

Herring Industry Advisory Board (HIAB)

Recommendations from the Sept 15, 2011 HIAB Meeting

In attendance for a HIAB quorum were:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Lorena Hamer Edward Safarik	HIAB Chair / HCRS HCRS
Len Brezden	HIAB / Elected Gillnet
Rob Morley	HIAB / Processor, Canadian Fish
Dave Dawson	HIAB / Processor, Ocean Fish
John Malcolm	HIAB / Elected Gillnet, HCRS
Bob Morreau	HIAB / Elected Seine
Ross Holkestad	HIAB / Fishing Vessel Owners Association
Phil Young	HIAB / Processor, JS McMillan
Chris Ashton	HIAB / Elected Seine
Don McLeod	HIAB / Processor (alternate for Chris Wick); HCRS

Others in attendance:

Greg Hornby	DFO
Brenda Spence	DFO
Lisa Mijacika	DFO
Roger Kanno	DFO
Jake Schweigert	DFO
Ron Tanasichuk	DFO
Brent Melan	Seine fisherman
Dennis Chalmers	Province of BC
Doug Tallman	JO Thomas & Associates
Michael Sato	Pacific Salmon Industries

HIAB Recommendations

1. Roe Fishery

1 a) Quotas

The 2012 forecast abundance was reviewed at the meeting. Assuming there are no changes to the “expected use” of other fisheries in Prince Rupert and St of Georgia (i.e. the two stock assessment regions above *cutoff*) there will be 4,280 tons available to the roe herring sector in Prince Rupert, and 29,684 tons in the St.of Georgia.

HIAB is recommending a total coast wide roe quota of 13,000 tons, and a total food and bait (ZM) quota of 6,060 tons. These numbers represent a very conservative harvest relative to available TAC. HIAB is willing and able to harvest all the available TAC, but in the interests of conservation, uncertainty related to model performance in Prince Rupert, and economic (market) sustainability, is choosing not to do so. However, this fish is left in the water with the understanding that it will remain in the water, and not be reallocated to another user.

Catch recommendations by area are as follows:

In **Prince Rupert**, retrospective analysis of abundance estimates suggest that forecast biomass may have been overestimated in recent years. HIAB is therefore recommending a more cautious harvest of 1,500 tons in this area (broken down into 500 tons for seine, and 1,000 tons for gillnets).

In the **St of Georgia**, spawning stock biomass has increased in the last years due to strong 2006 and 2008 year classes. 2012 recruitment is also forecast to be “good”. HIAB is recommending a total roe harvest in the St. of Georgia of 11,500 tons, broken down into 6,650 tons for seines, and 4,850 tons for gillnets.

2012 Roe Harvest Recommendations (tons)

Area	Seine	Gillnet	Total
Prince Rupert	500	1,000	1,500
St of Georgia	6,650	4,850	11,500
Total	7,150	5,850	13,000
	55% Seine share	45% Gillnet share	

1 b) Process to Open the Seine Fishery

The procedure to open the seine fishery in the St of Georgia was flagged as an issue by DFO. The current decision rule for opening is “Opening time decided by on grounds manager in consultation with the pools. If necessary an opening will be determined by polling each pool captain.” HIAB members noted that there have been consensus decisions by pool captains in the past, and that this process may still work in 2012. However, we recognize that there may be pressure on DFO to provide a harvest opportunity, and acknowledge that DFO has the authority to open the fishery when they choose to do so.

1 c) Number of Seine Pools in St. of Georgia

DFO is strongly recommending that there be no more than 8 seine pools in the St. of Georgia. HIAB does not have complete control of the matter, but will make efforts to see that the 8 pool limit is not exceeded.

2. Food & Bait (ZM)

HIAB is recommending a St. of Georgia Food & Bait (ZM) quota of 6,000 tons, and a Prince Rupert quota of 60 tons (i.e. one ZM license share). These quotas will provide interested parties with the security of access and flexibility that is needed to develop new markets.

Many management tools and controls have been in place for this fishery for a number of years (e.g. at sea observers, dockside validation, etc.). In addition to the existing management program, HIAB can support a number of management controls that can be easily implemented within the available time frame.

The following management tools and controls are recommended:

- Continue to use the basic access structure of the existing lottery system, with the same rules of access and transfer of license eligibility
- Move the date of the lottery draw to early October
- Increase each license share to 60 tons, (or a number that works based on the number of applications).
- Remove any restriction on the number of licenses that can be stacked on a vessel.
- Increase at sea observer coverage to 100%. The increase in observer coverage is supported for a one year basis only, subject to a post season review of fishery performance.
- Develop a “Best Fishing Practices” document for this fishery. This work will be undertaken with “Fish Safe” and a HIAB subcommittee.
- Work with DFO to establish a maximum number of vessels that can be fishing at any one time.
- Establish an inseason communication structure to deal with DFO concerns about capacity to communicate with fishers. A model based on Area B Barkley Sound work groups may be useful.
- Continue to use a quota reconciliation process to allow for transfer of quota between licenses.

3. West Coast of Vancouver Island

According to the stock forecast information presented by DFO, there is an available surplus of 427 tonnes on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. HIAB recommends that there be no commercial fisheries in this area in 2012, in an attempt to continue to see the stocks rebuild.