

HERRING INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD (HIAB)

MEETING RECORD - Feb 1, 2011

SFU Harbour Center; Room 2200

Purpose of the meeting: 1) Select vessels for industry funded test program; 2) Review rules for transferring overage 3) Review roe herring management concerns as presented by DFO; 3) Discuss proposed cable ferry in Baynes Sound, and HIAB participation in developing an “operational protocol”

1. Industry Funded Test Program

All seine and gillnet pool captains were invited to attend the meeting. Representatives from pools representing Aero Trading, Lionsgate, JS McMillan, North Delta, Canadian Fishing Company, Bella Coola Fisheries and Ocean Fisheries were present. A volunteer test fishing program was discussed, but participants felt that a volunteer program would be difficult to implement in BC. The current program is working well for now.

A daily rate of \$3,400 per vessel day (same as in 2010) was confirmed. All seine and gillnet pools will be billed in early February for an estimated maximum number of days that could be required. The costs of the program will be split between participating pools. (In 2010 the final cost of the program was \$193 for each Gulf Seine license, and \$36 for each Gulf Gillnet license.) Refunds will be given after final cost of the program is known.

In 2010 a program rule was established that if a vessel was participating in another charter he should not be eligible for the industry funded program. Participants agreed that the program needs the best possible fishermen. However, charters that have obligations to other work could possibly impact that work by participating in the industry funded program. Participating vessels need to be ready, willing, and able to commit to the program. Packing fish while on charter days is not accepted, as it has potential to disrupt the testing program. Vessels may be asked to stand down after being called out if it is felt they are not required.

The following vessels were selected to participate in the program, and will be called out to work in the following order: 1) Prosperity (Brent Melan); 2) Pachena (Mitch Ponak); 3) Pacific Quest (Bob Morreau); 4) Western Investor (Kevin Smith); 5) Ocean Cloud (Bill Bird). The Snowdrift (Al Marsden) is the alternate vessel.

2. Rules for Transfer and Validation of Catch, and for Distribution of Overage when Catch is Less than Target.

2 (a) Rules for transfer and validation of catch

If a pool catches more fish than they need, they may transfer fish on the grounds to a pool that accepts the fish. The fish will then get validated into the receiving pool at the dock. The catching pool can choose who they wish to give the fish to, but the pool of their choice has to accept that they will take the fish. As long as the fish has not been validated, it can be freely transferred between willing pools. If a pool catches more fish than they need and cannot find someone who needs their extra fish, it will be validated into the catcher pool.

If a vessel arrives at the dock with more fish onboard than he needs, he can validate fish into his pool up to his quota; stop the offload; and validate the balance of fish into another pool that has agreed to accept the fish

Fish that has been validated into a pool cannot be transferred except by instruction of JO Thomas.

2 (b) Rules for distribution of overage when catch is less than target

Pools keep validated amounts up to, but not over quota.

Amounts in pools that are over quota are distributed to pools that are under quota in proportion to the number of licenses in those pools, up to each respective quota, until all overage is distributed.

If amount calculated for distribution is greater than a pool's quota, then the balance is redirected to pools that are still under quota, until all potential distribution is used up.

It was noted that if a pool brings in fish above their pool TAC, that pool can't compel another pool take the overage. If other pools were not willing to accept that overage, that pool would be obligated to pay the HCRS for the fish as per the established rules. Catch overages are considered unauthorized catch by DFO, and subject to prosecution depending on particulars of the situation.

3. St. of Georgia Roe Herring Management

Brenda Spence is the lead manager, assisted by Greg Hornby for seines. (Terry Palfrey is on medical leave at the moment.) Alistar Thompson is the gillnet manager. Seine and Gillnet pool captains' responsibilities were reviewed. New for this year: seine pool captains are asked to provide an end of the day accounting for catch by set to ensure accurate information is used for management decisions. Flight budget is similar to previous years, with the addition of a chartered "spotter" for 2011.

The process to open the seine and gillnet fisheries is the same as in previous years: For seines a vote will be taken by pools, and will be considered based on the number of licenses in each pool; a gillnet opening will be determined by a vote of the nine HIAB appointed gillnet advisors. Indications are that pools may not be targeting the full amount of quota provided on the pool licenses due to market conditions.

There are 238 seine licenses in the Gulf, and 1,133 gillnet licenses. Quota in an area is distributed based on the number of active licenses in that area.

For both seine and gillnet fisheries a reasonable opportunity will be provided, but the fishery will not go on indefinitely. A meeting with first Nations will be required before a fishing opportunity below Dodd Narrows is considered.

A HIAB member noted that we fished inside the scallop farm two years ago and asked if there had been any further expansion of the farm, but no information was available.

4. Cable Ferry in Baynes Sound

BC Ferries has submitted an application under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) to install and operate a cable ferry between Buckley Bay and Denman Island West terminals. DFO Habitat branch is the lead agency in the CEAA process. DFO Resource Management Branch has expressed concern (in letters to BC Ferries) about the possible interactions of a cable ferry and the roe herring fishery. BC Ferries has written a letter to DFO (cc'd to HIAB), which indicates that they don't want the roe herring fishery considerations to be considered in the CEAA process. They are requesting DFO to proceed with CEAA and not include the fishing aspect.

HIAB noted that roe herring fisheries have happened in the vicinity of the ferry 5 times in the last 11 years. BC Ferries said they had not yet decided on what type of engine would power the cable ferry. HIAB participants expressed concerns about electricity and vibration from the cable affecting fish behavior.

BC Ferries would like to develop a "co-industry protocol" agreement with HIAB to mitigate HIAB's concerns. Such an agreement could consist of such things as a set of specific instructions for all parties to follow while the fishery is open in Baynes Sound in the vicinity of the cable corridor. HIAB deferred a decision on agreeing to develop a protocol.

ATTENDANCE – FEBRUARY 1, 2011

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Brad Mirau	Aero Trading
Bart Frith	Lionsgate
Greg Hornby	DFO South Coast Resource Management
Brenda Spence	DFO South Coast Resource Management
Alistar Thompson	DFO South Coast Resource Management
Dennis Chalmers	Province of BC
Lisa Mijacka	DFO Regional Office
Chris Cue	Canadian Fishing Co. / HIAB
Jack Groven	Bella Coola / HIAB
John Malcolm	HIAB
Chris Wick	North Delta / HIAB
Phil Young	JS McMillan / HIAB
Sean Halliday	JS McMillan
Bob Morreau	HIAB
Mitch Ponak	HIAB
Dave Dawson	Ocean Fisheries Ltd
Bill Duncan	HIAB
Kelly Wheeler	BC Ferries
Bob Rezansoff	HIAB
Don Heron	HIAB
Dave Mundy	Golder and Associates (for BC Ferries)
Hamer, Lorena	HCRS (Chair)