



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

FISHERIES RESOURCE COMMITTEE

A G E N D A

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Regional District Board Room

PAGE #

1. **Call to Order:** **10:00 AM**

2. **Delegation:**
 - a/ Ms. Fiona MacRaid, Provincial Seafood Development Branch
 Re: Seafood Economic Development and Market Opportunities

3. **Minutes:**
 - a/ October 27, 2010 1-6

4. **Correspondence:**
 - a/ Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
 Re: Reply to August 2010 ACRD Correspondence regarding
 The Tseshaht and Hupacasath First Nations' experience with the
 Sockeye Salmon fishery in the Barkley Sound 7-8

 - b/ Correspondence to and from Ministers of Fisheries and Oceans
 Re: Aquaculture Positions on the West Coast 9-13

5. **Reports:**
 - a/ Representations to Directors from Carol Schmidt,
 Omega Pacific (R.Gunn) 14-16
 (referred from October 27, 2011 Fisheries Meeting)

 - b/ Representations on behalf of Area G Trollers Update
 (R. Gunn)..... 17
 (referred from October 27, 2010 Fisheries Meeting)

 - c/ Groundfish and Hake Season Update – T. Bennett (Verbal)
 ●2011 Offshore Pacific Hake Harvest Plan 18-46

 - d/ Department of Fisheries & Oceans Update (Verbal)

 - e/ Ministry of Environment Fisheries Department Update
 - D. Chalmers (Verbal)

 - f/ Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Update - D. Hall (Verbal)

 - g/ District of Tofino Update - J. Fraser (Verbal)

-
- h/ District of Ucluelet Update – E. Russcher (Verbal)
 - i/ City of Port Alberni Update - K. McRae (Verbal)
 - j/ West Coast Vancouver Island Aquatic Management Board
update - Andrew Day (Verbal)
 - Tsawalk Partnership Progress Report
(attached separately)

6. **Ongoing Business:**

7. **New Business:**

8. **Adjourn:**



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
Regional Economic Fisheries Resource Committee
Minutes

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

Regional District Board Room

Present: John Fraser, Stefan Ochman, Ken McRae, Tony Bennett, Glenn Wong, Cliff Atleo (NTC), Dennis Chalmers (Ministry of Environment), Dario Corlazzoli (Dist. Of Ucluelet), Gary Reay (DFO), Andrew Day (West Coast Aquatic)

Regrets: Eric Russcher, Robert Gunn, Bill Shaw, Dianne St. Jacques

Staff: Wendy Thomson, Acting CAO, Janice Hill, Secretary

1. Ken McRae chaired the meeting.
2. The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

3. **PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Gary Reay, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, spoke and provided a PowerPoint presentation on the New Aquaculture Program, "Towards a New Aquaculture Regulatory Regime for British Columbia".
 - In February 2009 the BC Supreme Court ruled that only the federal government has the authority to regulate the fisheries aspects of aquaculture.
 - On December 19, 2010 the new federal regime will come into effect.
 - The new regime will focus on increased enforcement, information management and public reporting. The resources approved are 12.7 million initially, 10.8 million in first 2 years, and 8.3 million ongoing. There will be 55 full-time positions with offices located in Ottawa, Vancouver, Nanaimo, Courtenay and Campbell River.
 - The new Pacific Aquaculture Regulation (PAR) provides authorities needed to manage aquaculture as a fishery. The regulation is designed to: 1) establish a federal licence regime for BC aquaculture, 2) consolidate existing permits and authorizations, 3) set enforceable licence conditions, and 4) establish a variety of transparency measures.

- Mr. Reay answered questions from the Committee. The Committee expressed concerns that there will no DFO staff based on the West Coast in the ACRD Region where the majority of aquaculture fisheries are located.

Moved by S. Ochman, seconded by J. Fraser, "That staff be instructed to set up a meeting as soon as possible with Dr. James Lunney, MP regarding staffing the new Aquaculture Fisheries Regime."

"Carried"

Moved by S. Ochman, seconded by T. Bennett, "That a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada stating our concerns with staffing the new Aquaculture Fisheries Regime."

"Carried"

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- a. Moved by J. Fraser, seconded by S. Ochman, "That the minutes from the Fisheries Resource Committee meeting held on May 26, 2010 be adopted as amended."

"Carried"

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Response letter dated October 13, 2010 from the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, regarding the Area G West Coast Vancouver Island Access to 2010 Fraser River Sockeye Salmon.
 - T. Bennett spoke to the response letter, stating that there should have been ample opportunity for everyone to have access to the Fraser River Sockeye and that a lot of money has been lost to the local fishermen and communities because of the closure.
 - C. Atleo also spoke to the response letter, stating that there was no rationale to exclude Area G and that there will be an over spawning in the Fraser River which will do more harm than good. He also stated that we need community-based management with West Coast Aquatic.

Moved by T. Bennett, seconded by S. Ochman: "That a response letter be sent to the Minister of Fisheries and Ocean's letter of October 13, 2010, regarding Area "G" , stating that if closing adjustments can happen quickly, then opening should be able to happen as well.

"Carried"

- b. Email from Carol Schmitt, regarding the Chinook Enhancement Program. Referred to the next Fisheries Resource Committee meeting.

"Carried"

6. **REPORTS**

- a. Representations to the Directors from Carol Schmitt, Omega Pacific, by Robert Gunn. Referred to next Fisheries Resource Committee meeting.
- b. Representations on behalf of Area G Trollers Update by Robert Gunn. Referred to next Fisheries Resource Committee meeting.
- c. Dario Corlazzoli, gave an update on the Groundfish and Hake Season:
 - To date, they are at 43000 metric tonnes, they need to get to 56930 metric tonnes to get to the carry over target. The total TAC is about 74000 metric tonnes for 2010. If they catch the 56930 amount they are allowed to carry over the remaining fish to the 2011 season. The total landed catch is 51350 metric tonnes with the Joint Venture catch. The weather has been a problem, making it difficult for the boats to get out. There is a Groundfish meeting on Friday, October 29, 2010.
- d. Denis Chalmers of the Ministry of Environment handed out a report on the "Economic Impacts from a Reduced Groundfish Trawl Fishery in British Columbia". He provided a brief overview of the report and an update on some of the fisheries in B.C.
 - The British Columbia trawl fishing industry operates year-round and delivers fish to a variety of locations along coastal BC.
 - The industry directly generates \$160 million in processed fish value - \$149 million to BC interest and \$11 million to foreign interests from hake. The \$149 million generates \$70.5 million in direct wages and 1,725 person-years of employment to British Columbians – this makes the trawl sector, by far, the largest economic component of the BC fishing section.

- If the trawl sector is significantly reduced it would have serious impacts on BC: 1) many businesses in coastal communities would close; 2) the service providers that would remain in business would reduce staff, reduce their operating season and/or service and increase prices for services. This would economically hurt the communities of Ucluelet, Port Hardy, Prince Rupert and Port Alberni.

D. Chalmers also provided an update on a few of the BC Fisheries:

- Sardine fishery currently has 50 licences (25 to First Nations and 25 Commercial). They have landed 18,000 tonnes to date with a total TAC of 23,000 for this year. The Province is taking on 2 projects for the Sardine Fishery; 1) developing a Strategic Market Development Plan, and 2) setting up an Ad Hoc committee to improve the fishery and make it more economical.
- Hake fishing has been low this year. The fish are small and scattered. They will probably not meet their total TAC this year.
- The Hag Fishery had died out because of the market, which was previously used for leather goods. There is now interest from Korea, who would like to import the fish for food usage. A 3 year pilot project is waiting to be approved to assess the Hag Fishery.

f. C. Atleo provided a verbal update on the Nu-chah-nulth Tribal Council.

- The fisheries litigation continues. Hearing dates for Canada's appeal of the Nuu-chah-nulth Fishing Rights decision are set for December 6-10, 2010.
- There is a Provincial initiative to create a First Nations Health Authority.
- There is a language crisis in the Province. A recent report issued stated there is only 5% fluency in the Province. NTC Language Council proposes to create a post secondary language curriculum, but the Federal Government and INAC do not acknowledge their language as an educational course.
- The Tlu-piich Games 2010 were a huge success. The Golf tournament held, August 4th at the Alberni Golf Club raised \$11,000 for the games. Next year the Tlu-piich Games will have an additional day added to their schedule.

g. J. Fraser, gave an update from the District of Tofino. Stated that there was a lot of Salmon and Crab this year in the Sound. Which was very promising for the Sport Fishery.

- h. D. Corlazzoli, District of Ucluelet, mentioned that they also had very good Salmon fishing this season. There seemed to be a different trend of fish this year, more offshore fish, he has concern of where the fish are coming from.
- i. Ken McRae, City of Port Alberni, announced that Port Alberni has been named, "the Ultimate Fishing Town". This arrived from a contest on the World Fishing Network (WFN). The win brings \$25,000 to Port Alberni for a community donation and WFN is also going to produce and broadcast a 30 minute feature about Port Alberni.
- j. Andrew Day, West Coast Aquatic, provided a verbal update on current activities:
 - West Coast Aquatic are being pro-active in promoting new initiatives, which include: developing Visions, Values and Goals for the area; spatial planning; and economic opportunities.
 - They held a forum on education in Tofino during the week of October 18th.
 - Promoting the West Coast area as a centre of knowledge on Marine Resources to Universities.
 - Have an agreement with the Province to lead the Salmon process on the West Coast, and an agreement they will provide staff resources on issues dealing with float homes, as well as spatial planning in the Clayoquot and Barclay Sounds.

Tony Bennett moved that a motion be put forth to the AVICC, "That the AVICC petition the federal government that Coastal Communities have meaningful input in all fin fish allocation decision, including salmon," and that a copy be sent to Patrick Marshall, Director of Coastal Communities.
Seconded by Glenn Wong.

"Carried"

- 7. Wendy Thomson left the meeting at 11:50 pm.
- 8. Moved by T. Bennett, seconded by J. Fraser, "That all the above reports be received."

"Carried"

Adjourn

- 9. Moved by T. Bennett, seconded by G. Wong, "That the meeting be adjourned."

"Carried"

10. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM

Certified Correct:

Ken McRae
Chairperson

Wendy Thomson, Acting CAO

6

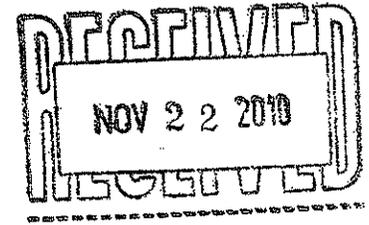
Minister of
Fisheries and Oceans



Ministre des
Pêches et des Océans

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

NOV 15 2010



Mr. Hira Chopra
Chairperson
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
3008 Fifth Avenue
Port Alberni, British Columbia
V9Y 2E3

Dear Mr. Chopra:

Thank you for your correspondence of August 11, 2010, concerning the Tseshaht and Hupacasath First Nations' experience with the sockeye salmon fishery in Barkley Sound.

After conservation, First Nations' access to fish for food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes is Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO's) first priority. The Department is also aware of the positive economic impacts of a healthy fishery for communities throughout British Columbia and strives to balance economic interests with conservation needs.

The Department understands that the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations would like a greater share of the fisheries resource and, to that end, is working with all Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations to improve access to economic opportunities. In addition, DFO supports a number of programs that aim to increase First Nations' access to fisheries and involvement in fisheries management, including the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS), the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI), and the Allocation Transfer Program (ATP). You may also be aware of the Maa-nulth Treaty, which involves five First Nations in the outer region of Barkley Sound and goes into effect in April 2011. Although this Treaty does not include the Tseshaht and Hupacasath, it will also provide increased economic opportunity for First Nations in the Alberni-Clayoquot region.

The Tseshaht First Nation has benefited from the AFS and ATP, which provided funding for fisheries assessment programs and access to commercial licences. For further information on these programs, please visit the Department's website at www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/tapd/ab_fishg_e.htm.

.../2

In addition, both the Tseshaht and Hupacasath Nations are positioned to benefit from the PICFI program, which facilitates greater First Nations access to commercial fishing based on licence retirement from existing fishers and provides resources to advance fishing capacity. The Department's implementation of PICFI takes a balanced approach that encourages collaboration to maximize benefits for all while advancing First Nation participation in integrated fisheries. More information can be found online at < www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/PICFI/default_e.htm >.

With respect to the Somass River salmon run, DFO has provided economic access to this fishery to the Hupacasath and Tseshaht First Nations since the early 1990s. This opportunity has been available to very few First Nations in British Columbia and recognizes the importance of the Somass fishery to these communities. Unfortunately, negotiations relating to an economic agreement that would have allowed the commercial sale of sockeye were not successful in 2010. Despite extensive efforts by DFO and prolonged negotiations prior to and continuing well into the fishing season, a sales agreement could not be reached.

Although the sale of Somass River sockeye could not be sanctioned in 2010 without an economic agreement, the Tseshaht and Hupacasath did carry out successful FSC fisheries, achieving substantial catches from the abundant return this year. If stock abundance is sufficient, it is the Department's intention to pursue an economic agreement with the two First Nations again in 2011.

With regard to Government of Canada funding of Aboriginal fishers in developing countries, that issue falls under the jurisdiction of the Canadian International Development Agency. As such, I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your correspondence to my colleague, the Honourable Beverley Oda, Minister of International Cooperation and Minister Responsible for the Canadian International Development Agency, for her consideration.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Gail Shea, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Beverley Oda, P.C., M.P.



May 27, 2011

Honourable Keith Ashfield
Fisheries and Ocean Canada
Ministers Office House of Commons
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6

Dear Minister:

Re: Aquaculture Positions on the West Coast

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment to the as Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and to wish you every success in this position which is very important to us here on the Westcoast of Vancouver Island. The industry and sports fishing organizations in the Alberni Clayoquot region were pleased to have been able to host a visit from your predecessor, and I would like to add my voice to others locally to extend a cordial invitation to you to visit us at your earliest opportunity. While our local fisheries have some similarities to those of New Brunswick, they also have significant differences and they face different challenges.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to an issue of considerable local importance – the field staffing and allocation of the Departments newly acquired responsibilities for aquaculture.

As you may be aware aquaculture is very important in our region, which produces about 20% of BC's farmed salmon production (around 16,000 tonnes of a BC total of 80,000) and a significant volume of farmed shellfish. With the result that the industry contributes a significant number of full time jobs particularly in Tofino. We are anxious to see the industry grow and prosper. While not without opponents, the farmed salmon industry here faces fewer of the lightening rod issues; we have few rivers that produce pink salmon, and both of the farmed fish companies have signed very innovative protocol agreements covering jobs and training with the two First Nations in their operating areas, the Ahousaht and the Tla-o-qui-aht.

Members: Port Alberni, Ucluelet, Tofino, Electoral Areas

"A" (Bamfield), "B" (Beaufort), "C" (Long Beach), "D" (Sproat Lake), "E" (Beaver Creek) and "F" (Cherry Creek)



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT
REGIONAL DISTRICT

However, in view of the scale and economic importance of the industry, we were disappointed to learn that no staff will be based in the region. At present a decision has been made to base staff in Nanaimo and in Courtenay, about 260km away from Tofino. There are existing local DFO office facilities that could be used for co-location which would considerably reduce driving times and hence costs of field monitoring. It seems to us that the need for field vigilance in order to restore public confidence in the fin fish side of the industry in particular, would require staff in the Tofino area.

We respectfully ask you to reconsider the placement of some of these very important positions so as to provide full time coverage in our region.

Yours truly,

Glenn Wong, Chairperson
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

cc: James Lunney M.P.

Trevor Swerdfager, Director General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management

Members: Port Alberni, Ucluelet, Tofino, Electoral Areas

"A" (Bamfield), "B" (Beaufort), "C" (Long Beach), "D" (Sproat Lake), "E" (Beaver Creek) and "F" (Cherry Creek)

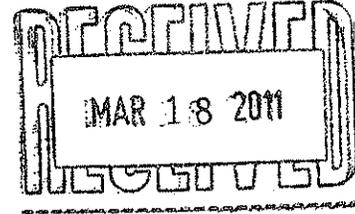
Minister of
Fisheries and Oceans



Ministre des
Pêches et des Océans

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

MAR 11 2011



Mr. Eric Russcher
Chair
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Fisheries Resource Committee
3008 Fifth Avenue
Port Alberni, British Columbia
V9Y 2E3

Dear Mr. Russcher:

Thank you for your correspondence of November 16, 2010, regarding your support for Pacific aquaculture and your suggestion to revitalize Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO's) Tofino office for the purpose of managing the aquaculture industry.

As you are aware, DFO took over management of the aquaculture industry from the Province of British Columbia on December 18, 2010.

To accommodate these new management responsibilities, the Department will create 51 new positions in British Columbia, the majority of which will be on northern Vancouver Island. The interim accommodation plan for the new program will place new staff in Nanaimo, Courtenay, Campbell River and Port Hardy.

Departmental staff from Nanaimo, Courtenay and Campbell River will be responsible for aquaculture management and site assessments in the Tofino area. It is anticipated that these employees will spend extended periods of time in Tofino and will work closely with existing departmental staff already permanently located in Tofino.

Thank you for writing with your support and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Gail Shea, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Mr. James Lunney, M.P.

Canada

11



November 16, 2010

Honourable Gail Shea, Minister
Fisheries and Ocean Canada
Ministers Office House of Commons
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6

Dear Minister:

Re: Aquaculture Positions on the West Coast

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and your staff on the forthright way in which you have staffed the 'field' aspect of the finfish and shellfish aquaculture responsibilities you are about to take back from the Province of BC.

As you may be aware aquaculture is very important in our region, which produces about 20% of BC's farmed salmon production and a significant volume of farmed shellfish. With the result that the industry contributes a significant number of full time jobs in both the Tofino and Port Alberni areas, and we are anxious to see the industry grow and prosper. While not without opponents, the industry here faces fewer of the lightening rod issues. We have few rivers that produce pink salmon, and both of the farmed fish companies have signed very innovative protocol agreements covering jobs and training with the two respective First Nations, the Ahousaht and the Tla-o-qui-aht.

However, in view of the scale and economic importance of the industry, we were disappointed to learn that no staff will be based in the region. There are existing DFO offices that could be used for co-location and the distances from Nanaimo or Courtenay, where the closest staff will be placed, to Tofino are considerable, about 3 hours and 260km each way. It also seems to us that the need for field vigilance in order to restore public confidence in the fin fish side of the industry in particular would require staff in the Tofino area.

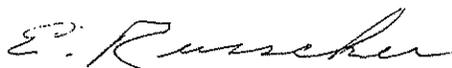
Members: Port Alberni, Ucluelet, Tofino, Electoral Areas

"A" (Bamfield), "B" (Beaufort), "C" (Long Beach), "D" (Sproat Lake), "E" (Beaver Creek) and "F" (Cherry Creek)

14001505
12

We respectfully ask you to reconsider the placement of some of these very important positions so as to provide full time coverage in our region.

Yours truly,



Eric Russcher, Chair
Alberni Clayoquot Regional District Fisheries Resource Committee

Cc: James Lunney M.P., Nanaimo/Alberni
Trevor Swerdfager, Director General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management

Members: Port Alberni, Ucluelet, Tofino, Electoral Areas
"A" (Bamfield), "B" (Beaufort), "C" (Long Beach), "D" (Sproat Lake), "E" (Beaver Creek) and "F" (Cherry Creek)

13

Date: October 14, 2010
To: Eric Russcher, Chair Alberni Clayoquot Regional Fisheries Committee
From: Robert Gunn and Kathy Scarfo
Subject: **Representations on behalf of the Area G Trollers – an Update**

Background

The attached briefing note has been sent to both Hon Barry Penner Minister of Environment and to the NDP critic for fisheries. Meetings on the subject have been held with the Minister and later with Scott Fraser MLA.

Follow up materials were sent to Bob Williams MoE Fisheries.

Despite Emails to Penner's staff no indication or copies of follow up action have been received from his office.

Scott has also made an effort get the NDP federal critic involved and although he cannot be in Vancouver until November, it is expected that a conference call will be held with him, Kathy Scarfo and Directors. Kathy and Scott are to organized this and advise. Kathy and Robert have been discussing the need for a report on the allocating of commercial salmon harvest and how the region is affected and might be involved.

Recent Events

After 2 years of waiting for funds, Area G Trollers filed an action with a statement of claim and judicial review of the use of the \$30 million.

In July, government of Canada attempted to have this dismissed. The dismissal attempt failed.

DFO then announced they intended to use the funds that are meant to compensate for the direct impacts of the reduction in catch on the West Coast Vancouver Island, for:

- an new allocation process for all commercial salmon harvesters coastwide,
- a reverse bid buyback program for all trollers coastwide,
- \$500,000 economic development capacity building (no new funds).

This plan was contrary to the regional recommendations.

In October, Area G filed for an injunction to stop the expenditure prior to trial.

Last week, the Court arranged a case management meeting and it was decided:

- DFO agreed to *consult only* and make no changes to the allocation framework prior to February 1, 2011
- Not spend the buyback funds prior to February 1, 2011

Given this agreement, the Court decided that rather than an injunction hearing, they would make special arrangements for an early resolution and have assigned a court date of January 10, 2011.

Briefing Note to the Honourable Barry Penner

Re: September 1/2010 meeting regarding Chinook Annex of the Pacific Salmon Treaty

Background

The Federal Government has proposed a strategy to implement the Chinook Annex of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Annex includes \$30million in mitigation funding in exchange for a 30% reduction in Canadian Chinook catch in the West Coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI) area. Canada's proposed strategy has significant negative socioeconomic impacts on the WCVI and BC economy. The costs of these will be borne by the Provincial government, WCVI communities, and businesses and individuals involved.

Action Requested

- The Government of British Columbia use its influence to change Canada's proposed strategy. This may include intervening and actively mediating a strategy that is acceptable to those directly affected, and/or expressing strong opposition to the proposed strategy.
- The Government of British Columbia actively influence the Federal government to supply an adequate mitigation package to address impacts on communities and support industries, and/or provide its own directed funding for the impacts.

Rationale

1. The proposed program will have significant social and economic costs to British Columbia and West Coast of Vancouver Island communities in particular.
 - From the beginning of this issue we have asked for a socioeconomic assessment, which has not been conducted. Affected businesses eventually self-funded an independent assessment. The assessment clearly shows the significant impacts on the WCVI area. In a Nov.26, 2009 letter to us, Minister Shea expressed that she would "continue to work with my colleagues and other federal Departments to see what opportunities may exist to address some of the broader issues you have highlighted with respect to supporting industries and communities." This has not happened. Our review of federal programs show there is nothing applicable to the significant socioeconomic consequences of the PST Chinook Annex reductions on support industries and communities.
 - There is ample evidence to show how past licence retirement schemes similar to the one proposed will have a severe negative impact on coastal communities. For instance, a BC Jobs Commission report detailed how a similar federal program in 1996 resulted in a 50% loss of *total* employment in one First Nation community. The economic and social costs to the communities, British Columbia, and affected businesses and individuals have not been considered.
2. The proposed program makes no attempt to improve the short and long-term viability of fleets, support industries, and communities.
 - To be viable, the fleet size must be proportional to the amount of TAC and must be able to adjust to changes in abundance. There has to be some security of allocation and attempt to design a fishery that accounts for market and conservation challenges and opportunities. There also has to be linkages to management, infrastructure and industries needed to support a viable fleet. There is no attempt in the proposed program to address any of the

above. This wastes economic potential and fails to address overcapacity in a strategic way, creating a lasting headache for businesses, B.C. and management.

- By permanently retiring licences, Canada throws away its negotiating hammer in future PST negotiations. This is disastrous for long-term viability.
3. The proposed program is very low relative to the projected costs to the fishing fleet and associated businesses and communities, and is far out of alignment with similar programs.
 - In Eastern Canada, the federal government has recently spent \$65 million in immediate aid to address a short term softening in the market for the lobster industry.
 - In the U.S., the federal government approved \$170 million in disaster relief funding for fishermen and communities in California, Oregon, and Washington affected by the Chinook fishery collapse. This was for *one year* immediate assistance rather than for the ten years outlined in the proposed Chinook Annex.
 4. The proposed program is not designed to address those directly impacted by the Annex and is being used to address pre-existing and unrelated issues in the salmon fishery.
 - In the first three years of the Chinook Annex, the Area G fleet has been the only fleet directly or indirectly impacted. There is nothing in the proposed approach to address these impacts.
 - There is no guarantee or formula that those directly impacted in the remainder of the PST period will receive fair proportions of the mitigation funding.
 - The Area G Fleet, which is directly impacted, not only has no guarantee of proportional mitigation, but it loses further access to fish beyond the Chinook Annex reduction. Under the proposed program, for each licence retired from Area G, a portion of the remaining catch is transferred to the seine and gillnet fleets. The seine and gillnet fleets, which are not impacted by the Chinook Annex, therefore receive mitigation while Area G loses.
 - There is no attempt to assess or mitigate the direct impacts on communities and support industries.
 5. No attempt has been made in the proposed program to understand and address the link between healthy communities, viable fleets, and healthy stocks.
 - Many Area G trollers are intimately involved in salmon stewardship activities in the WCVI area. Communities invest in salmon protection and restoration in part because they are important to our economy and social fabric. The consequence of the proposed program is to sever these ties, undermining salmon conservation.
 6. We have serious concerns about the transparency and manner in which the program was developed. In a Nov.26, 2009 letter to us, Minister Shea expressed that she was "committed to working on program design and implementation with those impacted by the mitigation, including WCVI First Nations and Area G harvesters." This has not happened. There has been no discussion since the summer of 2009 despite our numerous attempts to work with DFO to negotiate an acceptable program. The proposed mitigation approach has no relation to the objectives and principles outlined for it.

Date: October 13, 2010
To: Eric Russcher, Chair Alberni Clayoquot Regional Fisheries Committee
From: Robert Gunn – 723-3350
Subject: **Representations to the Directors from Carol Schmidt - Omega Pacific**

Background

For a number of years Carol has been trying to get DFO to contract Omega Pacific to produce 1+ (also called S1) chinook smolts at the Omega hatchery on Great Central Lake. The Committee and the Directors have written a number of times to DFO in an effort to get them to agree. DFO responses tend to make the following arguments:

- It is against policy to contract private hatcheries or that they have hatcheries that can produce these smolts cheaper than a private for profit hatchery;
- 1+ smolts are too expensive to produce – DFO now have an audit from the State of Washington Audit Office that looked at 1+ production when the State tried to use these as a way of increasing chinook sports fish. This found that each smolt cost 85cents, compared with 11 cents for 0+, and that so few returned that the cost of each sport caught fish was \$700 or more dollars, or about 900 1+ released for each caught;
- Scale samples from chinooks on WCVI show that nature produces 0+;
- 1+ smolts have poor prey response when released, ie do not have live in the wild smarts; and
- 1+ releases result in excessive Jimmy and Jack fish – ie fish that return too early to make a significant contribution to the fishery.

Carol argues that:

DFO often send out diseased fish and get poor returns;

Her cold water rearing and slower pace of growth will not result in Jacks or Jimmys; and

A 1+ is better able to survive once released.

Discussion

Carol has a love for fish and genuine desire to see larger wild chinook returns, but she also at the same time a small business person. There is a question here as to how far the Directors wish to push for the interests of a business in the region.

DFO have already moved to produce a small experimental batch of 1+ smolts at their Nitinat Hatchery for the Huu-ay-aht FN beginning this winter. A 1900 fish batch reared by Omega for the Nahmint for release next spring will also be too small to make any statistical inferences from.

While there might be issues of methodology with the Washington audit, the added expense is a strong argument given DFO budget cuts. It may be that the so called 90 day wonders – fry released very early have a better chance of surviving and that hatcheries are better used to 'bypass' the high risk egg rearing stage, then let nature take over.

The Nahmint River Enhancement Team, of which the RD and Carol are members is also addressing this issue.

Options

1. The ACRD write again to DFO pressing the Omega Pacific case
2. The ACRD tell Omega that they have taken the issue as far as they can.

Recommendation: Option 2

**ADDENDUM TO THE 2011/2013 INTEGRATED FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
GROUNDFISH**

Draft May 26, 2011 IHAC

**2011 OFFSHORE PACIFIC HAKE
HARVEST PLAN**

24 May 2011

PACIFIC REGION

This 2011 Offshore Pacific Hake Harvest Plan is intended for general information purposes only. Where there is a discrepancy between this Plan the 2011/2013 IFMP for Groundfish and Fisheries Act and regulations made thereunder, the Fisheries Act and regulations are the final authority. *A description of Areas and Subareas referenced in this Plan can be found in the Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations.*



Fisheries and Oceans Pêches et Océans
Canada Canada

18-

FOREWORD

The 2011 Pacific Hake Harvest Plan, is an addendum to the 2011/1013 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Groundfish (IFMP), that serves to identify the main objectives and management measures in effect for the Groundfish trawl fishery for Pacific Hake in the Pacific Region. These two documents in concert communicate the basic information on the fishery and its management to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) staff, legislated co-management boards and other stakeholders. They provide the common understanding of the basic “rules” for the sustainable management of the fisheries resource, 2011 IHAC

The IFMP and this addendum are not legally binding instruments which can form the basis of a legal challenge. Both documents can and are modified inseason when warranted and at no time fetters the Minister's discretionary powers set out in the Fisheries Act. The Minister can, for reasons of conservation or for any other valid reasons, modify any provision of the IFMP in accordance with the powers granted pursuant to the Fisheries Act.

Where DFO is responsible for implementing obligations under land claims agreements, the IFMP will be implemented in a manner consistent with these obligations. In the event that an IFMP is inconsistent with obligations under land claims agreements, the provisions of the land claims agreements will prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	2
1. Application	5
2. Fishery Objectives	5
3. Canada/Us Pacific Hake/Whiting Treaty	5
4. Marine Stewardship Certification	5
5. Total Allowable Catch	6
6. Fishery Season and Open Times	6
7. Joint Venture fishery	6
8. Waters in Which Fishing Is Permitted	7
9. Species and Area Closures	7
10. ... Licensing Requirements	7
11. ... Initial allocations of Pacific Hake to secors	8
12. ... Inseason alloction of reserver TAC	8
13. ... Inseason Management	8
13.1. Inseason Hake Advisory Committee (IHAC):	9
13.2. Onshore Plant Committees (OPCs):	9
14. ... Groundfish Development Authority	9
15. ... Landing requirements	10
16. ... Quota Overage/Underage Rules	10
16.1. Fishing Restrictions for Quota Overage	10
16.2. Quota Overage/Underage and Quota Carryover	10
17. ... Gear Restrictions	11
17.1. Trawl Net Size	11
17.2. Trawl Net Escape Panel	11
18. ... Catch Monitoring and Validation	12
18.1. At Sea Monitoring	12
18.2. Mandatory Retention of Catch	12
18.3. Hail-Out Requirements Prior to Fishing for Pacific Hake	12
18.4. Hail-In Requirement When Fishing for Pacific Hake	13
18.5. Catch Reporting	13
18.6. Port Monitoring	13
18.7. Bycatch Allowances for Electronically Monitored Trips	13
18.8. Bycatch Allowances for Observed Trips	14
18.9. Use of Packers	14
19. ... Halibut By-catch Management Plan	15
20. ... Fish Released at Sea	15
21. ... DFO Contact	15
Appendix 1: Inseason Advisory Processes and Committees	16
Appendix 2: Groundfish Trawl Pacific Hake At-Sea Monitoring Requirements	20

MANAGEMENT CHANGES AND REMINDERS FOR 2010

- Preseason assessment by the Groundfish Trawl Advisory Hake Subcommittee (GTAC HakeSub) concluded that given the current hake abundance and the prognosis for the 2011 Pacific Hake fishery that there is a likelihood that the projected shoreside processing needs for 2011 would not utilize the entire available total allowable catch (TAC) set for the Pacific Hake. This resulted in GTAC HakeSub, by consensus agreement, to recommend that Fisheries and Oceans Canada allow a limited Joint Venture (JV) fishery for 2011 season. The intent is to address the 50% increase in the total allowable catch and mitigate concerns of reduced processing capabilities, uncertainty surrounding abnormal distribution of hake recently seen in Canadian waters, current market demand, and the impact of hake fishery on the overall economic stability of the groundfish industry.
- For 2011 fishery, the hake fishing fleet will again be subject to one hundred (100) percent at sea monitoring coverage, either by at sea observer or electronic monitoring (EM), when mid-water trawling for hake. Comprehensive catch monitoring requirements are in effect for the 2011 fishery. (Section 18).
- Retention of all catch is mandatory on all electronic monitored trips in the 2011 fishery (with the exception of prohibited species).
- All shoreside hake deliveries are subject to 100% coverage by the Groundfish Trawl Dockside Monitoring Program (DMP).
- Hailing rules implemented in 2009 remain in effect for the 2011 season. Hail-outs must be filed at least eight hours prior to the start of any hake fishing trip.
- The retention of groundfish, other than Sablefish, mackerel, Walleye Pollock and halibut, on non-observed (electronically monitored) dedicated Pacific Hake mid-water trips can not exceed 20% of the weight of hake landed per trip. Catch allowances for Sablefish and Walleye Pollock are 3% and 30% respectively of the hake landed for electronically monitored trip. The catch allowance for Mackerel is 6% of the Offshore Pacific Hake on the vessel's groundfish trawl licence. There is no catch allowance for prohibited species Pacific Halibut, salmon species, Green and White Sturgeon, Pacific herring and Wolf-eels.
- All catch will be registered against the vessel and applied against the vessel's IVQ holdings. Groundfish trawl licence holders are accountable for all groundfish catch and responsible for ensuring sufficient IVQ holdings to cover assigned catch is on the vessel's groundfish trawl licence.
- DFO will again use the In-season Hake Advisory Committee (IHAC) and its Onshore plant committees (OPC) to solicit in-season advice to DFO on the in-season release of the quota held in reserve and on other operational aspects of the hake fishery. These committees will meet bi-weekly, or as required to address quantity, quality, delivery and harvesting issues related to both the shoreside and JV fisheries. Terms of reference are attached.
- The Canadian hake industry has asked that hake fishermen document, preferably in their fishing logbooks, any instance of contact of their mid-water trawl nets with the ocean bottom. This request is to address a condition of the Marine Stewardship Certification (MSC).

1. APPLICATION

The management strategies and TAC contained in this plan apply to groundfish trawl licensed vessels fishing for Offshore Pacific Hake by means of bottom and mid-water trawls off the West Coast of Canada. This Harvest plan does not apply to the Pacific Hake fishery that occurs within the Strait of Georgia area and allocated as Gulf Hake (Species Area Group 4B).

2. * FISHERY OBJECTIVES *

The groundfish trawl industry by consensus agreed to the following objectives for the 2011 hake fishery: ^{Draft May 26, 2011 IHAC}

- To support the operations of the shoreside fishery in a manner consistent with DFO's stated policy that shows priority for shoreside utilization.
- To maximize the overall value of the combined (shoreside and JV) hake fishery - this includes the value to vessel owners, crew, shoreside plants, workers, and communities.

3. CANADA/US PACIFIC HAKE/WHITING TREATY

On November 21, 2003 the U.S. – Canada Pacific Hake/Whiting Agreement was signed by the governments of Canada and the United States. While the treaty has ~~yet to be~~ ratified and formally implemented, both countries have agreed to act within the spirit of the treaty for the 2010 fishery.

4. MARINE STEWARDSHIP CERTIFICATION

On October 21, 2009 the Pacific hake mid-water trawl fishery, earned Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification as a sustainable and well managed fishery. The hake fishery occurs off the west coast of Canada and the United States. Pacific Hake is processed into frozen fillet, dressed and whole fish block and surimi products which service markets in North America, and internationally in Europe and Asia.

The Canadian and the U.S. fishery industry clients who sought the assessment and now hold the MSC certificates for Pacific hake. The Canadian client represents vessels from the Canadian fleet, which includes onshore and at-sea operations. The U.S. clients represent virtually the entire U.S. onshore and at-sea hake processing sectors, and the mid-water trawl vessels that deliver their catch to the respective processing sectors.

5. TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH

The Canadian TAC for Offshore Pacific Hake is 102,848 metric tonnes for the 2011/2012 fishing season. This TAC was established based on scientific advice provided through the Canada/US PSARC/STAR Panel process and consultation with the Groundfish Trawl Advisory Hake Subcommittee (GTAC HakeSub).

A preseason assessment by the GTAC HakeSub concluded that given the current hake abundance and the prognosis for the 2011 Pacific Hake fishery that there is a likelihood that the projected shoreside processing needs for 2011 would not utilize the entire available total allowable catch (TAC) set for the Pacific Hake. This resulted in consensus agreement to recommend that Fisheries and Oceans Canada allow a limited Joint Venture (JV) fishery for 2011 season. The intent is to address the 50% increase in the total allowable catch and mitigate concerns of reduced processing capabilities, uncertainty surrounding abnormal distribution of hake recently seen in Canadian waters, current market demand, and the impact of hake fishery on the overall economic stability of the groundfish industry.

Following consultations with stakeholders, the TAC for Offshore Pacific Hake has established and initially allocated as follows:

Shoreside Delivery TAC:	50,000 metric tonnes + 10,000 carry over.
Joint Venture TAC:	32,848 metric tonnes
Reserve TAC (for in-season release)	20,000 metric tonnes

6. FISHERY SEASON AND OPEN TIMES

The Offshore Pacific Hake fishery for Shoreside Delivery opened February 21, 2011 and runs until to February 20, 2012 except for those seasonal and permanent closures set out in the 2011/2013 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Groundfish - Appendix 8, Groundfish Trawl Commercial Harvest Plan, or closures announced in-season as deemed necessary by DFO.

The Pacific Hake Joint Venture fishery is open from August 1st, 2011 until October 31, 2011 or the Joint Venture TAC is attained except for those seasonal and permanent closures set out in the 2011/2013 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Groundfish or closures announced in-season as deemed necessary by DFO.

Information on in-season changes can be found on DFO's Groundfish Internet site at the following link:

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/commercial/ground-fond/index-eng.htm>.

7. JOINT VENTURE FISHERY

Since 1979, the JV program was continued to provide benefits to the groundfish industry and in the development of the Canadian Shoreside hake industry. Annually an assessment of the need for a JV programs is completed with industry stakeholder that takes into account stock status, current industry needs and capabilities and economics of the industry. Annual approval for a joint venture programs lies with the Department.

The JV program entails Canadian groundfish trawl vessels delivering, via codend transfer, Pacific Hake to foreign fishing vessels that are licensed to operate in Canadian waters. A key operating principle is to ensure operations does not disrupt or interfere with the supply of groundfish and hake to Canadian processing plants. To this end the British Columbia Hake Consortium, as it has since 1979, has again be tasked with co-ordinating the JV program and fishing fleet on behalf of the groundfish industry. This includes securing available JV Hake IVQ, negotiating sales agreements with foreign partners, coordination of the day to day JV operations and ensuring that issues involving the JV program which may or are perceived to compromise the needs of the shorebased processing industry are addressed.

Draft May 26, 2011 IHAC

For additional information on the Joint Venture program or the Hake Consortium of British Columbia contact Mr. Rick Dunn, Manager at (250) 248-5398 Fax (250) 248-5369 or email: hake1@telus.net. 604 290 7836

8. WATERS IN WHICH FISHING IS PERMITTED

Fishing for Offshore Pacific Hake is permitted in those waters, defined as "Offshore Hake Area", in Areas 1 to 12, 20 to 21, 23 to 27, 101 to 111, 121, 123 to 127, 130 and 142 combined, in which the closed areas and times fixed by regulations have been varied to allow fishing by midwater and or by bottom trawl gear. Fishing by bottom trawl gear is not allowed in Areas 20 or 21.

9. SPECIES AND AREA CLOSURES

For further information refer to the 2011/2012 Groundfish Trawl licence and the 2011/2013 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Groundfish - Appendix 8, Groundfish Trawl Commercial Harvest Plan.

10. LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

An Option A commercial groundfish trawl licence and appropriate holdings of Individual Vessel Quota (IVQ) is required to commercially harvest groundfish trawl species (including Pacific Hake) using trawl gear. Groundfish trawl vessel owners and harvesters are reminded to carefully review and familiarize themselves with the groundfish trawl licence and attached conditions.

Prior to commencing to harvest under the authority of a groundfish trawl licence, a Request for a 2011/2012 Groundfish Trawl Licence Amendment form must be completed and submitted to DFO's Groundfish Management Unit (GMU). The owner of a groundfish trawl licensed vessel or the party authorised to request amendments must complete the amendment request form. It is a requirement that any Option A vessel must be in possession of a valid amendment to the vessels 2011/2012 groundfish trawl licence prior to fishing. Contact the GMU Quota officer at (604) 666-0010 for further information.

Further information in regards to the policies governing the licensing of groundfish trawl vessels is located in the 2011/2012 Groundfish Trawl licence and the 2010/2013 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Groundfish - Appendix 8, Groundfish Trawl Commercial Harvest Plan.

11. INITIAL ALLOCATIONS OF PACIFIC HAKE TO SECORS

For the 2011/2012 fishing year, the 50,000 mt TAC set for the Offshore Pacific Hake for shoreside delivery was allocated as follows (as of February 21, 2011);

- 80% (45,000) was allocated directly to groundfish trawl licensed vessels as IVQ based on the percentage of the permanent IVQ holdings of Pacific Hake Offshore - for shoreside delivery held respectively by each licence holder and
- 10% (5,000 mt) was allocated to individual groundfish trawl licensed vessels by DFO, taking into consideration advice from the Groundfish Development Authority (GDA) as Code of Conduct Quota (CCQ) and
- The remaining 10% (5,000) will be allocated inseason to individual groundfish trawl licensed vessels by DFO, taking into consideration advice from the GDA as Groundfish Development Quota (GDQ).

For the 2010/2011 fishing year, the 32,848 mt TAC set for Offshore Pacific hake for the Joint Venture program will be allocated prior to July 1, 2011 as follows;

- 89% (29,198 mt) will be allocated directly to groundfish trawl licensed vessels as IVQ based on the percentage of the permanent IVQ holdings of Pacific Hake - Offshore Joint Venture held respectively by each licence holder and
- 11% (3,650) will be allocated to individual groundfish trawl licensed vessels as CCQ based on the percentage of the permanent IVQ holdings of Pacific Hake - Offshore Joint Venture held respectively by each licence holder and taking into consideration advice from the GDA.

12. INSEASON ALLOCATION OF RESERVER TAC

The Reserve TAC will be allocated in-season on the following dates:

- May-July 2011– DFO may allocate in-season any portion or the entire Reserve TAC following consideration of industry advice provided through the IHAC advisory process. The reserve, or portions thereof, may be allocated to the JV fishery if consensus agreement is reached within IHAC that sufficient shoreside TAC exists and the remaining balance, or portions thereof, is surplus to individual shoreside requirements or that IHAC has reached a consensus agreement that the release to the JV fishery is of overall benefit to the hake industry.
- August 5th, 2011 – the remaining balance of the Reserve TAC will, by default, be allocated for shoreside delivery

All quota released in-season will follow the sector allocation percentages set in Section 11 above.

13. INSEASON MANAGEMENT

DATE IS
SUBJECT TO
DISCUSSION *

SEPT 1ST

To ensure proper control and management of the 2011 Pacific Hake fishery DFO will continue to utilize the two existing in-season hake advisory committees identified below to formulate advice and in-season operational measures to address priority access, quantity, quality, delivery and harvesting issues. The terms of reference for the two committees are set out in Appendix 1 to this plan.

Industry has agreed that to ensure the shoreside and JV fishery have access to the supply of fish necessary to be viable and successful that all stakeholders must work together cooperatively and constructively. This will be achieved through the designation and use of delivery Pool Captains whose duty is to hold daily communications with shoreside and JV fishing vessels, shore plants, foreign vessels, and the HCBC to ensure effective scheduling of vessels, fleet operations and production.

It is expected and agreed to that all vessels owners, captains and plant operators will work cooperatively and respectfully with the Pool Captains for the purposes of achieving the objectives for the fishery.

DFO will consult with IHAC to oversee the fishery, address issues that arise, and solicit advice on in-season measures to resolve problems and support the fishery objectives. Failure to achieve the stated objectives may result in DFO amending or curtailing JV fishing operations to achieve priority for shoreside sector.

13.1. Inseason Hake Advisory Committee (IHAC):

The IHAC will meet bi-weekly (in person or by conference call), or more often if needed, to review offshore hake stock movement, ensure priority access for shoreside vessels is being provided, and make recommendations to the fishing fleet and DFO on any operational aspect of the shoreside fishery. IHAC advice to DFO will be considered prior to a decision, where consensus can be achieved, the Department will support the outcome.

13.2. Onshore Plant Committees (OPCs):

All vessel operators/owners actively fishing for a specific shoreside processing plant will meet weekly (by conference call or in person) with plant representatives to discuss delivery schedules and quantity issues.

14. GROUND FISH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The GDA was established in 1997 as a result of an agreement reached between Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), to include the Coastal Communities Network (CCN) and fishing industry participants in a process that would continue to provide advice on the evolving west coast groundfish fishery.

The GDA provides advice on the allocation of CCQ and GDQ portions of the groundfish TACs to DFO. The intent of their advice to allocate quota to licence holders in a manner that considers fair crew treatment, assists in regional development, promotes and attains a stable market, employment conditions and encourages sustainable fishing practices.

Details of the operation of the GDA, its members and terms of reference, objectives and criteria are set out in a separate GDA Operational Plan. The 2011/2012 GDA Operational Plan is available by contacting Charlie Mimms, GDA Executive Director at (604) 943-3320 Fax (604) 943-1166, Cell phone (604) 880-1425 or email: cminns@dccnet.com.

15. LANDING REQUIREMENTS

To ensure proper control and management of the Offshore Hake fishery the following rules are in effect for the 2011/2012 season;

Draft May 26, 2011 IHAC

- ♦ Pacific Hake Offshore allocated for Shoreside may only be delivered to land at a location set out in the 2011/2012 groundfish trawl licence, whereas;
- ♦ Pacific Hake Offshore allocated for Joint Venture/~~Shoreside~~ may, at the discretion of the licence holder, be delivered either to a foreign vessel licensed under the Coastal Fisheries Protection Act or to land at a location set out in the 2011/2012 groundfish trawl licence.

16. QUOTA OVERAGE/UNDERAGE RULES

16.1. Fishing Restrictions for Quota Overage

In addition to any of the rules set out in this plan, vessels whose landings exceed the species area specific IVQ holdings for Offshore Pacific hake, subject to section 13.2 below, shall be restricted from trawling for the remainder of the fishing year, or until such time as sufficient IVQ is reallocated to the licence to cover overages.

16.2. Quota Overage/Underage and Quota Carryover

To accommodate harvesters where difficulties have arisen and catches do not meet the exact IVQ holdings on a groundfish trawl licence a carryover/underage policy has been implemented which allows harvesters to carry uncaught quota forward, or have catch, in limited quantities applied against the groundfish trawl licence IVQ allocation for the following year.

The carryover/underage/overage limit for Pacific Hake allocated for Onshore Deliveries is calculated as 16.67% of the vessels IVQ/CCQ and Temporary holdings.

The carryover limit for uncaught Pacific Hake allocated for Joint Venture Delivery is calculated as 15 % of the vessels IVQ/CCQ and Temporary holdings. Catch overages are not allowed in the JV fishery as catch is managed collectively through the Hake Consortium of British Columbia and participating licence holders.

All weights are fresh round weights as determined by information collected from the port validators, at-sea observers and or viewing of electronic monitoring data.

Vessels in an overage situation can avoid relinquishment by reallocating applicable IVQ prior to hailing out for the vessel's next trip or within 30 days, whichever comes first.

17. GEAR RESTRICTIONS

For further information refer to a valid 2011/2012 Groundfish Trawl licence.

The following has been reproduced from the 2011/2013 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Groundfish - Appendix 8, Groundfish Trawl Commercial Harvest Plan.

17.1. Trawl Net Size

Subject to Sections 14.1.1, 14.1.2 and 14.1.3., the coast-wide mesh size in any part of a bottom trawl or mid-water trawl net, including the cod-end, shall not be less than 76 mm. (approximately three inches).

- 17.1.1 In Areas 13 to 19 and 29: the mesh size in a bottom trawl net shall not be less than 108 mm (approximately 4.25 inches) in the final 50 meshes, including the cod-end. In all other parts of a bottom trawl net, the mesh size shall not be less than 76 mm (approximately three inches).
- 17.1.2 In Hecate Strait and Eastern Dixon Entrance: the mesh size in a bottom trawl net shall not be less than 140 mm (approximately 5.5 inches) in the last 100 meshes of the net, including the cod-end. In all other parts of a bottom trawl net, the mesh size shall not be less than 76 mm (approximately three inches). This restriction applies to that area bounded on the south by 52°51'N in Hecate Strait, bounded on the north by the Canada/United States International boundary, bounded on the west by 132°00'W in Dixon Entrance, and bounded on the east by the mainland of British Columbia.
- 17.1.3 The groundfish trawl industry has renewed its recommendation that all vessels fishing in Queen Charlotte Sound abide by a voluntary 140 mm (approximately 5.5 inches) mesh size restriction in the last 100 meshes of the net, including the cod-end. For all other parts of a bottom trawl net, the mesh size shall not be less than 76 mm (approximately three inches). This voluntary restriction applies to vessels fishing in waters shallower than 60 fathoms in the area bounded by the southern boundary of 130-1 and the 52°51'N (Hecate Strait) in the north. The intent of this action is to reduce bycatch of small fish and allow industry transition to the mandatory larger mesh size in the 2012 season.

17.2. Trawl Net Escape Panel

- 17.1.1 All bottom trawl nets and mid-water trawl nets, when used in fishing for Pacific Hake destined for delivery to a foreign fishing vessel licensed under the Coastal Fisheries Protection Regulations, shall have an escape panel fitted to permit the release of unwanted fish. This panel shall be located in the intermediate portion of the trawl net commencing at a point six feet from where the intermediate is attached to the cod-end. The panel shall be composed of not less than one row of meshes running parallel to the long axis of the intermediate for a distance of not less than six feet. The row(s) of mesh shall be cut and sewn with a length of twine or similar material having a breaking strength not exceeding 70 pounds.

18. CATCH MONITORING AND VALIDATION

18.1. At Sea Monitoring

For 2011 hake season, the hake fleet fishing hake for shoreside delivery will be subject to one hundred (100) percent at sea monitoring coverage when fishing for Offshore Pacific. Groundfish trawl vessel master/licence holders have the option to carry either a Groundfish At-Sea observer or an electronic monitoring system (EM) to meet this 100% monitoring requirement. It is the responsibility of individual groundfish trawl vessel master/licence holders to make arrangements for provision of the required at-sea monitoring program. Vessels will not be issued a hail-out number (required for each fishing trip) unless arrangements for the provision of 100% at-sea monitoring services are in place.

Archipelago Marine Research Ltd. (AMR) has been contracted by DFO as the single service provider for the certified at-sea monitoring for all groundfish fisheries off the west coast of Canada. Arrangements can be made by contacting AMR at either 250-383-4535 or 1-800-663-7152.

18.1.1 Electronic Monitoring System

Vessel masters/licence holders may only use an approved EM monitoring system that meets the specifications set out in Appendix 2 of this plan.

18.2. Mandatory Retention of Catch

Vessels masters/licence holders opting to use an electronic monitoring system are required to retain and land all catch (No at-sea releases of any fish are allowed with the exception of prohibited species) and must ensure that sufficient quantities of IVQ quota are secured to cover all catch.

Vessel masters/licence holders opting to carry observers will be governed by normal mortality and at-sea release rules in place for the regular Option A groundfish trawl fishery.

18.3. Hail-Out Requirements Prior to Fishing for Pacific Hake

In order to support observer deployments in the at sea monitoring program, and to ensure that Pacific Hake fishing activity reporting is consistent with all other groundfish trawl fisheries, it is a condition of the groundfish trawl licence that requiring vessel masters to ensure that they have received a Hail-out number, issued for each fishing trip by the service provider at the time of Hail-out, before leaving port on a fishing trip for Pacific Hake

A Hail-Out report must be filed a minimum of *eight (8)* hours before the start of fishing trip for shoreside Pacific Hake to the Designated Service Provider AMR by calling (800)

663-7152 (toll free, 7 days per week, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily). Vessel masters who fail provide at least eight (8) hours advance notice of their intended fishing trip commencement will not be issued a Hail-out number.

18.4. Hail-In Requirement When Fishing for Pacific Hake

It is a requirement for the master of a groundfish trawl licensed vessel to submit a Hail-In report as soon as fishing ceases on a shoreside hake trip. Hail-In reports must be made to the Designated Service Provider AMR, by calling (800) 663-7152 (toll free, 7 days per week, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.).

Draft May 26, 2011 IHAC

18.5. Catch Reporting

All groundfish trawl licensed vessels are required to accurately record and keep a record of all fishing activities in a Fisheries and Oceans Canada supplied fishing logbook, (see the example found on last page). This includes recording of all catch by species whether retained or released. Information recorded in the groundfish trawl logbook on trips where the fishing master/vessel owners has opted to use electronic monitoring will be subject to verification by an audit program utilizing the information gathered by electronic means.

The fishing master must ensure that the fishing logbook is available for use, prior to fishing, and that sufficient pages are available to cover any fishing trip. Information must be recorded for each tow, immediately after completion of the tow. Completed original logbook pages must be submitted to the Department at the time of landing fish at the end of each trip.

18.6. Port Monitoring

All hake deliveries are subject to 100% coverage by the Groundfish Trawl DMP. For more information refer to the 2011/2013 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Groundfish Appendix 8.

18.7. Bycatch Allowances for Electronically Monitored Trips

A vessel opting to use an electronic monitoring system for Shoreside Delivery is permitted a groundfish by-catch allowance of 20% of the weight of hake landed per trip, excluding sablefish, mackerel, walleye Pollock, halibut, salmon, sturgeon, Pacific herring and wolfeels subject to available IVQ holdings on the vessel's groundfish trawl licence.

The by-catch allowance for sablefish is 3% of the weight of hake landed per trip subject to available IVQ holdings set out in the vessel's groundfish trawl licence. The by-catch allowance for walleye pollock is 30% of the weight of hake landed per trip. The by-catch allowance for mackerel is 6% of the weight of Offshore Pacific hake on the vessel's groundfish trawl licence. There is no by-catch allowance for halibut, salmon species, Green and White sturgeon, Pacific herring and Wolf-eels.

All catch of groundfish, will be registered against the vessel and applied against the vessel's IVQ holdings.

18.8. Bycatch Allowances for Observed Trips

Bycatch allowances set out in section 16.7 above do not apply to groundfish trawl vessels carrying an observer for the trip. In those cases vessels may retain all groundfish catch, subject to the IVQ holdings and conditions set out in the vessel's groundfish trawl licence and rules set out in the 2011/2012 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Groundfish Appendix 8, Groundfish Trawl Commercial Harvest Plan

18.9. Use of Packers

DFO has extended, for the 2011 season, the trial pilot program which permits the limited use of packers in the Offshore Shoreside Pacific Hake fishery.

Rules governing the pilot program are:

- Eligibility to participate in the program is limited to only vessels holding a valid 2011/2012 groundfish trawl licence. Packing by non-groundfish trawl licensed vessels is not allowed.
- Any groundfish trawl licensed vessel intending to participate in the pilot requires an amendment to its current 2011/2012 groundfish trawl licence conditions. Requests for the hake packing amendment must be submitted directly to the Groundfish Management Unit @ 606 666-0010.
- Fishing is restricted to the use of mid-water gear and only for vessels targeting Pacific Hake in Offshore waters.
- Transfers of fish between vessels are limited to codend transfer only.
- Revised Hailin/Hailout rules and logbook recording requirements are required for all vessels involved in the pilot.
- All vessels (fishing and transporting) involved are subject to 100 % at sea monitoring and audit. Groundfish trawl vessel master/licence holders have the option to carry either a Groundfish At-Sea observer or an electronic monitoring system (EM) to meet this 100% monitoring requirement. Archipelago Marine Research Ltd (AMR) is the service provider for the 2010 Offshore Pacific hake at-sea monitoring program. The AMR phone # (250)383-4535.
- It is the responsibility of individual groundfish trawl vessel master/licence holders to make arrangements with the EM service provider to ensure updated 2011 software for the pilot is installed on each vessel.
- Vessels will not be issued hail-out number (required for each fishing trip) unless arrangements for the provision of 100% at-sea monitoring services including the new EM software are in place.
- Vessels masters/licence holders participating in the program are required to retain and land all catch and transshipped fish. (No at-sea releases of any fish are allowed).
- Landings will be assigned against IVQ quota holding of the packing vessel. Packing vessels are responsible for ensuring sufficient quantities of Individual Vessel Quota for all species landed are secured to cover off all landings.
- Current species and holdings caps for the groundfish trawl sector are unchanged and remain in effect for the program.

19. HALIBUT BY-CATCH MANAGEMENT PLAN

For further information refer to the 2011/2012 Groundfish Trawl licence and the 2011/2013 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Groundfish - Appendix 8, Groundfish Trawl Commercial Harvest Plan

20. FISH RELEASED AT SEA

For vessels utilizing onboard at-sea observers all species of groundfish (including Non-T IVQ) that are released at-sea shall be deducted from IVQ holdings or annual TAC subject to marketable size limits and mortality rates. For Pacific hake, all fish caught are deemed to be marketable size and assigned 100% mortality regardless of the towing time.

For vessels utilizing electronic monitoring, electronic sensor data and video footage of each fishing event will be used to verify the fishing master's reported of unavoidable releases at-sea recorded in the vessels groundfish trawl fishing logbook. Where discrepancies occur between the fishing masters reported releases and the independent viewers assessment of releases for the fishing event, the viewing assessment of released fish will adopted by DFO as correct and shall be deemed catch and applied against the vessels appropriate species/species-area group IVQ or by-catch cap.

All fish caught, whether considered marketable or not, shall be deemed catch and applied against the appropriate area and species-specific IVQ or by-catch cap.

For further information refer to the 2011/2012 Groundfish Trawl licence and the 2011/2013 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Groundfish - Appendix 8, Groundfish Trawl Commercial Harvest Plan.

21. DFO CONTACT

For further information on any aspect of this Management plan or the Pacific Groundfish Trawl fishery contact Barry Ackerman, the Pacific Region Trawl Co-ordinator either at phone 604-666-3991, Fax 604 666-8525, Cell 604 240-9173 or email barry.ackerman@dfo-mpo.gc.ca;

For information regarding science and stock assessment contact the Regional Groundfish Section Head Greg Workman, Phone 250-756-7113 or email greg.workman@dfo-mpo.gc.ca; or Chris Grandin 250-756-7170 or email @ chris.grandin@dfo-mpo.gc.ca;

The complete listing of DFO contacts for the groundfish fishery can be found in the 2011/2013 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Groundfish - Appendix 2, DFO Contact Information.

APPENDIX 1: INSEASON ADVISORY PROCESSES AND COMMITTEES

The following inseason processes have been established to ensure onshore processors receive priority access and consistent supply of hake catch during the season, and provide advice to DFO on the inseason management of the 2011 Pacific Hake TAC:

- Inseason Hake Advisory Committee (IHAC):
The IHAC is expected to meet bi-weekly (in person or by conference call), or more often if needed, to review the hake fishery and ensure priority access for vessels delivering onshore is being provided, make recommendations to DFO with respect to in-season release of quota held in reserve and other management actions for the onshore and JV fisheries which may arise..

All IHAC meetings/conference calls will begin at 9:30 am.

IHAC meeting dates have been scheduled for the following dates.

~~Thursday, June 9th, 2011~~
Thursday, June 23rd, 2011
Thursday July 7th, 2011
Thursday July 21st, 2011
Thursday, August 4th, 2011
and every two weeks there after.

This schedule is anticipatory and may be subject to change as the fishery progresses.

- Onshore Plant Committees (OPCs):
All vessel operators/owners actively fishing for onshore processors are expected to meet weekly (by conference call or in person) with plant representatives to discuss delivery schedules and quantity issues.
- The OPCs and IHAC will only deal with in-season management of the fishery.
- The Groundfish Trawl Advisory Hake Subcommittee in conjunction with IHAC will continue participate in the inseason review process and provide general overarching advice to DFO on management of Pacific Hake fishery.

Terms of Reference Inseason Hake Advisory Committee

Purpose

The Inseason Hake Advisory Committee (IHAC) has been reconfirmed for the 2011 season to:

- review advice from the individual OPCs and JV harvesters regarding priority access to hake for shoreside delivery,
- recommend inseason management actions to DFO for the shoreside and JV fisheries as needed (i.e. restrictions and/or closures of JV fisheries with respect to time and area), and
- develop decision rules and advice regarding for inseason allocation of the TAC held in reserve.

Draft May 26, 2011 IHAC

Tasks

- Monitor and review deliveries and delivery requirements of shoreside processors.
- Monitor and review the JV fishery.
- Identify issues associated with priority access for shoreside deliveries (i.e. conflict on fishing grounds with JV fleet, plant operations, breakdowns, weather, and other causes).
- Recommend inseason management actions for implementation by industry for the shoreside and JV fisheries.
- Recommend inseason management actions to DFO for shoreside and JV fisheries
- Develop a decision making framework to establish criteria to evaluate, project and finalize shorebased requirements for the 2011 season.
- Advise DFO on the quantity and timing of the inseason release of that portion of the TAC held in reserve.

Guiding Principles

IHAC will be guided by these principles:

- **Accountability:** members will provide their knowledge and experience to the committee, and will be accountable to both the process and their constituents. Members are encouraged to work towards a consensus-based agreement. If recommendations are not based on consensus, DFO will convene the Groundfish Hake Subcommittee to inform of inseason management actions.
- **Transparency:** there will be open lines of communication and there must be timely, accurate, clear and objective provision of information.
- **Cooperation:** the intent of this committee is to identify and address issues regarding priority access to hake for onshore delivery as quickly and effectively as possible. This will require cooperation between the harvesters and processors.

Organization

The IHAC will consist of representatives for:

- onshore harvesters (one from each active shoreside processor** (i.e. a member of each OPC),
- JV harvesters (two representatives),
- active shoreside processors** (one from each active shoreside processor (i.e. a member of each OPC), and
- the Hake Association (one representative)
- the Hake Consortium of BC (one representative)
- The Province of BC Ministry of Environment will be an ex-officio member.
- DFO will chair the IHAC.

COASTAL COMMUNITY NETWORK

- ** an active shoreside processor is defined for the purposes of participation on IHAC as a hake processor actively receiving and processing hake or one who has submitted a letter to DFO of the anticipated processing operations including details on specific daily, monthly and season production schedules, product forms, and the vessel names and quantity of IVQ committed to their operations for the season.

Terms of Reference

Onshore Plant Committees

Purpose

Operating Onshore Plant Committees (OPCs) are a group of committees set up to:

- establish dialogue between the onshore harvesters and the onshore processors regarding supply, and
- provide advice to IHAC.

Objective

The OPCs will discuss and review daily delivery schedules and quantity issues for the onshore operations and onshore vessels.

Tasks

Each OPC will:

- assess the current delivery schedules and quantity issues,
- determine if the daily requirements of supply are being met,
- identify the cause if the daily requirements are not being met (ie: shortage due to plant operations, over-harvested areas, weather, breakdown, or other causes), and
- report findings to IHAC.

Guiding Principles

The OPC's will be guided by these principles:

- **Accountability:** members will provide their knowledge and experience to the committee without bias, and will be accountable to both the process and their constituents,
- **Transparency:** there will be open lines of communication and there must be timely, accurate, clear and objective information provided, and
- **Cooperation:** each meeting of the OPC should be conducted efficiently and cooperatively. It is the intention of these committees to review onshore vessel access to hake to date and provide advice to IHAC with a minimum amount of time and effort expended.

Organization

Each OPC will be composed of representatives from the active shoreside processors (ie: production manager) and one representative from each boat that is fishing for the processor at that time.

Procedures

Each OPC is expected to meet either by conference call or in person weekly or daily as necessary.

Appendix 2: Groundfish Trawl Pacific Hake At-Sea Monitoring Requirements.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CATCH MONITORING.....	24
2.	AT SEA OBSERVER COVERAGE	24
3.	ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROGRAM.....	24
3.1.	Goals	24
4.	SYSTEM.....	25
4.1.	Systems Requirements	25
4.2.	Requirements prior to fishing when using EM:	26
4.3.	Requirements while fishing with EM:	27
4.4.	EM Data Processing Requirements/Specifications.....	27
4.5.	Recording of At-Sea Releases	28
4.6.	Imagery Viewing Criteria	29
4.7.	Data Retrieval Intervals	29
4.8.	Functionality Testing	30
5.	FISHING LOG AUDIT.....	30
6.	EM PROGRAM REPORTING.....	31
7.	GROUND FISH TRAWL FISHING LOG	31

37

1. CATCH MONITORING

The Offshore Pacific Hake fishery is subject to one hundred percent (100 %) at-sea monitoring of fishing activity and 100% verification of landings. These two requirements are necessary to ensure a full and reliable accounting of fishing activity, location, date and time, catch, whether retained, released or landed weight by species. The at-sea requirement may be met either through at-sea observer coverage or through the use of an Electronic Monitoring (EM) system. Dockside validation is supplied through the Groundfish Trawl Dockside Monitoring Program (DMP).

2. AT SEA OBSERVER COVERAGE

Under Section 46 of the *Fishery (General) Regulations*, the licence holder or master of a fishing vessel shall, at the request of the Regional Director General, permit an observer to go on board that vessel to perform the designated duties for the period of time specified and arrange for embarkation or disembarkation of the observer at the times and places specified. The vessel master shall provide all reasonable assistance to the observer.

Archipelago Marine Research Ltd. (AMR) is the designated service provider for at-sea Observers. Contact AMR at (1-800-663-7152) to arrange for at-sea observer services or to inquire about costs of this service. Other vessel requirements are outlined in AMR's services agreement that each vessel must complete before an Observer is deployed.

3. ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROGRAM

3.1. Goals

In conjunction with the Groundfish Trawl Advisory Committee (GTAC) a comprehensive Hake Electronic Monitoring Program (EM) has been developed for Offshore Pacific hake fishery for the 2011/2012 season. Specific goals of the Hake EM are;

- all vessels opting for use of an electronic monitoring system are subject to 100 % retention of all catch other than those species prohibited by licence condition
- to require harvesters to accurately record catch information by fishing event in the groundfish trawl fishing logbook
- to collect electronic sensor and video information for all hake fishing trips
- to conduct an audit between the fishers recorded activity and the electronic data captured by the EM system to ensure accuracy and adherence to the 100% retention requirement
- to characterize and estimate size of at-sea releases, if they occur
- to document all cod-end transfers and receipts for vessels with amendment to transfer and Pack fish for shoreside delivery
- to provide a cost effective monitoring alternative to onboard at sea observers.
- information collected thru the EM program could result in DFO assessing additional catch against the groundfish trawl licence groundfish holdings and/or requiring the vessel to take an on-board observer.

4. SYSTEM

An Electronic Monitoring system allows for auditing, on a trip and set basis, of all fishing activities and in particular disposition (retention) of all catch.

The vessel masters/crew must ensure that the EM system is fully functional for the entire trip, that all cameras have a clear view of the vessel deck and are able to record the catch handling activities of the vessel crew at all times. Failure to ensure the functionality and visibility of the EM system to meet these requirements will result in higher level of data review at the vessels cost and/or the vessel being required to carry an at-sea observer on all subsequent trips.

4.1. Systems Requirements

Any electronic monitoring system must be approved by the Department and must include the following minimum specifications and component requirements:

- a) a video and sensor data-logging engine (control box), equipped with monitor and keyboard to verify correct power supply and EM system software and hardware performance, equipped with an external control to allow the user to manually insert time-stamped event markers into the sensor record;
- b) operating software to record imagery during fishing events;
- c) peripheral sensor devices suitable for fishing-deck work environment, including GPS, an electronic hydraulic pressure transducer, and a winch rotation sensor;
- d) a minimum of two closed circuit television cameras, suitable for fishing-deck work environment, configured with an adjustable focal length lens to provide a clear view of the catch retrieval process and the measurement of released fish.
- e) have the sensor box connected to a monitor and keyboard to allow the user to view recorded EM imagery and conduct system checks to test system functionality.

Video images captured by the EM system shall meet the following minimum specifications:

- a) image files shall be viewable on Windows media player; if a non-standard Windows media player Codec is used, it shall be provided to Archipelago Marine Research Ltd. for image analysis;
- b) minimum resolution of 640 X 480 dpi and the ability to vary lens choice to ensure an appropriate field of view;
- c) imagery must have a burned-in caption showing vessel identifier, date, time and location;
- d) image files must capture 100% of each catch retrieval event, including a 10 to 30 minute run-on (depending on gear type) after each event;
- e) image frame rates shall be not less than 5 frames per second for catch retrieval imagery; and
- f) image quality must be sufficient to allow clear identification of species.

Sensor data captured by the EM system shall meet the following minimum specifications:

- a) Sensor data should be recorded to an ASCII file at a minimum frequency of once every 10 seconds;
- b) Sensor data format must meet the specifications outlined below:

Date,Time,UTCoffset,Lat,Latmin,Lon,Lonmin,Gpsok,Speed,Heading,Voltage,Saterr,
Video,Event,Drum,Pressure

080602,120041,-07.00,48,26.1305,123,23.7711,1,00.0,277,11.97,005,0,01,0,0

080602,120051,-07.00,48,26.1305,123,23.7711,1,00.0,257,11.95,005,0,00,0,0

080602,120101,-07.00,48,26.1305,123,23.7711,1,00.0,249,11.95,005,0,00,0,0

080602,120111,-07.00,48,26.1305,123,23.7711,1,00.0,252,11.95,005,0,00,0,0

Draft May 26, 2011 IHAC
Comma Delimited Data Format

The date, time, latitude, longitude, speed, heading and satellite error are all delivered by the GPS in National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) 0183 Version 2.0 format. All data are numeric except the comma separators. Sensor sample interval is 10 seconds.

- 1) **DATE** – fixed width, 6 characters, YYMMDD
- 2) **TIME** – fixed width, 6 characters, HHMMDD, Pacific Standard Time year round.
- 3) **LAT** – Latitude degrees, fixed width, 2 characters
- 4) **LATMIN** – Latitude minutes, fixed width 6 characters including decimal point with 3 decimal characters
- 5) **LON** – Longitude degrees, fixed with 3 characters
- 6) **LONMIN** – Longitude minutes, fixed width 6 characters including decimal point with 3 decimal characters
- 7) **SPD** – Speed knots, fixed width 4 characters including decimal point with 1 decimal character
- 8) **HDG** – Heading degrees, fixed width 3 characters
- 9) **SATERR** – Estimated horizontal position error in metres (radius), fixed width, 3 characters. The horizontal position error (HPE) is delivered in the NMEA 0183 – GPS data stream
- 10) **VIDEO** – Video on/off, fixed width, single character (0 or 1)
- 11) **EVENT** – Operator initiated event marker, fixed width, 1 character (0 or 1)
- 12) **COUNT** – Rotation sensor – drum revolutions during sample interval, column width variable
- 13) **PRES** – Hydraulic pressure reading, pounds per square inch (PSI), column width variable.

4.2. Requirements prior to fishing when using EM:

The vessel master must make arrangements with an approved EM system service provider to install an EM system on board their vessel. The EM system must be functioning prior to hailing out. A functionality test confirming all systems are working must be completed and a Functionality Test Certificate Number (FTCN) will then be provided by the EM service provider for recording in the fishing log. The FTCN will expire thirty days from issuance; a valid FCTN is required to hail out.

- a) When hailing out, the vessel owner or master must provide the hail service provider with, in addition to the usual trip details, either an FTCN or the name and observer ID number of the embarking at sea groundfish observer for the trip.
- b) A hail out number will only be issued if either the FTCN (confirming a fully operational EM System) or the name of an embarking at sea observer is included in the hail information. The vessel must not depart port until a hail out number has been issued.
- c) Vessels must hail out to the designated hail service provider and must receive a hail out number prior to departing on the trip. The hail out number must be recorded in the fishing log. Hail out requirements are fully described in licence conditions.

4.3. Requirements while fishing with EM:

- a) Accurate recording of all fish caught and released in the fishing log is critical to both accurate determination of catch and cost-effective fishing log audit. All catch either retained or released must be accurately recorded by species and estimated weight in the fishing log. In addition, the set and haul details including fishing time and location must be accurately recorded.
- b) Where an EM system is in use on a vessel, the vessel master shall ensure all components of the system are fully operational during the entire fishing trip from the time the vessel master declares at hail-out until the vessel returns to port to offload and the technician removes the trip information. The EM system must not be turned off at any time. Vessels masters may also conduct periodic system functionality checks via monitor and keyboard. These checks record EM system performance and have it recorded with a time and date stamp on the system hard drive.
- c) If any or all of the EM system equipment becomes inoperative or malfunctions in any way, the vessel master shall immediately contact the EM system service provider. If the EM system cannot be repaired at sea, the vessel master shall stop fishing by hauling gear and returning to port as soon as possible. Trip data will be reviewed to ensure no fishing occurred after equipment failure. If the EM system cannot be repaired at port, the vessel must hail-in as soon as possible.
- d) All species must be retained and landed with the exception of prohibited species set out in the vessels conditions of licence.
- e) Vessel operators and crew should avoid positioning themselves between the camera and the catch as this hampers accurate recording of catch during image review. All catch and the disposition of the catch must be visible to the camera.

4.4. EM Data Processing Requirements/Specifications

The following section outlines the procedures and data processing requirements for EM data. EM data processing involves analysis of both EM sensor and EM video data.

For the purposes of the EM program a fishing event is defined as the activation of the winch sensor, hydraulic sensor and a defined speed signature associated with these sensors. For the purposes of imagery viewing for a fishing event, the viewing will begin at the time the doors are brought back onto the boat at haul back and will finish when all fish have been processed or stowed.

All hake fishing events sensor data will be recorded and processed to ascertain/verify fishing locations for all fishing events and to determine if any abnormal/anomalous events outside the programs specifications have occurred that warrant further investigation. Dependent upon the type of Hake trip the following data/viewing specifications are in effect.

4.4.1. REGULAR MIDWATER HAKE TRIPS (NO PACKING/TRANSSHIPPING)

- Imagery Data
- 10% of all fishing events across all trips on the hard drive will be randomly selected for imagery viewing. Draft May 26, 2011 IHAC
- A minimum of one set per hard drive will be viewed.
- For each fishing event selected for viewing, all image data will be viewed from the time the doors are brought in until all catch is processed/stowed.
- Identify type of activity for any abnormal/anomalous sensor trigger events.

4.4.2. PACKERS/TRANSHIPERS (TRIPS WHERE COD-END TRANSFERRED TO OR RECEIVED FROM ANOTHER VESSEL – DOES NOT INCLUDE JOINT VENTURE TRANSFERS)

- Imagery Data
- Vessel delivering cod-end- View 100% of image data for each fishing event for trips where transfers occurred. Viewing will be from the time the doors are brought in, until all catch is processed and stowed, or transferred to another vessel.
- Vessel receiving cod-end - View 100% of imagery for each cod-end receipt, and the processing and stowage of the fish that were received.
- Identify type of activity for any abnormal/anomalous sensor trigger events.
- Vessels that have engaged in packing or transshipping activity must record the following information in the fisher logbook and to AMR at the time of hail in;
 - Set number where cod-end transfer was made
 - Estimated total weight of cod-end that was transferred
 - Name of vessel that received cod-end

4.4.3. JV HAKE CATCHER VESSELS

- Sensor Data
 - Process 100% of sensor data for all trips.
- Imagery Data
 - 10% of all fishing events across all trips on the hard drive will be randomly selected for imagery viewing.
 - A minimum of one set per hard drive will be viewed.
 - For each fishing event selected for viewing, all image data will be viewed from the time the doors are brought in until the cod-end is received by the processor.
 - Identify type of activity for any abnormal/anomalous sensor trigger events.

4.5. Recording of At-Sea Releases

Imagery viewers will be classifying any releases that occur by release type and estimated weight into the categories set out below. In addition to determining the release classification type imagery viewers will estimate total release weight.

Release Type

- Bleeding: A tear was made in the coded to allow fish to flow out of the net.
- Net Flush: The cod-end was opened up and the contents were dumped into the water.
- Deck Discards: Catch that had been emptied onto the deck from the net was subsequently shoveled off the back and/or out the scuppers of the vessel.
- Net Cleaning: Small amounts of fish that were stuck in the net were picked out and discarded by hand.
- Selective: Catch was pre-sorted and discarded by hand, or mammals or sharks discarded.

Release weight categories:

The following weights levels (in lbs.) will be used to classify at sea releases:

- None = 0
- Low = <1,000
- Moderate = 1,000 – 10,000
- Medium High = 10,000 – 20,000
- High = > 20,000

Humboldt squid and any other releases will be noted and documented in the comments field when detected.

4.6. Imagery Viewing Criteria

The following outlines situations which will require additional imagery viewing (in addition to the 10% viewing requirement) and what the additional viewing requirements are.

4.6.1. Vessel exceeds the trip limit bycatch allowances -

- View 100% of the fishing events for the trip on which the bycatch overage occurred.

4.6.2. Viewer estimates releases in excess of 2000 lbs that have not been documented in the Fisher logbook

- View 100% of all fishing events on the entire harddrive
- Subsequent 100% viewing of all fishing trips for the remainder of the season unless until DFO has approved return to 10% viewing
- Additional viewing for the remainder of the season will not occur without approval of DFO.

4.6.3. Sets with Fisher logbook releases in excess of 10,000 lbs

- View each fishing event with releases reported by the fisher to be in excess of 10,000 lbs.

4.7. Data Retrieval Intervals

For the 2011/2012 Pacific hake fishery servicing of the EM system and hard drive data retrieval is required every 30 calendar days from the time of the last data retrieval/install event (provided the vessel has fished during this time). In addition all vessels are required to run a Functionality Test (see section 3.6 below) prior to each trip to ensure that there is a minimum of 15% hard disk storage space remaining on the installed system. Vessels are required to make arrangements for EM service/data retrievals at the time of hail in.

4.8. Functionality Testing

In order to ensure that all required data is being collected by the EM system, it is important that vessel operators monitor their systems to ensure proper functioning. Functionality tests must be performed prior to departure from the dock, and the system should be frequently monitored via the video monitor screen throughout the trip.

- Functionality tests must be run before embarking on each trip to ensure all EM components are functioning and that there is a minimum of 15% disk storage space remaining.
- Functionality test instructions are located on the back of the laminated V4 Electronic Monitoring System User Quick Reference Guide.
- The EM system automatically creates a record each time a functionality test is performed.

5. FISHING LOG AUDIT

For vessels utilizing electronic monitoring systems all information recorded in the fishing vessel logbook is subject to verification by comparison to electronic fishing information collected. Fishers are expected to record accurately the all fishing information for each fishing event.

System Data Retrieval

Every 30 days the video and sensor data from the EM system will be removed from the EM system by the EM system service provider. For every thirty day period there will be an audit of the accuracy of the completed fishing log for each trip in the period. The audit uses the video and sensor data to confirm catch retention, disposition and the VMS output to confirm location of fishing. AMR is the designated service provider for the audit and will run a series of tests so that the following comparisons will be made:

- a) Fishing log reported releases compared to EM Video - to compare the observed releases against the fishing log record. Ten percent (10%) of all sets per trip (minimum 1 set) will be randomly selected for video review.
- b) Fishing log set start location, time, date and total number of fishing events compared to EM sensor data – to verify the accuracy of the logbook in relation to time, date and area of catch and number of fishing events.
- c) After the audit is complete, the logbook info, the DMP and audit adjustments together form the official trip record.

Audits that are not within acceptable range may result in the following:

- a) Letters identifying unsuccessful tests, requests for additional information to explain discrepancies, and a delay in receiving catch details;

- b) Additional time required to resolve and correct fishing trip data at additional cost to the vessel;
- c) Complete (100%) review of all EM imagery data at additional cost to the vessel; and
- d) Catch release weights assigned against the vessels groundfish trawl licence based on EM data rather or in addition to the fishers recorded logbook data.
- e) Requirement to take an at-sea observer.

6. EM PROGRAM REPORTING

The audit function of the program will result in the creation and delivery of various reports to the both vessel master/owner and to DFO.

Jointly to Vessel master/owner and DFO

- Logbook/EM Viewer Comparison report will be sent to vessel and DFO with next QSR following each data retrieval and processing of data. Each report will provide information on the accuracy of the fishing master to record information in comparison to imagery viewed. .

Sent bi-Weekly to DFO.

- At Sea Release Reports by category

DFO may at any time request additional info from the service provider to substantiate any abnormal activity. In Information collected thru the EM program may result in the additional catch being recorded against the groundfish trawl licence groundfish holdings.

7. GROUND FISH TRAWL FISHING LOG

All groundfish trawl licensed vessels are required to accurately record and keep a record of all fishing activities in a Fisheries and Oceans Canada supplied groundfish trawl fishing logbook. (See example below). Information recorded in the groundfish trawl on trips where the fishing master/vessel owners has opted to use electronic monitoring will be subject to verification by an audit program utilizing the information gathered by electronic means.

The fishing master must ensure that the fishing logbook is available for use, prior to fishing, and that sufficient pages are available to cover any fishing trip. Information must be recorded for each tow, immediately after completion of the tow. Completed original logbook pages must be submitted to the Department at the time of landing fish at the end of each trip.

It is the responsibility of the vessel owner or master to ensure that the Groundfish Trawl Fishing Logbook be completed fully and accurately

45

