



Prawn Newsletter

From The Pacific Prawn Fishermen's Association



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Letter From the President

Brian Van Dorp
President



On March 27, the Association held its Third Annual General Meeting at the Richmond Inn.

This year, 89% of our membership voted either by proxy or in person. The Association's membership represents over 80% of the commercial prawn fishermen. The board of directors has increased from fourteen to fifteen members. I would like to welcome and congratulate our three new directors; Paul Bevandick, Bob Cameron and Rhys Griffith, and thank them for offering their time and experience to the prawn association. I would also like to thank our outgoing directors, Laurie Chambers and Nathan Pearl, for their work and support throughout the years.

A new list of the PPFA directors and their contact information is provided on the last page of this newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact any of your directors.

At the meeting it was announced that the Prawn Caucus has selected service provider, J.O.

Thomas & Associates for the 2002 Fishery.

A resolution was passed to extend the director's term to two years. In addition, the board is looking to hire an Executive Director for the Association.

DFO has not yet approved the management plan and announced the commencement of licence issuance. Therefore, even though you have made arrangements with J.O. Thomas, you may not be able to obtain your "W" licence from DFO at this time.

May 1st is still the anticipated opening date.

In closing, the PPFA directors and I would like to wish you a safe and successful 2002 prawn fishing season. ■



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2002 Prawn Fishery

Brian Van Dorp

President



This letter is meant to provide information to prawn licence holders regarding the various initiatives and operational requirements for the 2002 Pacific prawn and shrimp by trap fishery. Most industry participants are aware that DFO no longer collects, through license fees, funds to support enforcement, research, monitoring, and management activities necessary for the proper management and control of this fishery. While the funding of these programs continue to be the responsibility of commercial prawn license holders, funding for the various in-season activities will be provided through a Collaborative Agreement between DFO and Pacific Prawn Fishermen's Association (PPFA) as the representative industry association. The PPFA is a registered society, representing a majority (more than 80%) of "W" licence holders, created for the purpose of representing prawn industry interests and conducting operational programs recommended by the elected Prawn Industry Caucus and/or as required by DFO. DFO has advised that they are working towards a fishery opening date of May 1, 2002. This will be contingent, however, on having a Collaborative Agreement in place that will ensure proper management and control of the fishery. Development of the management plan and agreement are on track and, at this time, no delays are anticipated in opening the fishery.

Collaborative Agreement between DFO and the PPFA:



A Collaborative Agreement is a negotiated arrangement between the government and a legally constituted industry organization that represents a majority of license holders for a specific fishery. It sets out the roles and responsibilities of both parties with respect to projects in the area of science and resource management, and can include the sharing of financial responsibilities. **While the Collaborative Agreement will be between DFO and the PPFA, it is for the benefit of all prawn by trap license holders. No one has to be a member of the PPFA to participate in the 2002 prawn fishery or to benefit from the programs established through the Collaborative Agreement.**

Under the 2002 Collaborative Agreement, the PPFA will represent license holders interests and be required to coordinate and administer various programs. In addition, the PPFA will be responsible for providing the Department with funding totaling \$110,000 in support of incremental management activities necessary for delivery of the 2002 Prawn and Shrimp by Trap Management Plan. Completion of the agreement is expected soon.

In addition to providing funding for DFO, key deliverables from the agreement include:

- Providing trap tags and replacement trap tags to individual "W" licence holders and the electronic registration of trap tag numbers with the DFO when tags are issued.
- Collecting vessel fishing location (hail) information from "W" licence holders and transferring the information electronically to the DFO.
- Collecting and providing on-board gear and document inspection information.
- Collecting and providing biological sampling data in hard copy and electronic format for the determination of the prawn spawner index.
- Providing a data quality control system for ensuring the integrity of the information collected and compiled.
- Providing information to the DFO pertaining to the deployment and location of Observer vessels prior to the weekly management conference calls.

- Coordinating, in cooperation with DFO, post-season spawner-index and monitoring and assessment programs.
- Providing program management representation on behalf of the prawn industry and corresponding with DFO, service provider, and industry representatives to ensure program development, coordination, delivery, and compliance with all aspects of the Collaborative Agreement.

In-season Management Programs:



To ensure proper management of the 2002 prawn by trap fishery, DFO and the Prawn Industry Caucus and the PPFA have approved J.O. Thomas as the service provider for delivering various in-season management programs including spawner-index testing and data reporting. JO Thomas is contracted by the PPFA to deliver the required in-season management programs as outlined in the collaborative agreement and to make services available to all prawn licence holders so they can comply with the 2002 licence conditions.

Commencing April 9, 2002 all license holders can contact J.O. Thomas at (604) 291-6340 to make arrangements for services to ensure they can comply with the license conditions. Once arrangements have been made, J.O. Thomas will provide each licence holder with a letter they can provide to DFO Licensing confirming their ability to comply with the license conditions. This letter will be a pre-condition for licensing in 2002. **Note: DFO has not yet approved the management plan and announced the commencement of license issuance. Therefore, even though you have made arrangements with J.O. Thomas, you may not be able to obtain your “W” license from DFO at this time. Please contact DFO licensing to ask if 2002 “W” license issuance has commenced.**

Costs for services from J.O. Thomas for the period May 1 to July 31, 2002 will be \$1,471 for vessels fishing 300 traps and \$2,942 for vessels fishing 500 traps. A detailed summary of activities and costs will be provided to licence holders after the season so that everyone understands the program deliverables and how the funds were expended.

Responsibilities of licence holders:



A major component of the collaborative agreement is for the PPFA to provide DFO with \$110,000 into a Specified Purposes Account (SPA) to offset enforcement, management and research costs for the 2001 Prawn fishery. In addition, the 2002 costs associated with the administration, coordination and implementation of all the programs necessary to support the fishery and represent all “W” license holders is estimated to cost \$50,000. To fund the cost sharing programs and activities identified in the Collaborative Agreement (totaling \$160,000), the Prawn Industry Caucus recommends that each license holder provide \$635 for a vessel fishing 300 traps and \$1,270 for a vessel fishing 500 traps to the PPFA. The cost recovery contribution funds for the Collaborative Agreement will be collected by J.O. Thomas at the same time license holders make their service provider arrangements. Prawn licence holders are asked to provide payment towards the 2002 Collaborative Agreement by submitting a cheque made out to the **“Pacific Prawn Fishermen’s Association”**.

It is important that all licence holders contribute towards the management costs of the fishery. **Failure to provide sufficient funds to comply with the Collaborative Agreement could result in a delayed opening or an early closure.**

A detailed summary of activities and costs will be provided to licence holders after the season so that everyone understands the program deliverables and how the funds were expended.

For the 2002 prawn fishery the total costs are as follows:



Single License (300 traps)

\$1471 J.O. Thomas

\$635 Collaborative Agreement

\$2106 Total

Stacked License (500 traps)

\$2942 J.O. Thomas

\$1270 Collaborative Agreement

\$4212 Total

Plus the \$320 DFO license fee.

We hope this information regarding the 2002 commercial prawn by trap fishery is helpful. If you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact me at 604-278-5995.

**The Elected Directors of the
Pacific Prawn Fishermen's Association**



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