lodges to issue health certificates and this program will expand in 2008.
- Hake have been late to show in 2007, however they are starting to catch now and should meet 85% of TAC.

- The Hake Treaty was signed in May, three technical committees are bringing provincial and federal interests to the table.
5. Gary Logan and Dennis Chalmers left the meeting at 11:55 am for another engagement.
6. D. Mullen-Dalmer, Aquatic Management Board reported:
- Five year plan for prosperity in Coastal Fishery.
 - Budget - minimalist approach
 - Federal funding tied to projects, fundraising is an issue.
 - Layered approach to outcome hierarchy
 - Funding should start to flow in January 2008
 - October 24 & 25 - Dialogue sessions in Ucluelet re: Crab, PICFIE, who is AMB and dialogue on filling vacancies.
 - PICFIE - opportunity to access funding.
7. A. Thomson from DFO reported:
- Sockeye - 1st nations fishery only. Both catch and escapements down, hope for an improvement next year to allow opening for recreational fishery.
 - Chinook - forecast 105 thousand, no recreational TAC, commercial fishery didn't make their TAC, return was slightly smaller than forecast.
 - Coho - No direct commercial fishery, some bi-catch. Return 40-50 thousand, higher than expected.
 - Chum - Start Oct. 1st in two major areas, forecast uncertain, indication that returns will not be good.
 - Post Season review to be held Nov. 1st, the Fieldhouse has been booked, however it is likely that it will be held at the new Tseshaht building. This is a brainstorming session, there will be discussion regarding the Salmon Festival Derby. There is an open invitation to attend and it was suggested that members of the Fisheries Committee might be interested in attending.
8. D. Hall reported:

- Salmon treaty discussions are ongoing. Canada and the US are looking for an agreement to be reached in January. Thanks to the Regional District for their letter of support.
 - PICFIE - licence buyback may result in a reallocation - to First Nations.
 - Shellfish - Malaspina College using the experience of 3 different First Nations in an effort to see what has worked.
9. R. Gunn presented a written report on the state of salmon enhancement and watershed planning in the Region. R. Gunn will write to TFL holder regarding working in cooperation around Watershed Restoration Planning in Clayoquot Sound.

New Business

Adjourn

10. Moved by T. Bennett, seconded by G. Wong, "That the meeting be adjourned."
"Carried"
11. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM

Certified Correct:

Robert Gunn

Tony Bennett
Acting Chairperson