

**Herring Industry Advisory Board
Meeting Summary
November 21, 2013
CFC Office /Conference**

Attendance:

<u>In person</u>	<u>On phone</u>
Heather Mearnes	Chris Ashton
Jack Groven	Terry Kueber
Chris Wick	Arlo Keber
Don McLeod	John Malcolm

Meeting Objective:

1. Primary objective to consider request to increase 2013/14 Food and Bait fishery quota in the St. of Georgia.
2. Provide update to HIAB members regarding recent meetings relating to herring closed areas.

Meeting Summary:

1. Summary on recent meetings with DFO:

- Chris Wick provided summary of two meetings (November 12 and 15/13), one with the DFO RDG and a second with Randy Kamp (parliamentary secretary), regarding the pending Fisheries Ministers decision on closed areas.
- Chris indicated industry participants at the meetings did a good job of making points about access to the herring resource consistent with science advice.

2. Food and Bait fishery quota in the St. of Georgia

- Provisional target for the F&B fishery is 5000 Tons with 1700 Tons landed at the time of the meeting. Fishery is progressing well and some licence holders expect to achieve their targets shortly, so there has been a request to increase the quota provisionally by 3000 Tons. This increase would leave about 20,000 tons available for roe therefore should not impact roe fishery planning.
- There was general agreement that the decision on F&B should not be delayed to coincide with the minister's decision on roe herring access.
- There was concern expressed that the increase in F&B should not impact potential for 20,000 Ton roe quota in the SOG.

- It was recommended that:
 - Request for 3,000 Ton increase be made to DFO immediately.
 - That arrangements be made for a followup HIAB meeting to occur immediately following the minister's decision on closed areas.
- John Malcohm arrived late to call. He expressed gill netters concern that removing more fish from the SOG stock would negatively impact potential success of a gill net roe fishery.

Action: G. Thomas to develop letter immediately to DFO requesting 3,000 Ton increase to SOG F&B. The letter to emphasize urgency for the decision and to indicate this is a provisional amendment.

3. Other Issues:

- Some HIAB members did not get email notice for meeting so should be contacted by phone to arrange meeting.
- Aquaculture request – A request by Salish Sea Farms for tenures totaling 500 ha for geoduck/sea cucumber aquaculture in Lambert Ch. and adjacent areas has been submitted to provincial and federal governments. A letter has been written on behalf of HIAB protesting the proposal.
- Herring Stock Assessment funding - Seafood Producers had meeting November 14/13 with DFO Science to discuss lack of funding for herring stock assessment (see attached two documents DFO presented at meeting). DFO has no funding for sample collection or spawn surveys. There was a discussion about mechanisms to fund a reduced and prioritized program. Disproportionately high licence fees is an issue.
- National On-line Licensing System – A herring licensing work team meeting is arranged for November 22 to discuss plans for licence issuance in the roe fishery.
- Baynes Sound Cable Ferry – Ferry unlikely to be in place for 2014 but there is a need to review MOU with Province.