



# Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

## MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL FISHERIES RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 23, 2014

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

---

**DIRECTORS** Bill Irving, Chairperson, Mayor, District of Ucluelet  
**PRESENT:** Tony Bennett, Director, Electoral Area "C" (Long Beach)  
Josie Osborne, Mayor, District of Tofino  
Cindy Solda, Councillor, City of Port Alberni  
Jack McLeman, Councillor, City of Port Alberni  
Penny Cote, Director, Electoral Area "D" (Sproat Lake)  
Andrew Day, West Coast Aquatic Management  
Dennis Chalmers, Province of BC

**REGRETS:** Don Hall, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council  
Bill Shaw, DFO, South Coast Division  
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 10:09 am.

**The Chair recognized the meeting this afternoon is being held in the Tseshaht First Nation and the Hupacasath First Nation Traditional Territories.**

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*MOVED BY: Director Bennett*

*SECONDED: Director Osborne*

*THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

### 3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

a. **Regional Fisheries Resource Committee Meeting – May 16, 2013.**

*MOVED: Director Solda*

*SECONDED: Director Bennett*

*THAT the minutes of the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee held on May 16, 2013 be received.*

**CARRIED**

#### **4. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

a. **Ms. Anna Johnston, West Coast Environmental Law, regarding Changes to Fisheries Law**

Ms. Johnston spoke regarding the key changes to the Federal Fisheries Act as a result of Bills C-38 and C-45. The amendments came in two stages, on June 29/12 some Bill C-38 changes came into force and in Nov. 25/13 the remaining Bill C-38 and Bill C-45 amendments came into force. The key changes included change of focus from the protection of all fish to the regulation of fisheries, reduced protection of fish habitat, eliminated protection of species that do not belong to or support a fishery, broadened Cabinet and Ministers' powers to allow pollution, harm to fish and destruction of fish habitat, allow for delegation of responsibilities to "prescribed persons", and the allowing of offloading of responsibility onto the provinces.

There was a question and answer session with Ms. Johnston and Ms. Johnston offered any assistance that the Committee may need. The Chair thanked Ms. Johnston for her attendance.

*MOVED: Bennett*

*SECONDED: Cote*

*THAT the Fisheries Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors that a letter to be sent to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Federal and Provincial Ministers of Environment and the Provincial Minister of Agriculture, regarding our questions about the amendments to the Fisheries Act contained in Bills C-38 and C-45 to divest responsibility for important aspects of fisheries management and fish protection to Environment Canada and the Provinces, and also requesting that DFO and the Province of BC Fisheries Committee representatives provide clarification and information on the transition process and just how they envision these new arrangements working.*

**CARRIED**

b. **Mr. Andrew Thomson, Area Director, South Coast Division, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, regarding Areas of Mutual Concern**

A. Thomson updated the Committee on various questions the Committee has requested answers on. 104 licences have been retired through the Pacific Salmon Treaty Program Troll Fleet Buy-Back program which is 19%, 43 licences retired from Area G. The end point of this program is 2018. DFO is looking for

30% TAC reduction of Chinook on the west coast over 10 years. A. Thomson is unsure what happens to any monies left after the buy-back program is over but he can check into this.

*MOVED: Bennett*

*SECONDED: Cote*

*THAT the Fisheries Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors that a letter be sent to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans requesting that she take into consideration the on-going needs of the remaining Area G troll fleet, and impacts on the communities of the West Coast as the buy-back reaches its termination; and asking that consideration be given to funds being re-directed to the fishery on the west coast and to the build-up of a licence bank for Westcoast Communities.*

**CARRIED**

**Progress with community representation on various fisheries advisory processes** - the groundfish advisory committee has seats available. A.

Thomson has been asked to advise the Regional Director General on this issue and has had conversations regarding how to add community representation on all appropriate bodies. The question of how to make changes to interface with local government is difficult, he is, however open to any ideas the region may have. Recommendations would have to be made to the Minister before any major changes could be made.

**On the future of the WCVI roe herring fishery** - the first stock assessment shows an up trend. A group of five First Nations has taken court action to stop the herring fishery and the injunction is still in place. There are two court actions pending. Mr. Thomson is not sure if any decisions will be made in time for 2015 season.

**Update on the 2013 hake season and the TAC for 2014** – the Canadian TAC for 2014 is 111,793 metric tonnes which compares with the 2013 TAC of 95,330 metric tonnes, the allocation for the joint venture is 25,000 metric tonnes. There has been 9,800 tonnes landed to date.

**The plan for area G trollers related to access to Fraser River sockeye** – area G has been allocated ½ % which equals 45,000 fish. The Somass escapement is a little slower than forecast.

*MOVED: Cote*

*SECONDED: Bennett*

*THAT the Fisheries Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors that a letter be sent to the Minister of Fisheries and*

*Oceans requesting that in consideration of the location of Area G Troll Fleet and unusual size of Fraser River runs that an amended mechanism be developed and inserted into the salmon allocation process providing the ability to make available additions of Fraser River sockeye to the Area G fleet when there is an overabundance on the Fraser River.*

**CARRIED**

**New funds available for small craft harbors** – there is 20 million in funds for 2014/15 but no estimate on amount coming to the west. These funds must be applied for. There will be 16 million dollars available for 2016.

**How do we comment on DFO Plans for quotas on salmon** – A. Thomson was asked if DFO is looking at IVQ's on salmon. This would be a big decision that would require consultation. There are only a couple of pilot projects ongoing. Mr. Thomson has no knowledge of IVQ's being considered.

**DFO promotion of health benefits of eating fish** – DFO is not sure they should be marketing fish. There is some marketing but DFO is not in the business of marketing fish. Health Canada would be the best agency to ask to do the marketing.

**Omega Pacific Fish Hatchery** – A. Thomson advised that DFO has been in contact with the Barkley Sound S1 Committee and will be entering into a project through Robertson Creek hatchery and through the S1 Barkley Sound Committee with Omega Fish Hatchery. This will be a 4 year contract to see how this works but DFO is only committed to the first year right now.

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION**

- a. **MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS**  
Mitigation Funds Under Chapter 3 (Chinook) of the Pacific Salmon Treaty
- b. **MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS**  
Pacific Salmon Treaty Mitigation Fund and Retirement Eligibility for Salmon Troll Licences.
- c. **CITY OF PORT ALBERNI**  
Correspondence forwarded from the City from Mr. Peter Finch regarding Economic Improvements and Fishing (now spot on river for this)

*MOVED: Director Bennett*

*SECONDED: Director Solda*

*THAT this correspondence a-c be received for information*

**CARRIED**

## **6. REPORTS**

- a. Ministry of Environment, Fisheries Update – D. Chalmers (Verbal)  
D. Chalmers discussed the Provincial Government Report on Freezer Trawlers in the BC Groundfish Trawl Fishery. The report is to go to the Ministry so if committee members have any additional comments please direct these to Dennis. Also discussed was the national seafood sector. D. Chalmers advised that there will be a two day workshop held in Port Alberni on how to train people in the marine industry. More information is still to come.
- b. A. Day updated the Committee on West Coast Aquatic Management. Progress has been made in all areas since last year's report. Preliminary reviews draft marine spatial planning and the terms of reference are waiting to be reviewed by DFO.

*MOVED: Bennett*

*SECONDED: Osborne*

*THAT the Fisheries Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District that a letter be sent to the DFO Regional Director General encouraging her to assign staff to review the Terms of Reference of and the Draft Marine Spatial Plans developed by West Coast Aquatic.*

**CARRIED**

A. Day reported that float homes continues to be a difficult issue, what to do with unauthorized float homes. There may be identified areas where appropriate to have float homes. The Province needs to establish areas with First Nations for float homes within traditional territories. Aquatic Management continues to work on harvest and enhancement strategies for sockeye and chinook. There has been a change over in planning staff and a business manager has been hired.

- c. Alberni Valley Local Issues – P. Cote/J. McLeman/J. Jack  
A discussion on invasive species, bull frogs and coy in Port Alberni took place. Sheena Falconer from West Coast Aquatic is looking into funding for bull frogs.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**8. ADJOURN**

*Chairperson Irving adjourned the meeting at 1:00 pm.*

Certified Correct:

---

Bill Irving,  
Chairperson