



# Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

## FISHERIES RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING

**MAY 16, 2013, 10:00 AM**

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

### AGENDA

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- |   | PAGE #       |
|---|--------------|
| <b>1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u></b>  |              |
| <b>2. <u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u></b><br><i>(motion to approve, including late items requires 2/3 majority vote)</i>                                |              |
| <b>3. <u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES</u></b>  |              |
| a. <b>Fisheries Resource Committee Meeting held February 7, 2013</b>  | <b>3-10</b>  |
| <i>THAT the minutes of the Fisheries Resource Committee meeting held on February 7, 2013 be received.</i>   |              |
| <b>4. <u>PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS &amp; PRESENTATIONS</u></b>   |              |
| a. <b>Mr. Andrew Thomson, Area Director, South Coast Division, Fisheries and Oceans Canada regarding areas of mutual concern</b>                  |              |
| <i>THAT Mr. Andrew Thomson, Area Director, South Coast Division, Fisheries and Oceans Canada be invited to address the Committee.</i>             |              |
| <b>5. <u>CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION</u></b>  |              |
| a. <b>MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS</b>  | <b>11-13</b> |
| April 19, 2013 Response to January 29, 2013 Correspondence regarding the 2012 T'aaq-wiihak salmon demonstration fishery and upcoming 2013 season. |              |
| b. <b>ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL FISHERIES COMMITTEE</b>  | <b>14</b>    |
| April 10, 2013 Letter to Kathy Scarfo, Area G Troll Fleet regarding the Fisheries Committee offer of assistance.                                  |              |
| <i>THAT correspondence a-b be received.</i>   |              |
| <b>6. <u>REPORTS</u></b>  |              |
| a. <b>Department of Fisheries &amp; Oceans Update – B. Shaw (Verbal)</b>  |              |
| b. <b>Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Update – D. Hall (Verbal)</b>   |              |
| c. <b>West Coast Aquatic Update – A. Day (Verbal)</b>   |              |

- d. Area G Community PSI Mitigation – A. Day (Verbal)
- e. West Coast Local Issues – B. Irving/T. Bennett/J. Osborne (Verbal)
- f. Alberni Valley Local Issues – P. Cote, J. McLeman/J. Jack

*THAT the verbal reports a-f be received.*

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Region Wide Fisheries Resource Database (3<sup>rd</sup> Draft) - Handout

*THAT the Region Wide fisheries Resource Database (3<sup>rd</sup> Draft) be received.*

**8. ADJOURN**

*THAT this meeting be adjourned at*



# Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

## MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL FISHERIES RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 7, 2013

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

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**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Bill Irving, Chairperson, Mayor, District of Ucluelet  
Cindy Solda, Councillor, City of Port Alberni  
Josie Osborne, Mayor, District of Tofino  
Jack McLeman, Councillor, City of Port Alberni  
Tony Bennett, Director, Electoral Area "C" (Long Beach)  
Penny Cote, Director, Electoral Area "D" (Sproat Lake)  
Andrew Day, West Coast Aquatic Management  
Bill Shaw, DFO, South Coast Division  
Don Hall, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council  
Lyle Price, Alternate Director, Electoral Area "F" (Cherry Creek)

**REGRETS:** Dennis Chalmers, Ministry of the Environment  
John Jack, Councillor, Huu-ay-aht First Nation

**STAFF PRESENT:** Robert Gunn, Contractor  
Tracy Bond, Administrative Assistant

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*MOVED BY: Director McLeman*

*SECONDED: Director Solda*

*THAT the agenda be approved as circulated with the addition of late items as outlined for consideration. – Barkley Wild Salmon Working Group Minutes from January 25, 2013 meeting, - February 5, 2013 memo from Robert Gunn regarding Fishery issues to discuss with Mr. Andrew Thomson, Area Director, South Coast Division, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.*

**CARRIED**

### 3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

a. **Regional Fisheries Resource Committee Meeting – September 12, 2012.**

*MOVED: Director Bennett*

*SECONDED: Director Cote*

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*THAT the minutes of the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee held on September 12, 2012 be received.*

**CARRIED**

**5. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION**

- a. Correspondence between the Minister of Fisheries and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District dated December 31, 2012, September 19, 2012 and August 14, 2012 regarding the Area G Troll Fleet and the Pacific Salmon Treaty Mitigation Fund.

*MOVED: Director Bennett*

*SECONDED: Director Cote*

*THAT the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee receive this correspondence.*

**CARRIED**

*MOVED: Director Solda*

*SECONDED: Director Cote*

*THAT the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee send a letter of invitation to Area G Trollers representatives to meet with the Committee to discuss the next steps with regards to the Pacific Salmon Treaty Mitigation Fund and that a letter be drafted for the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors approval to the Minister of Fisheries thanking the Minister for his December 21, 2012 response on the Area G Troll Fleet and the Pacific Salmon Treaty Mitigation Funds but requesting a copy of the progress report on the buyback and asking for further dialogue for the balance of the funds.*

**CARRIED**

Bill Shaw, DFO abstained from the vote.

Andrew Day, West Coast Aquatic abstained from the vote.

- b. Correspondence between the Minister of Fisheries and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District dated January 21, 2013 and October 11, 2012 regarding Clause 10.1 of the Revised Fisheries Act.

*MOVED: Director Bennett*

*SECONDED: Director Cote*

*THAT the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee receive this correspondence.*

**CARRIED**

*MOVED: Director Bennett*

*SECONDED: Director Cote*

*THAT the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors that a letter be sent requesting that during the national consultation with stakeholders around Section 10.1 of the Fisheries Act, the use of Fish Allocation for Financing Purposes, that the need for west coast salmon habitat restoration and salmon enhancement be included as legitimate activities for the use of fish funds.*

**CARRIED**

## **6. REPORTS**

### **a. Pacific Salmon Treaty Update A. Day**

A. Day updated the Committee on the \$500,000.00 committed by the federal government to address impacts on WCVI communities associated with the PST Chinook Annex. West Coast Aquatic is to administer these funds and is working with DFO on a draft contribution agreement. A scoping study was completed last spring. The status of communities showed they were all in very different places and appropriate steps for these communities were identified. Next steps include the hiring of 2 economic development officers. West Coast Aquatic staff have recommended starting with 1 person and using the rest of money for specialists, but this subject to further discussion. Next steps include meeting with economic developers currently working to see what their jobs entail for information in the next round of hiring.

*MOVED: Director Solda*

*SECONDED: Director Bennett*

*THAT the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee receive the Pacific Salmon Treaty Update.*

**CARRIED**

### **b. Department of Fisheries & Oceans Update – B. Shaw**

B. Shaw reported that Area G remains open for Chinook. From October 1, 2012 to March 2013 the Chinook allocation is 10,000. As of February 5, 2013, 5,000 Chinook have been caught. There were 22 vessels fishing in November 2012, 32 vessels in December 2012, 90 vessels in January 2013 and 7 vessels so far in February.

The 2013 salmon outlook is currently being presented to stakeholders and the stakeholders review will be completed by the end of February. Somas Sockeye returns for 2013 are expected near target although lower than 2012. Westcoast Chinook returns this year are expected to be 25 - 45,000, about the same as last

year. Wild populations of Chinook are of concern. Populations have either been well below target and/or declining for several generations. Westcoast Coho return are looking good for 2013 but are still restricted by the Fraser Area 24 Chinook concerns. Chum returns in 2013 are expected to be below target for wild stocks, although hatchery surpluses may result in gillnet opportunities. The Barkley Sound forecast for Chum is 54,000. There will be a limited gillnet Fishery in Barkley Sound.

The Economic Opportunity First Nations agreement was signed last year and the fishery was viewed very positively. Minister Ashfield was here for the DFO office opening and was very pleased with the presentation at the round table. DFO is looking for a 4 multi-year agreement. DFO is anticipating a second agreement in April and is targeting for April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Halibut TAC regulations will be similar to 2012. March 15<sup>th</sup> is the anticipated 2012 opening. Fish larger than 60lbs are to be released as DFO is trying to have the fishery maintain itself until fall. The mortality rate of released fish is 4 per cent. DFO will be monitoring in high areas as much as possible- i.e. - Port Renfrew, but they are very short staffed.

*MOVED: Director Bennett*

*SECONDED: Director Osborne*

*THAT the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee receive the Department of Fisheries & Oceans verbal report.*

**CARRIED**

**c. Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Update – D. Hall**

D. Hall advised that there will be no commercial fisheries for the Herring Season. There has been a consistent decline of herring in the last few years and biologists have no idea why. Food & Ceremonial access for First Nations continues to be an on going issue. First Nations are not able to access the amount of fish needed with on-going population growth. Communities prefer home territory but in the past have been able to look to neighbours if supply is limited. DFO is becoming more and more restrictive with the granting of access to the fishing areas of neighboring nations, despite inter nation agreement. This is becoming very problematic and needs to be addressed.

D. Hall advised of an upcoming new issue the ceremonial harvest of sea otters. A management plan for a small number of sea otters has been approved by the First Nations and a request has gone to DFO for a licence for the purposes of ceremonial harvest. Prior to any harvest the Nuu-chah-nulth will reach out to area communities and try to communicate proactively to ensure no negative backlash. It is hoped this harvest will take place next winter but there is still much work to be done.

On Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup> a cross cultural workshop between First Nations and DFO took place. This was a very productive and positive day with cultural exchange. This workshop re-established relationships and First Nations would like to do this with other community groups.

The Ahousaht et al fishing case has been returned to the BC Court of Appeal and the expected 5 day hearing began during the week of February 11<sup>th</sup>.

*MOVED: Director Bennett*

*SECONDED: Director Osborne*

*THAT the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee receives the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council verbal report.*

**CARRIED**

**d. West Coast Aquatic Update – A. Day**

A. Day gave a brief overview of the origins of West Coast Aquatic. Fisheries are very important to this area, and this area is significant in BC – approximately thirty per cent of BC landed catch is in the WCVI area. There is a large knowledge base on fisheries and this area has shown considerable leadership. The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District is the only Regional District with a fisheries committee. West Coast Aquatic was born out of issues concerning our oceans and a desire to address these issues. A. Day advised the Committee that West Coast Aquatic addresses and focuses on planning and management issues. They continue to work towards economic stability in our region. West Coast Aquatic is proud of their accomplishments.

A. Day reported that Marine Spatial Planning for the Barkley and Clayoquot Sounds is a major focus of West Coast Aquatic. This matches the right activities to the right locations and looks at the bigger picture.

The Marine Atlas is now complete and available in digital format on the West Coast Aquatic website. West Coast Aquatic is looking at doing a healthy oceans demo site and looking at a knowledge and innovation centre. Partnerships will need to be put together.

West Coast Aquatic has received letters of endorsement from many organizations on the Coast Strategy which has been the main keystone initiative over the last few years. Support from the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District is very much appreciated.

*MOVED: Director Solda*

*SECONDED: Director Cote*

*THAT the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee receive the West Coast Aquatic verbal report.*

**CARRIED**

**e. Agenda Items to be Presented to Andrew Thomson – R. Gunn**

*MOVED: Director Bennett*

*SECONDED: Director Solda*

*THAT the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee receive R. Gunn's memorandum on agenda items for requested meeting with Andrew Thomson for discussion.*

**CARRIED**

The Committee reviewed and discussed Mr. Gunn's memo to the Committee on possible agenda items for a meeting with Mr. Andrew Thomson, Area Director, South Coast Division, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

The Fisheries Resource Committee would like to discuss possible community funding sources for enhancement and restoration concerns. Greater community involvement in local DFO decision making is important. Local government is a significant entity and should have a say on any advisories that impact our communities. Our communities have a lot of money tied to fisheries so regional involvement in DFO strategic and allocation advisory committees are paramount. The Federal Government has capped budgets and this has undermined the ability to move forward. Political choices are made and communities have no say. Questions to be asked include; is DFO looking only looking at traditional funding sources or are they going after new sources and are there other mechanisms to fund. The Committee would also like to let Mr. Thomson know that our communities are behind the Somass Basin issues. Past progress is also to be discussed.

**f. West Coast Local Issues**

B. Irving advised that a Harbour Authority Forum will take place in Nanaimo next week.

Pacific Rim 6 person advisory group to harbour authority –huge connection allocation, license decisions and local economic. The federal government is now doing a study on this. Although it took a while before they realized how important the local wharf and float infrastructure was to a community the size of Ucluelet. Both the commercial and sport fisheries are very important economically for west coast communities. DFO is moving away from the permit process.

*MOVED: Director*

*SECONDED: Director*

*THAT the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee receive the West Coast Local issues verbal report.*

**CARRIED**

**g. Alberni Valley Local Issues**

L. Price discussed the sockeye catch' in possession limits', which effectively restrict the number of fish a visitor can have in their possession, but does not impact a local in the same way. This can be seen as a disincentive for visitors to visit and can reduce length of stay.

*MOVED: Director Bennett*

*SECONDED: Director Cote*

*THAT the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee receive the Alberni Valley Local Issues verbal report and the Minutes of the Barkley Wild Salmon Working Group dated January 25, 2013.*

**CARRIED**

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a. Region Wide Fisheries Resource Database (2<sup>nd</sup> Draft) – R. Gunn**

Mr. Gunn presented the second draft of the Region Wide Fisheries Resource Database. Committee members are asked to review this document and advise Mr. Gunn of any additions members may wish. If any members have additional information please pass this information along to Mr. Gunn.

*MOVED: Director Bennett*

*SECONDED: Director Solda*

*THAT the Region Wide Fisheries Resource Database (2<sup>nd</sup> Draft) be received.*

**CARRIED**

**8. ADJOURN**

*MOVED: Director Price*

*SECONDED: Director Solda*

*THAT this meeting be adjourned at 4:10 pm.*

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:

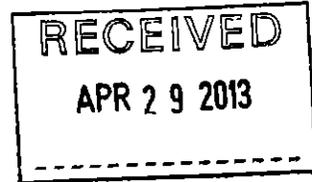
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Bill Irving,  
Chairperson



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

APR 19 2013



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

Dear Ms. Solda:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 29, 2013, regarding the 2012 T'aaq-wiihak salmon demonstration fishery and the upcoming 2013 season.

I appreciate hearing such positive feedback regarding the demonstration fishery, both in terms of what the fishery meant to your community last year and your observations on how the fishery was implemented.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada also felt that the collaborative relationship with the T'aaq-wiihak led to a well managed fishery in 2012. Discussions regarding the potential for a 2013 salmon demonstration fishery are on-going at this time.

Thank you again for writing to me and conveying your positive comments.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Ashfield



January 29, 2013

The Honourable Keith Ashfield  
Minister, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
200 Kent Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6

Dear Minister Ashfield:

Aboriginal, commercial, and recreational fisheries are an important part of the economy of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, contributing much needed employment and revenue generation to our local communities. In 2012, Fisheries and Oceans Canada worked with five Nuu-chah-nulth Nations on the west coast of Vancouver Island to develop a demonstration fishery for chinook salmon. This fishery was part of Canada's response to the Ahousaht et al. decision of the B.C. Supreme Court, upheld by the B.C. Court of Appeal. The five Nations are currently negotiating with regional DFO staff the parameters of a salmon demonstration fishery for 2013. The Directors of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District unanimously support the further development and expansion of the Nation's salmon fishery, including the commercial sale of species inevitably harvested as by-catch while trolling for chinook salmon.

Reports from DFO staff and the Nations support our community observations that the 2012 fishery was well managed. Excellent cooperation between DFO managers, Fisheries Officers, fishers and the Nation's management team resulted in a fishery that generated over 50 part-time, new jobs and about \$250,000 in landed revenue. Our Regional District Director's know from past positive experience with the aboriginal economic fishery on the Somass River that dollars earned by local fishers stay and multiply within our communities. A modest expansion of the Nation's fishery in 2013 for chinook, other salmon and groundfish fisheries open for commercial harvest will increase the positive economic benefits for the Nation's fishers, local fish processors, and the businesses supporting our marine fisheries in Tofino, Ucluelet, and Port Alberni. The Nation's fishery is also an attractive benefit to the thousands of tourists that visit Tofino every summer interested in supporting our local fishers through the direct purchase of seafood caught in our local waters.

We encourage you to instruct your staff to continue to develop and expand the Nation's fishery in 2013 to provide new and additional contributions to the marine resource economy of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District.

Yours truly,

Cindy N. Solda  
Chairperson

copy: The Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development  
Canada  
Dr. James Lunney, MP, Nanaimo-Alberni  
Mr. Randy Kamp, MP and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and  
Oceans  
Mr. Mathew King, Deputy Minister, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Mr. Scott Fraser, MLA, Alberni-Pacific Rim  
Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council and member Nations  
Ms. Sue Farlinger, Regional Director General, DFO Pacific Region  
Ms. Rebecca Reid, Director, Fisheries Management, DFO Pacific Region  
Ms. Sarah Murdoch, Director, Treaty and Aboriginal Policy Development, DFO Pacific  
Region



April 10, 2013

Ms. Kathy Scarfo  
491 Beaver Point  
Saltspring Island  
BC V8K 2J9

Dear Ms. Scarfo:

**Re: Further ACRD Assistance to Area G Troll Fleet**

I am in agreement with you that a plan needs to be developed for Area G for the post 'buy back process' before December so that as much time as possible is available to sell it to DFO.

As you know, over the years the Regional District has made several attempts to back up your efforts to divert DFO from their passionate commitment to using the PST Mitigation Funds to finance buy backs. It now appears that we have no ability to influence the direction Ottawa has chosen for the PST mitigation effort until the buy back process has run its course in December 2013. The basic point appears to be that it was ultimately a Treasury Board decision that allowed such a large proportion of the fund to be allocated to the buy backs. In view of this we will need to start pressing with a new approach once the final troll fleet numbers being tendered are known.

Is it Area G's intention to develop such a plan? If so can the RD Fisheries Committee assist you in any way? We accept your position that improved troll access to both WCVI Coho and any available sockeye would improve the fleet's viability; we have raised these with the Minister. His response makes it clear that neither he nor his staff will address this outside of the bigger allocation issues, and perhaps the Cohen inspired broad discussion due soon. Is it more useful for Area G to push for these two with the various salmon allocation processes that they are represented on?

We also wonder if there is merit in pushing for no extension of the buy back process after the December 2013 intake?

Obviously our interests, as WCVI communities, lie in maintaining what we can of the fleet and in finding ways to shore up the infrastructure and services they were so instrumental in supporting. To this end we will at some time be requesting additional budget for the community adjustment process, but given the speed of roll out it perhaps a little premature just now.

So in short we would be very interested in your views as to how we might be able to assist the Association in the development of a post buy back effort that assists existing and past members.

Yours truly,

Mayor Bill Irving, Chair  
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional Fisheries Resource Committee