



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
Regional Economic Fisheries Resource Committee
Minutes

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Regional District Board Room

Present: Chairperson: Eric Russcher, Committee Members: Bill Shaw (DFO), John Fraser, Glenn Wong, Ken McRae, Stefan Ochman, Tony Bennett, Andrew Day, (W.C. Aquatic), Dianne St. Jacques

Staff: Wendy Thomson, Acting CAO, Robert Gunn, Consultant, Tracy Bond, Secretary

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:41 a.m.

Adoption of Minutes:

2. Moved by K. McRae, seconded by J. Fraser, "That the minutes of March 25, 2009 be received."

"Carried"

Correspondence:

3. Coastal Community Network
Re: PNCIMA Planning - A Marine Business Perspective for Discussion.
Moved by K. McRae, seconded by J. Fraser, "That this correspondence be received."

"Carried"

4. K. McRae reported that Mr. Dave Smith, CAO of the Coastal Community Network has agreed to stay on until June 30th of this year. The Coastal Community Network met with Mr. Patrick Marshall with regards to his proposal for replacing Mr. Smith. The Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Coastal Communities Network are looking at options to keep the CCN moving forward on CCN's small budget.

5. A discussion took place regarding the Department of Fisheries Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) Initiative. T. Bennett advised that he would like to see Barclay and Clayoquot Sound being used as a model for PNCIMA. A. Day spoke that this is a DFO led process and has it's challenges. The West Coast Aquatic Board will be pleased to share any information with DFO. The Provincial Government is looking at being in an observer position only in this process.

6. Information Update on 2010 Probable Salmon Returns to Somass
Moved by T. Bennett, seconded by K. McRae, "That this correspondence be received."

"Carried"

7. Letter from the West Coast Trollers Association to Minister Gail Shea, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Re: Pacific Salmon Treaty Mitigation Strategy
Moved by T. Bennett, seconded by J. Fraser, "That this correspondence be received."

"Carried"

8. T. Bennett expressed disappointment in the Pacific Salmon Treaty Mitigation decision. Of the \$30 Million from the US, \$29 Million will be used as a buy-back and retirement of licences. \$500,000.00 will be used as an economic development function to look for more monies for the affected communities. The Canadian Government has not given not given any financial assistance to the affected fishers. In comparison, the US has committed over \$100 Million to their sports and commercial fisheries and the Canadian Government has initiated a \$ 1 Billion Community Adjustment Fund to help support economic diversification in communities affected by the declining global demand for seafood. The Government has also acted to improve access to credit for fishing enterprises, and to provide tax relief for small businesses. The Area G Trollers Association has initiated a law suit against the Federal Government.
9. A. Day advised that there are 167 licences and approximately 60 to 70 of these are currently active. Information from DFO on the buy-back of these licences is lacking in detail. The impact will not only be felt by the fishers but on secondary industries such as processors, fuel docks etc.
10. Moved by T. Bennett, seconded by K. McRae, "That staff be directed to work with the West Coast Aquatic Board to set up meetings with Provincial officials to discuss the Pacific Salmon Treaty Mitigation decision."

"Carried"

Reports:

11. K. McRae reported that the next scheduled Groundfish meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 28th in Nanaimo. D. St. Jacques volunteered to attend. The Total Allowable Catch for 2010 is 74,298 metric tonnes. This year there will be a small

joint venture of 8,500 metric tonnes. The location of the venture ship is still to be decided. The price of Hake is up this year.

12. Terms of Reference - Groundfish Integrated Advisory Board (GIAB) Final Report Moved by K. McRae, seconded by S. Ochman, "That this report be received."

"Carried"

13. R. Gunn and A. Day updated Committee members on the status of the Somass Basin Watershed Management Plan.

14. Moved by K. McRae, seconded by G. Wong, "That the Fisheries Committee recommend that the Board of Directors invite Mr. Duncan, Hupacasath First Nation to meet with the Regional District Board to provide an update on the acquisition of the dams at Great Central Lake."

"Carried"

15. B. Shaw provided an update for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The forecast for the Sockeye return is reasonable at 600,000. The Sockeye recreational fishery begins June 1st. The Gill Netters opening will be later in June. There will be no Chinook fishery in the Alberni Inlet this year. DFO is currently working with the First Nations with regards to a food fishery. There will be a one halibut per day limit for the recreational fishery. DFO will have 50 new positions to manage the Fish Farms. These positions will be Vancouver based and Vancouver Island based. Current DFO personnel could decide to transfer to these positions.

16. Moved by T. Bennett, seconded by D. St. Jacques, "That Mr. Andy Thompson, DFO, be invited to the next Fisheries meeting to make a presentation on the new Fish Farm program."

"Carried"

17. J. Fraser reported that the Sports Fishery pre-bookings are up this year in Tofino.

18. E. Russcher reported that the Sports Fishery pre-booking are also up in Ucluelet this year.

19. K. McRae reported that the Port Alberni Hake plant is up and running.

20. A. Day reported that West Aquatic Management is working in partnership with Sanford out of Washington State with Invest tools to create a variety of future scenarios to help determine economic strategies for the next 10 to 15 years.

21. Moved by T. Bennett, seconded by J. Fraser, "That all the above reports be received."

"Carried"

New Business:

22. E. Russcher advised that a Ocean Renewable Energy Group meeting is scheduled in Ucluelet for June 1st.

Next Meeting:

23. The next meeting to be scheduled for the fall.

Adjourn:

24. Moved by K. McRae, seconded by S. Ochman, "That this meeting stand adjourned."

"Carried"

25. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Eric Russcher, Chairperson

Wendy Thomson, Acting CAO