



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

FISHERIES RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING

May 23, 2012, 10:00 A.M.

Regional District Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

REVISED AGENDA

	PAGE #
1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
2. <u>INTRODUCTIONS & ORIENTATION</u>	
a. History of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Fisheries Committee	EX 1-2
b. Draft Terms of Reference - Fisheries Resource Committee	EX 3-6
3. <u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES</u>	
a. Fisheries Resource Committee Meeting held June 22, 2011. <i>(adoption)</i>	1-6
4. <u>CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION</u>	
5. <u>REPORTS</u>	
a. Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Update – C. Atleo (Verbal)	
• NTC Fishing Right Negotiation & Legal Process	
• PST Mitigation	
b. West Coast Aquatic Update – A. Day (Verbal)	
• Economic Development Initiative under the Mitigation Program	
c. Department of Fisheries & Oceans Update – B. Shaw (Verbal)	
• Changes to Halibut Allocation	
• Overview of Salmon Fishery for the year	
• Overview of Hake Fishery for the year	
d. Ministry of Environment, Fisheries Update – D. Chalmers	
• British Columbia's Seafood Policy Discussion Paper	7-28
e. Somass Basin Water Management Plan & Study Update – R. Gunn	29-30
f. Nahmint Enhancement Team (NET) Team Charter – R. Gunn	EX 7-10

- g. Minutes from the Barkley Wild Salmon Working Group Meeting, April 27, 2012 – P. Cote **EX 11-16**

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

7. **ADJOURN**

A History of the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District Fisheries Committee

In the 1990's the Economic Development Commission operated two resource committees, Fisheries and Forestry. The Fisheries Committee was started in response to the need to establish, and later protect, the on-shore hake processing industry; it also took an active part in promoting other regional fish and shell fish aquaculture opportunities.

This Committee continues to operate as a committee of the Regional District and has concentrated on the economic and regional development aspects of the fishing and aquaculture industries. It has continued to be engaged with hake processing, has recently made particular efforts on behalf of the Area G troll fleet and the impacts on them of changes in the Pacific Salmon Treaty. It has attempted to influence Ottawa on a range of issues e.g. halibut allocations and the disposition of newly hired aquaculture staff. Often these efforts have been in concert with NTC Fisheries or West Coast Aquatic and others on a number of initiatives and planning processes.

The Committee has also been a convenient forum for other levels of government to consult on fisheries issues or when they require input from the region; the Committee has worked closely with other coastal communities on items of mutual concern.

At present Directors or RD Staff represent the Committee on the following Boards or processes:

- West Coast Aquatic – Director Bennett (report from Andrew Day on Agenda)
- Barkley Salmon Working Group – Director Cote (see recent Minutes attached)
- Hake Allocation Committee –
- Somass Basin Water Management Planning – staff and Directors Cote and Wong (see attachment)
- Barkley Sound Round Table – commercial salmon allocation
- Nahmint Enhancement Team – chinook stock restoration to a critical habitat (see attachment)



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

Terms of Reference Fisheries Resource Committee

Introduction

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District has formed the Fisheries Resource Committee to support the socio economic efforts and concerns of regional communities in the commercial, sports and First Nation fishing and aquaculture industries.

Objective

The marine resources industry on the West Coast of Vancouver Island have cultural, economic and recreation importance to a considerable number of residents of the region and play an important part in tourism and related services. The objective of the Fisheries Resource Committee is to protect the marine resource industry in the Alberni-Clayoquot Region.

Scope of Work

The Committee will endeavor to confine its activities to:

- a. Addressing local and coastal issues of an economic, environmental and/or social nature related to fishing, fish processing and aquaculture and providing support for local initiatives in these areas.
- b. Support can take many forms i.e.; making representation to other levels of government, encouraging visits (e.g. from Ministers of the Crown), preparation and commissioning of submissions to address policy or concerns etc.
- c. Seek representation on appropriate committees and regional processes of a fisheries nature e.g. Area 24 Harvest Round Table, in order to speak for the economic interests of the region.

- d. The Committee will attempt to avoid taking sides on issues of allocation, disputes between gear types and issues of a scientific and allowable catch type.

Membership

Members will be appointed to the Committee by the Directors of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District at the first Board meeting in January of each year, and a Chair shall be appointed.

Representation on the Committee includes:

- Regional District Directors appointed by the Board of Directors;
- One member nominated from the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council;
- One member nominated from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
- One member nominated from the Aquatic Management Board; and,
- One member nominated from the Ministry of Environment.

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members – The ACRD CAO or his/her designate and the Committee Consultant.

Meeting Procedures

The meetings of the Fisheries Resource Committee shall be at the call of the Chairperson.

A majority of the Committee members shall represent a quorum, one of whom must be a Director of the Regional District Board.

Meetings of the Fisheries Resource Committee shall be conducted and held in accordance with the Regional District's Procedures Bylaw.

The Regional District's secretarial staff will provide support to the Committee including preparing agendas, recording minutes of all meetings and ensuring

Committee agendas, minutes etc. are forwarded electronically for circulation to all members.

The Committee Consultant will provide advice and professional assistance to the Committee including writing letters and preparing reports to the Committee and ACRD Board.

Reporting to the Board

Recommendations of the Committee must be adopted by the Committee by motion prior to presentation to the Regional District Board.

The Committee will provide a status report to the Regional District Board annually.

The Regional District Directors on the Committee will report to the Board on the activities of the Fisheries Resource Committee.

Approved by the ACRD Board:

Nahmint Enhancement Team (NET) Team Charter

Introduction

This historically famous salmon run is now recognized as a stock of concern by DFO. The sustainability of the Nahmint Chinook stock is an important consideration in the management of the salmon fisheries in Alberni Inlet.

Over the last 10 years Nahmint Chinook have averaged an escapement of 300 adults. Much of the production has been maintained through enhancement. Low marine survival in recent years has greatly impacted the sustainability of this stock. Three of the more recent return years (i.e. 2000, 2001 and 2005) have been weak, ranging from 212 to 68. These weak returns have made it difficult to capture the required broodstock for re-building. Other re-building efforts involve boundary closures to limit exploitation in local fisheries and possible freshwater habitat improvements to increase natural productivity.

The successful re-building of Nahmint Chinook to a sustainable level is important to the many people in the local area that understand the role salmon plays in their economic and cultural well-being.

Purpose:

The purpose of establishing the Nahmint Enhancement Team (NET) is to bring a broad range of interests together to in a collaborative manner to rebuild and restore the Nahmint River Chinook salmon stocks to a sustainable population size.

Vision:

To rebuild the Nahmint Chinook salmon stocks to sustain fisheries and enable escapement of at least 1500 spawners, while maintaining natural population characteristics.

Proposed Objectives:

- Work as a multi-interest team to review and provide updates on the status of Nahmint River Chinook salmon stocks.
- Based on current information provide strategic advice to DFO managers on how best to rebuild Nahmint Chinook stocks.
- Identify research/information gaps and provide advice to DFO managers and to public and other interest groups on possible science investigations to address the gaps.
- Review proposed enhancement and juvenile release strategies and provide advice and input to the annual DFO production planning process.
- Review and assess ecosystem/watershed habitat limitations of the watershed and provide advice on possible habitat improvement projects.

Proposed Roles and Responsibilities:

The NET will recognize the shared interest for rebuilding Nahmint River Chinook salmon stocks and will be guided by the following principles:

- An ecosystem/watershed approach will be taken
- **Collaboration:** working together with all appropriate parties.
- **Commitment:** committing to processes and deliverables.
- **Transparency:** the processes used will be open and transparent.
- **Efficiency:** the process will respect and strengthen existing processes and avoid creating overlap and duplication in facilitating cooperation and collaboration with respect to oceans management.
- **Consensus:** the process will adopt a consensus approach for providing strategic advice and recommendations.

Participants on the Nahmint Enhancement Team are encouraged to:

- Openly provide information on their interests and the activities of the constituents they represent with respect to Nahmint Chinook
- actively participate in discussions
- share airtime with others
- offer respect for different viewpoints and attention when others are speaking
- ask questions for clarification and mutual understanding
- verify assumptions
- deal with differences as issues to be discussed, not positions to be defended
- make a best faith effort to work toward an agreement at the table
- wherever possible ensure that agreements developed are acceptable to the organizations, agencies or constituents that you represent
- maintain dialogue with your constituency regarding the activities and discussions of the Nahmint Enhancement Team
- refer media contacts regarding the activities of the Team to the Chair.

Geographic Scope:

Nahmint River watershed, but with an overarching objective to integrate activities within a broader region

Meetings:

Minimum two per year, or as required.

Membership:

- Sport Fish Advisory Board (1 rep)
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2 reps; 1 hatchery rep + one other)
Note: Additional DFO reps would attend as required to inform and support effective discussion on agenda items.
- West Coast Vancouver Island Aquatic Management Board (1)
- Alberni Clayoquot Regional District Fisheries Committee (1)
- Yucluth First Nation (2)
- Omega Pacific (1)
- Alberni Valley Enhancement Association (1)
- Province of BC (1): to be provided information following meetings
- Others as may be agreed from time to time

The core membership may be expanded as required, through agreement of the NET in response to emerging priorities.

Leadership:

Co-chairs: Sport Fish Advisory Board rep and Yucluth First Nation.

MINUTES

Barkley Wild Salmon Working Group

April 27, 2012
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Working Group Members					
Tseshah	Andy Olsen	P	Hupacasath	Steven Tatoosh	P
Huu-ay-aht	Stefan Ochman	A	Toquaht	Noah Plonka	A
Yuulu?if?ath	Trevor Jones		Gently Down the Creek	Darrin Olson	A
Uchucklesaht			Uu-a-thluk	Jim Lane	P
Uu-a-thluk	Sabrina Crowley	P	Biologist	Mike Wright	A
City of Port Alberni	Pat Deakin	A	DFO Stock Assessment	Isobel Pearsall	P
City of Ucluelet	Bill Irving	A	Thornton Hatchery	Ritchie Smith	A
ACRD	Penny Cote	P	AVEA	Jake Leyenaar	P
AVEA	Rick Avis	P	AVEA	Phil Edgell	P
Sports fishing	Bob Cole	P	Omega	Carol Schmidt	P
Shannon Hatchery	Dan Shannon	P	School District 70	Mike Ruttan	A
Gillnet	Paul Kershaw	A	Watershed Watch	Craig Orr	A
Rec Fishing	Ron Creber	A	Seine	Chris Cue	A
Ultimate Fishing Town	Carolyn Jasken	P	Seine	Chris Ashton	A
Gillnet	Ryan Mceachern	A	Ucluelet Aquarium	David Hurwitz	A
Biologist	Dave Clough	A	Nitnaht Hatchery	Rob Brouwer	P
Yuulu?if?ath	Tad Williams	P	Port Alberni	Ken McCrae	P
DFO Community Advisor	Barry Cordocedo	A	DFO Restoration	Margaret Wright	
Guests: Wilf Luedke, DFO Stock assessment, Kevin Head, WCA, Al Lill,- absent LRT, Diana Dobson, DFO Stock assessment.					
Time	Item				
10:00 – 10:05	Welcome and introductions Approval of minutes – approved by Penny, seconded by Dan Workplan review – reviewed by Sheena – added as attachment to minutes.				
10:05 – 10:30	Updates on Action Items				

where funding is applicable.

New Items

- Pit tagging report – Phil Edgell – options for pit tagging email – Phil – ties in with climate change process. Wilf – pit tagging to understand timing of stocks. Better run timing curves would adjust management. Benefit to pit tagging but expensive – five year range. Need year where the conditions are different than last year. On hold for this year due to weather conditions. Carol – can we add lakes to this project? Wilf – would be a different kind of tag. This is a different project and can be looked at further.

- IFMP – Carol Schmidt – public meetings for upcoming production. Coho cutback repercussion for harvesting. Wilf – meeting in March with Barry Cordocedo, Steve Emmonds, Rob Brouwer. This group should be contributing to IFMP and production plan. Summary of the Fisheries roundtable is in IFMP. Phil asking for clarity regarding IFMP. Group provides process for these activities to take place. Funding is a serious consideration. Carol has stated she has fed into the process. Two nations have had the hatchery agree to raise the extra eggs for their cost. Wilf discussed Laroque decision – goes into general revenue. Money has been used to purchase items, not raise fish. In kind donation to make things work. **Action Item: IFMP**

- Ash – Dan Shannon – two major barricades – latterman and Dixon, as well as Elsie Dam. Discussion regarding historical salmon presence. Jim Lane reporting on Hupacasath involvement with this project. Building case with BC Hydro, province and historical information. Ongoing involvement.

- Wild BC – Sheena Falconer (HCTF seed money)- report on school funding and potential for grant.

- Atlas Verification – Kevin Head – Conor spoke about draft marine atlas and asking for verifiers. Jake spoke about the information at AVEA. Base data for streams.

- McLean Mill dam overtopping – Jake – blowout last fall and deposited a few tons of substance into creek. Annihilating spawning habitat. Smolt migration count being affected. City and McLean mill need to work on procedures. Cherry creek trap not working. Longest period of high water.

Discussion Items

- Henderson productivity – Uchucklesaht/Uu-a-thluk – brainstorming

	<p>workshop with expertise in different ways to increase productivity, particularly sockeye. Want Uu-a-thluk to organize. Put ideas out what would be possible. Will use template format. Bring back to this table for people to look at. Broader view of what is possible. Look at other watersheds such as Kennedy, Dididaht, etc. Small technical group. Fertilization, hatchery, etc. Wilf – fisheries roundtable. Create plan to increase productivity. BC Conservation involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watershed Plan for Somass – Al Lill – report from email sent by Al Lill regarding summary and compilation. Wilf would like to have an open house at counters at Stamp Falls – bigger and has cameras. Uses facial recognition to count fish. Water mill could provide power for lighting. Can provide water temperature. Will result in less staffing. Interpretation centre funded by Economic development Trust. Carolyn Jasken has money from Ultimate fishing town. Rick Avis put in kiosk out there – additional signage could be put in. Carol – what is the maximum number of fish that go through with lighting – if fish are being backed up. Action Item – BBQ and open house. - Fisheries Roundtable update – new management plan for sockeye. Counter would be a good celebration for the amount of work that has been done by the fisheries roundtable group. They figured out how to manage the fishery. Area where seines will not fish – from China Creek to Hawking. Who goes fishing, when and where. Decision rules have been developed. Dealt with preseason, mid season and end season fisheries. Harvesters have agreed to specific escapement goals. Numbers are more important rather than size of fish. Increased harvest rates – fewer fish going up by about 10 percent. Created stability in the fisheries. Management table down to decision rules. Summary of plan in IFMP. Plan is 100 pages long – gets into science of the fish at each different level. Part of the production side is the economic benefits coming through the fishery. Would like half a day on counting system and fishing plan.
<p>11:20 – 12:00</p>	<p>DFO Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Escapement goals – reduced escapement goals for next five years. Will be shown as a precautionary approach. Nitrogen levels in lake not explored. Growth rate of juveniles. Fisheries harvest roundtable meeting on Monday. Final draft approval. Monday morning will be sockeye, Chinook will be afternoon. Stamp might be down. Draft will be presented to Marine Stewardship Council on May 14. Do you have an agreed fishing plan? Not considering lake fishing at this point. Proceeding with extreme caution. - Didymo – Wilf provided review of didymo and asked for representatives from area to sit on provincial board. - Template Review – Isobel – clarified reason for using template and

12:00 – 12:30	Lunch
12:30 – 1:15	Terms of Reference for Working group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision making process - Bob Cole- consensus works well. Jim Lane – ranking and consensus.. Results in clear and transparent decision making. Ken McRae – like consensus. Carol Schmidt – worried that DFO might veto. Bob Cole – consensus was ruled by majority rules. Action: write up consensus model for next meeting.
1:15 – 1:55	Project Updates and Funding Discussion – additional projects to be included – identified project leads. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short and Long Term Goals
1:55 – 2:00	Action Items, Next meeting date, wrap up and adjournment. Next meeting date May 25 10 - 2

Action Item 1

Stamp Falls bank report – Bob Cole

Action Item 2

Climate change speaker – Rick Avis/Penny Cote

Action Item 3

OCP - Sheena will look at other communities and see if there is a statement that can be provided - Sheena

Action Item 4

OCP - Jim Lane has documents on disks and will copy them and give to Sheena and Penny - Jim

Action Item 5

Education talks – compile a list for the next meeting and dates will be set – Sheena/Rick/Penny

Action Item 6

IFMP Consultation with group for next year – all

Action Item 7

Information regarding Barbecue and open house at Stamp Falls – May 14 – Wilf

Action Item 8

Didymo representatives to be contacted for provincial table – Sheena/Wilf

Action Item 9

Send out contact information to project groups – Sheena

Action Item 10

Write up consensus decision making model for next meeting for inclusion in Draft Terms of Reference - Sheena

Action Item 11

Groups to work on project templates – all