

# DRAFT

## PRAWN SECTORAL COMMITTEE INDUSTRY CAUCUS MEETING RECORD OF DECISION

January 14, 2005  
DFO PBS, Nanaimo

### Caucus Members

Chris Marshman	Joey Laukkanen (alt. for T. Orr)
Kevin Erikson	Bob Alford
Lou Kiselich	Mike Cullen
John Jenkins	Brent Adams
Dan Stephens	Kelly Loxton
Guy Johnston	

### DFO:

Dennis Rutherford	Jim Morrison
Randy Webb	Byron Koke
Todd Johannsen	Bridgette Ennevor
Larry Paike	Russell Mylchreest

### Observers/Alternates:

Rochelle Fairfield	Kim Mikkelsen
Randy Happach	Doug Bequin
Richard Beauvais	

A number of other commercial prawn fishermen were also in attendance

Chris Sporer chaired the meeting.

### **Future Management Options**

The second draft of the IVQ proposal was reviewed. The purpose of these meeting notes is to try to capture some of the main points of the discussion and any major issues identified. These notes are not intended to encapsulate all of the discussion at the meeting.

The following outstanding issues/items were identified:

- Increasing TAC In-season: DFO re-iterated its position that it cannot see how to increase the TAC in-season with the current tools available and they do not think it is worth developing a new assessment method for a pilot program. According to DFO there is no correlation between the spawner index numbers and abundance/commercial catch. DFO is willing to consider ideas on how this may be accomplished if proponents are willing to present a new idea to them. DFO did feel that, under the proposed IVQ pilot, it would be a good idea to notify prawn fishermen when areas are getting weak.

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- Season Length: DFO has suggested that for any pilot program (IVQ, String Haul Limit) the season be limited to no more than four months. DFO advised this suggestion has been made to allow some control should problems develop during the pilot program. The IVQ proponents indicated they would like the season to be greater than four months while string limit proponents indicated a four month season would be acceptable.
- Dockside Monitoring Program: it was noted that allowances would have to be built in for glaze weight, tubs and water on live prawns when product is weighed at the offload.
- Landing Ports: It was noted some landing ports were missing and needed to be included.
- Enforcement: There were a number of concerns expressed from industry representatives and DFO with respect to enforcement of the proposed IVQ pilot program. DFO acknowledged that progress in the proposal for dealing with enforcement had been made in the second draft, but felt that in the present form the plan would not work. DFO felt that proponents needed to develop an enforcement plan as part of their proposal with a focus on how to address potential illegal landings. It was noted that in the proposed plan, there would be no loose prawns, all live prawns would need to be in cages that would be tagged or strapped. How would catch that is on the plates be tagged/strapped (note: K. Mikkelsen made this point, but not sure if it is explained properly in these notes). DFO also noted that they felt the string haul limit proposal also was a little light on enforcement, citing an example how the Area A crab fishery with its electronic monitoring has generated more work for DFO enforcement to prepare cases against offenders.
- DFO noted that, in both the IVQ and string haul limit proposals, that a framework is needed to outline how the in-season spawner index program will work over a longer season, how is it going to be delivered.
- DFO also wants to see the single haul provision maintained during any pilot program. This differs from the current draft of the IVQ proposal.
- DFO and Caucus reviewed the issues raised at DFO's January 6<sup>th</sup> conference call (emailed to Caucus on January 9<sup>th</sup>). Some points:
  - 2005 will be a "status quo" year, any pilot program would take place in 2006, provided there is support from the industry.
  - Trap type during pilot program. DFO is looking for industry advice
  - For initial allocations of IVQ, DFO is looking for industry advice on logbooks vs. sales slips
  - DFO confirms that 2004 is the cut off year in any consideration of history for initial allocation of IVQ in the near future to prevent speculation and fear fishing.
  - For initial allocation of IVQ, there are no perfect years to use for the qualifying years. DFO will take a recommendation from industry under consideration for qualifying years.

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- DFO expressed some concern over confidentiality with stacked licences knowing catch of other vessels. IVQ proponents felt if these licence holders were only given their final % and poundage, this may address this concern. DFO advised waiting for advice from legal department.
- With respect to coonstripe and humpback fisheries, IVQ proponents advised that the proposal is for spot prawns only. These fisheries could proceed as they have in the past. Some industry reps expressed concern that this could be a way to move illegal spot prawns (e.g., hide spot prawns under coonstripe or humpbacks).
- DFO felt other potential costs associated with a longer season needed to be considered (not just dockside monitoring costs).
- DFO also feels strongly that something needs to go to the fleet by the end of January at the latest as questions are being asked by fishermen. DFO thinks the information should state that 2005 will be a “status quo” year (no major changes), and noting that Caucus has been working collectively and very hard on two proposals that will be sent to the fleet, hopefully before the 2005 season.
- DFO also noted that they will need to do consultations with other user groups on the status of future management options in the commercial prawn fishery.

## ROCKFISH BYCATCH

Caucus supported Chris Sporer putting together a brief for the Rockfish Team meeting the following week, incorporating the original data upon which the rockfish team based their decision.

## CAUCUS ONLY

Caucus unanimously re-affirmed that DFO should facilitate a meeting between the commercial and recreational sectors to try to discuss the areas that are important to the recreational fishery and related matter of mutual concern and interest.

MOTION: DFO should mail out as soon as possible to all prawn licence holders two workable future management option proposals, the string haul limits proposal and the IVQ proposal. (8-0-0) Passed unanimously. MOTION: With this mail out of the two workable future management option proposals, DFO include a ballot asking two questions:

1. Are licence holders willing to support a pilot program; and
2. which of the two pilot proposals would licence holders support for a two year pilot program starting in 2006. (6-3-1) Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:55 pm.