

**HIAB Meeting
January 6/14
Wosk Centre, Vancouver**

HIAB Caucus Recommendations:

1. Roe Herring fishery option for 2014:
 - a. HIAB acknowledges the DFO decision to provide a commercial fishery opportunity in the three management areas that had been closed (HG, CC, and WCVI). While HIAB has recommended, as a one-event for 2014, lower harvest rates in these areas and the 20% CSAP reviewed and accepted herring harvest control rule, HIAB does not support that there is any scientific rationale for an arbitrary change to reduce the harvest rate from 20% to 10% in these areas.
 - b. With respect to the allocation process for herring, HIAB emphasizes that Roe Herring fisheries have the same priority as commercial Spawn-on-kelp (SOK).
 - c. Regarding the potential commercial fishery opportunity for the Ahousaht Plaintiffs on the WCVI, HIAB expects the Department to abide by the Ministerial policy of “one fishery for all” and compensate for any incremental opportunity by retiring access/licenses from the specific fishery opportunity provided. (i.e. if roe herring fishery opportunity is provided, then seine and/or gillnet roe licenses be utilized within the quotas recommended by HIAB. Alternatively, if SOK opportunity is provided, then existing SOK licensed access should be retired).
 - d. In order to ensure timely submission of both seine and gill net licence applications, HIAB recommends that a cutoff date, after which no further licences will be accepted, be introduced. This cutoff should be January 24/14 and it is suggested DFO could provide a licence count January 27 to facilitate reselection on January 29/14.
 - e. HIAB emphasizes that the industry has the capacity to harvest all the herring available for roe, but recommend an option which harvests less than the total available, giving consideration to both conservation and market issues. HIAB does not support any allocation of “surplus fish” over the quota recommendations and the allowable harvest rate to other users. If the Department entertains any requests for this kind of new allocation, HIAB will revisit its quota recommendations.
 - f. The proposed roe option was developed assuming all of the historic fishing locations in each of the five Management Areas are available for commercial roe harvest.
 - g. HIAB recommends the following roe harvest option, consistent with the area specific harvest limits provided by DFO and the policy for a 55:45 split among seine and gill net gears. The option provides for a total roe harvest of **19,700 Tons**, and catch averages of 43.00 Tons and 7.00 Tons for seine and gill net, respectively (assuming 252 seine and 1267 gill net licences).

Area	SN	GN	Total (all gear)
<i>HG</i>	1200	0	1200
<i>PRD</i>	800	1200	2000
<i>CC</i>	0	750	750
<i>SOG</i>	7543	6090	13633
<i>WCVI</i>	1292	825	2117
Total (all areas)	10835	8865	19700

2. Herring Spawn Survey in 2014:

- a. HIAB accepts the DFO offer to equally share funding for a spawn survey program in 2014, though the late timing of the offer is a concern. It is understood that the program, costing \$1 million, will be carried out in all five Stock Assessment Areas with survey methodologies consistent with recent years. As in previous years, the herring industry, through the HCRS, will work cooperatively with DFO on the development and implementation of the program.
- b. The herring industry will develop a mechanism to recover the costs of the program; however, the disproportionately high licence fees continue to confound industry efforts to contribute to programs. As well, the “voluntary” approach to cost recovery is not viable in the long term and a more structured mechanism supported by government is required. It is also noted that the costs of conservation-based programs, such as herring spawn surveys, should be borne by all sectors that receive a benefit from the resource.