



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

FISHERIES RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2013, 1:00 PM

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

AGENDA

	PAGE #
1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
2. <u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u> <i>(motion to approve, including late items requires 2/3 majority vote)</i>	
3. <u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES</u>	
a. Fisheries Resource Committee Meeting held September 12, 2012	3-7
<i>THAT the minutes of the Fisheries Resource Committee meeting held on September 12, 2012 be received.</i>	
4. <u>PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS</u>	
a. Mr. Andrew Thomson, Area Director, South Coast Division, Fisheries and Oceans Canada regarding areas of mutual concern.	
5. <u>CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION</u>	
a. Correspondence between the Minister of Fisheries and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District regarding the Area G. Toll Fleet and the Pacific Salmon Treaty Mitigation Fund.	8-12
<i>THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee receives this correspondence.</i>	
b. Correspondence between the Minister of Fisheries and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District regarding Regulations with regard to Clause 10.1 of the Revised Fisheries Act.	13-14
<i>THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee receives this correspondence.</i>	
6. <u>REPORTS</u>	
a. Department of Fisheries & Oceans Update – B. Shaw (Verbal)	
b. Ministry of Environment, Fisheries Update – D. Chalmers (Verbal)	
c. Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Update – D. Hall (Verbal)	
d. West Coast Aquatic Update – A. Day (Verbal)	
e. Pacific Salmon Treaty Mitigation Funds – Next Steps - A. Day (Verbal)	

- f. West Coast Local Issues – B. Irving/T. Bennett/J. Osborne (Verbal)
- g. Alberni Valley Local Issues – P. Cote/J. Jack/L. Price (Verbal)

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Region Wide Fisheries Resource Database (2nd Draft) – R. Gunn
(to be circulated at meeting)

8. ADJOURN



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, Nuu-chah-nulth 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



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

DEC 31 2012

RECEIVED

JAN - 8 2013

Acting Chair
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
3008 Fifth Avenue
Port Alberni, British Columbia
V9Y 2E3

Dear Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Acting Chair:

This is in response to the late Mr. Glenn Wong's correspondence of September 19, 2012, regarding the Area G troll fleet and the Pacific Salmon Treaty mitigation fund.

As described in my previous correspondence, which I have enclosed for your reference, I remain committed to the implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty Voluntary Troll Licence Retirement Program. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) continues to implement the retirement process. This will take time, as multiple opportunities to apply are provided with a review of the process planned for December 2013.

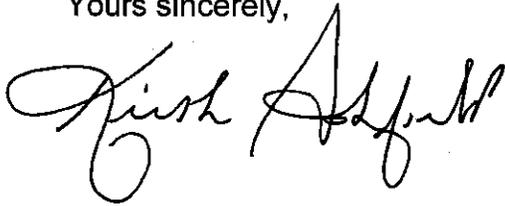
Regarding the District's concerns about fair market value for commercial troll licences, an independent access relinquishment team provides advice to DFO on values of salmon troll licence eligibilities. Licences offered for retirement are evaluated based on assessment of fair market value. To ensure a fair process, the Department has not released information on the value of individual troll licences retired. The Nelson Brothers Fisheries report entitled *West Coast Fishing Fleet: Analysis of Commercial Fishing Licence, Quota and Vessel Values* (March 31, 2011), an independent source of information on the valuation of salmon troll licences, indicates that average values have varied substantially over the last six years, ranging from \$70,000 to \$145,000. The Nelson Brothers report is available on DFO's website at < www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/344873.pdf >.

.../2

Prospects for the Area G fishery are based on natural resource fluctuations and, as such, harvest levels can vary substantially from year to year based on chinook abundance. Licence retirement is anticipated to provide a more economically viable fishery for the remaining commercial salmon troll fishery participants. Further, the mitigation program and the renewed chapters of the Pacific Salmon Treaty reflect Canada's commitment to a sustainable fishery in British Columbia.

I trust that my response has helped address the District's concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Ashfield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and "A".

Keith Ashfield

Attachment



AUG 14 2012

Mr. Glenn Wong
Chair
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
3008 Fifth Avenue
Port Alberni, British Columbia
V9Y 2E3

Dear Mr. Wong:

Thank you for your correspondence received on June 20 and June 26, 2012, regarding the West Coast Vancouver Island (WCVI) Area G troll fleet sockeye salmon access and the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) Mitigation Fund.

I understand your concern about reduced access to fishing opportunities. As you are aware, an approximately \$30 million mitigation strategy, including a commercial troll licence retirement program, was launched to help commercial fish harvesters and coastal communities manage the recent reduction in the total allowable harvest of chinook off the West Coast Vancouver Island under the PST. More information on the Pacific Salmon Treaty Voluntary Troll Licence Retirement Program can be found online at < www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/npress-communique/2011/np-pr10-eng.htm >.

The first and second rounds of the licence retirement program are over. In the first round, a total of six Area G licence eligibilities were retired as a result. The second round was open to all troll licence holders and a total of 62 retirement applications were submitted. The Department has made offers to retire 25 salmon troll licence eligibilities from Areas F, G and H. Area G commercial troll licence holders continue to be eligible to participate and the total number of Area G licences retired after the two rounds is now 14 licences.

Applications for round 3 of the licence retirement program were mailed to all commercial troll licence eligibility holders on June 15, 2012, with an application deadline of July 31, 2012. Subsequent retirement rounds are anticipated to occur in September and December of 2012, and in March, June, September and December of 2013, subject to remaining funds and other considerations. A review will take place after the round in December 2013.

.../2

Regarding your suggestion to increase the Area G access to Fraser sockeye in the event of a large return of Fraser River sockeye salmon on the WCVI, the Department works with the Commercial Salmon Advisory Board to develop allocation arrangements between each of the commercial salmon fleets, including Area G.

Harvest committee representatives from all of the commercial salmon fleets, including Area G, negotiate salmon shares for all of the fleets each year based on expected harvests and consistent with the Allocation Policy arrangements. Area G harvest committee members have received a share of Fraser River sockeye in some years and not others consistent with Allocation Policy guidelines. Commercial advisors, including those in Area G, have expressed concerns with the current commercial allocation framework and the mitigation strategy includes an initiative to modernize the Department's commercial salmon allocation framework.

Finally, you raise concerns about recreational access to chinook salmon on the WCVI. The Department's approach for allocating chinook on the WCVI has not changed. The harvest sharing arrangements between First Nations, recreational and commercial harvesters on the WCVI continue to be made consistent with the *Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon*. After conservation and First Nations' food, social and ceremonial fishery requirements, the Allocation Policy provides priority access for chinook for recreational harvesters followed by the commercial fishery, where abundance permits. The Area G allocation is calculated by subtracting the anticipated First Nations and recreational catches from the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the WCVI aggregate abundance based management fisheries.

Recreational harvests vary from year to year depending on chinook abundance. In recent years, the Department has set aside 50,000 to 60,000 chinook for recreational harvests. In years when the overall abundance is low, there is less remaining for harvest by Area G. Conversely, in years of higher abundance, the share available to Area G will increase relative to the other sectors. Further adjustments to the available TAC for Area G are also made in September, based on updated harvest estimates in recreational or First Nations fisheries.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,



Keith Ashfield



September 19, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Minister:

Re: Area G Troll Fleet and the Pacific Salmon Treaty Mitigation Fund

Thank you for your reply of August 14 to our letter on the above issue. We are still of the opinion that the Area G licence holders are being particularly ill served by the process the Department has adopted. With respect, we would like to remind you of the following:

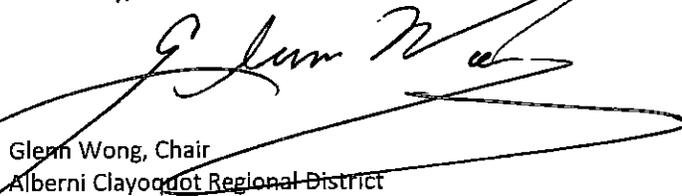
1. The Department is effectively the only buyer of licences, and currently has several buy back processes in place.
2. It is clear that the licence price has been set at a maximum of \$110,000, although the free market value prior to the changes in the Treaty was closer to \$150,000.
3. The impacted group of Area G vessel owners are mostly at, or close to, retirement age with a vessel and licence that could reasonably be expected to make up a good portion of their retirement nest egg.
4. Prices for ex-troll vessels have fallen dramatically – perhaps by as much as two thirds.
5. This is now the 4th year that incomes have been significantly reduced for the Area G troll fleet.

We ask that a one-time only fair offer, that is to say for more than \$110,000 be made to the remaining Area G fleet, which as we keep reminding you have borne the major impact of the changes, rather than continuing this on-going approach of retirement by exhaustion.

In addition, we feel that in view of the slow pace of uptake and the funds available, that additional funds should be made available to assist the impacted communities with those economic development wealth generating initiatives, which they have outlined. The troll fleet was an important part of the economic and social fabric of these communities and their loss has had economic impacts wider than the immediately effected individuals.

Perhaps these issues could be included in your planned review, which in our opinion should be conducted early in 2013, not after the final round in December 2013.

Yours truly,



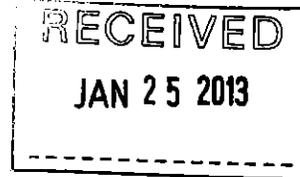
Glenn Wong, Chair
Alberni Clayoquot Regional District

Cc Dr James Lunney M.P.
Cc Susan Farlinger, RDG Pacific Region
Cc Kathy Scarvo, Area G Trollers



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

JAN 21 2013



Ms. Cindy Solda
Vice-Chairperson
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
3008 Fifth Avenue
Port Alberni, British Columbia
V9Y 2E3

Dear Ms. Solda:

Thank you for your correspondence of October 11, 2012, providing your views on the revised Section 10 of the *Fisheries Act* concerning the authority to use an allocation of fish for financing purposes.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is focused on transitioning projects currently funded through Larocque-relief to the new use-of-fish model for an interim year (2013/14), while a standardized, rigorous and transparent policy framework is developed to fully implement these authorities and allow for new collaborative projects. Further policy analysis is required to determine project and participant eligibility criteria, evaluatory mechanisms and approval processes.

Thank you for taking the time to provide your views.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Ashfield



October 11, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Minister:

Re: Regulations with regard to Clause 10.1 of the Revised *Fisheries Act*

We are pleased to learn that the recent passage of Bill-C38 has given you more flexibility in the use of fish for financing specific activities such as research and fishery management.

We are writing to encourage you to broaden the language and regulations around this provision. Let me give you an example from a West Coast perspective. As you are aware the Pacific salmon's fresh water phase, an important portion of their life cycle, can be heavily impacted by human decisions, particularly those around land use and habitat. In our area there is a significant need for support for restoration and enhancement activities. Use of fish may be required to address some of this need. We have in the Barkley Sound a large degree of cooperation between First Nations, sports and commercial user groups. There is consensus amongst commercial users in the Barkley Sound / Alberni Inlet sockeye fishery that a portion of their allocation should be used to ensure sustainability of the fishery and resulting economic prosperity for all. In other words use the proceeds of fish to increase the salmon production 'pie'. To this end commercial users are prepared to make catch effort available to assist in the financing of habit improvements, e.g. restoration of estuary marsh lands.

We respectfully urge you to include such activities in your definition of allowable activities under Section 10.1 "*financing scientific and fisheries management activities that are described in a joint project agreement entered into with any person or body, or any federal or provincial minister, department or agency.*"

Thank you for your consideration of this important West Coast matter.

Yours truly,

Cindy Solda, Vice- Chairperson
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District