



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL FISHERIES RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

Regional District Downstairs Meeting Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

- DIRECTORS** Bill Irving, Chairperson, Mayor, District of Ucluelet
- PRESENT:** Tony Bennett, Director, Electoral Area "C" (Long Beach)
Penny Cote, Director, Electoral Area "D" (Sproat Lake)
Sheena Falconer, West Coast Aquatic
Dennis Chalmers, Province of BC
Bill Shaw, DFO, South Coast Division
- GUEST:** Mr. Wilk Luedke, South Coast Area Director, Stock Assessment,
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- REGRETS:** Perry Schmunk, Mayor, District of Tofino
Glenn Wong, Director, Electoral Area "F" (Cherry Creek)
John Jack, Councillor, Huu-ay-aht First Nation
Don Hall, Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council
- STAFF PRESENT:** Robert Gunn, Contractor
Tracy Bond, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- a. Regional Fisheries Resource Committee Meeting – June 27, 2012

MOVED: Director Cote

SECONDED: Director Irving

THAT the minutes of the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee held on June 27, 2012 be adopted.

CARRIED

3. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- a. Mr. Wilf Luedke, South Coast Area Director, Stock Assessment, Department of Fisheries and Oceans to provide an update on the salmon stocks in the Somass Basin and the threats faced by salmon in the system.

MOVED: Director Irving

SECONDED: Director Cote

THAT Mr. Wilf Luedke be invited to address the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee.

CARRIED

- b. Mr. Luedke advised he would be presenting information regarding a proposed Barclay Sound Wild Salmon Policy Pilot. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans would like to partner with the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and others in continuing the work begun earlier this year on the Barclay Sound Wild Salmon Policy Pilot. The Department has partnered with the Cowichan Valley Regional District on a similar project that considers the importance of salmon in the ecosystem and the importance of a healthy ecosystem for salmon. The Department would like to work with the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District in creating a report to assess the steps needed to restore and maintain a healthy and diverse salmon population and their habitats. Our area hatcheries are healthy but the fish are not doing well once they leave. Work needs to be done with dykes, estuaries etc. The policy pilot process would include gathering background information, working with West Coast Aquatic and other groups, looking at the objectives, status, trends, issues, and high risk factors, development of recommendations and reports, and the development of strategic plans for each river system and informing of other jurisdictions. Perhaps West Coast Aquatic could be asked to develop the deliverable. DFO continues to work on habitat status reports for Sarita, Somass, Nahmint and Henderson and risk assessments. Risk assessments should be complete for all systems by the summer of 2013.
- c. The Committee discussed the McLean Mill dam issue. It is at a critical point. There is no money and gravel is coming down the hill and the ladders are filled. Mr. Luedke advised that this is a Stewardship issue and while DFO can provide support there are no dollars attached.
- d. *MOVED: Director Cote*
SECONDED: Director Bennett

THAT the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional Fisheries Resource Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors support of the following 3 issues at the Ministerial and Staff meetings requested at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention:

- i Request to Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources that a funding portion of BC Timber revenue be allocated for ecosystem and watershed restoration, protection, education and stewardship programs and activities.*

- ii. *Request to Ministry of Environment to move forward the ecosystem restoration within the Living Water Smart Policy in the Water Sustainability Act by restoring funding levels to Living Rivers.*
- iii. *Request to Ministry of Environment for improved response in the control of invasive species by increasing funding for supervision and training in management of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.*

CARRIED

- e. Director Cote left the meeting at 11:07 am.

4. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION

- a. Correspondence dated July 27, 2012 from the Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister, Department of Fisheries and Oceans regarding the Pacific Recreational Halibut Fishery and Correspondence dated August 14, 2012 regarding the WCVI Area G Troll Fleet Sockeye Salmon Access and the PST Mitigation Fund.

MOVED: Director Bennett

SECONDED: Director Irving

THAT this correspondence be received.

CARRIED

MOVED: Director Bennett

SECONDED: Director Irving

THAT the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional Fisheries Resource Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors to send a letter to the Minister of Fisheries regarding the PST Mitigation Fund advising that the subsequent rounds of licence retirements are excessive and the review should be completed by the end of 2012 and further the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District would like to provide comments on the planned review and also ask the Minister who is conducting the Terms of Reference for the Allocation Review and that we are provided an opportunity to make comment.

CARRIED

MOVED: Director Irving

SECONDED: Director Bennett

THAT the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional Fisheries Resource Committee send a letter to Mr. Andy Thomas, Area Director, South Coast Division, Fisheries and Oceans requesting a meeting with the Committee at either an upcoming Fisheries

Committee meeting or in Nanaimo to inform him of the work of the Committee and to discuss areas of mutual concern.

CARRIED

5. REPORTS

a. Department of Fisheries and Oceans Update

B. Shaw advised that the Halibut Recreational Fishery closed on September 9th. The Commercial Fishery will close on November 7th. Tough decisions will have to be made this Fall in regards to the Halibut fishery for 2013. Approximately 800,000 Somass Sockeye are expected to return in 2012. The escapement target for this run is 366,667, giving an expected surplus of 433,333 Sockeye available for catch. River temperatures are moderately high at the Great Central Dam and the Sproat River fishway. Flow throughout the Somass system is moderately high for this time of year and migration does not appear to be impeded. Approximately 34,000 Somass Chinook are forecast to return to Barkley Sound and Alberni Inlet in 2012. About 10,000 Somass Chinook are available for harvest in the 'terminal fishery' from Alberni Inlet seaward to Barkley Sound. Approximately 530,000 chum are forecast to return to South West Vancouver Island in 2012 (62,000 to Area 23). While this forecast is below long-term averages, some modest harvest opportunities may be expected. Between 25,000 and 35,000 Somass Coho are expected to return in 2012. The forecast survival rate for the 2009 brood year (2011 ea entry) is somewhat below the long-term average for West Coast Vancouver Island Coho. DFO has issued a licence for a Hag Fish experimental fishery to begin sometime in January 2013 for 2 boats.

b. Province of British Columbia Update

D. Chalmers advised that BC has a new Minister of Agriculture. The Honourable Norm Letnick was appointed Minister of Agriculture on September 5th. The Hake fishery is poor this season. Only 16,000 tons or 35% of the TAC have been caught so far and because the fish are spread over a large area the catch is difficult. It is doubtful the TAC will be made or even the carry-over. There are only 3 processing vessels off-shore and they are not impacting the shore-based fishery.

MOVED: Director Bennett

SECONDED: Director Irving

THAT the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee receives the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Update and Province of British Columbia Update Report.

CARRIED

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. R. Gunn presented the Draft Region Wide Fisheries Resource Database. Further information to be gathered will focus on economic benefits derived from each sector (payrolls, sales etc.) to the extent they can be determined. A second draft will be presented at the next scheduled Fisheries Resource Committee meeting.
- b. R. Gunn presented the Draft Community Allocation to the Committee. This resulted in a discussion regarding requesting the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to broaden their Fisheries Act to allow using fish to finance scientific and fisheries management activities.

MOVED: Director Bennett

SECONDED: Director Irving

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee send a letter to the Minister of Fisheries requesting that the language in Clause 10.1 of the Revised Fisheries Act be broadened to allow use of fish for financing restoration and enhancement activities.

CARRIED

7. NEXT MEETING

- a. There was a discussion regarding the timing of the Fisheries Committee meetings. It was decided that meetings should not take place on the Board of Directors meeting day. There is not enough time for the information presented at the meeting to be effectively discussed. The next meeting of the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee will be at the Call of the Chair.

8. ADJOURN

MOVED: Irving

SECONDED: Bennett

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 12:25 pm.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Bill Irving,
Chairperson