

April 3, 2005

To Prawn By Trap (“W” and “FW”) Vessel Owners:

## **2005 COMMERCIAL PRAWN FISHERY**

Similar to past years, prawn vessel owners will be responsible for providing funding to support enforcement, research, monitoring, and other activities necessary for the proper management and control of the fishery. The funding for the various in-season activities will be provided through a Collaborative Agreement between DFO and Pacific Prawn Fishermen’s Association (PPFA).

The Industry Caucus of the Prawn Sectoral Committee sets policy and provides advice to DFO on the management of the prawn fishery. The PPFA conducts the operational programs recommended by the Industry Caucus and/or required by DFO. The PPFA is a registered society, representing more than 80% of “W” vessel owners and is the legal and financial means by which the Industry Caucus operates to maintain and/or improve the commercial fishery.

It is important that all vessel owners contribute towards these management costs of the fishery. DFO has advised that they are working towards a fishery opening date of May 1, 2005. This will be contingent on having a Collaborative Agreement in place that will ensure proper management and control of the fishery. Failure to provide sufficient funds to comply with the Collaborative Agreement could result in a delayed opening or an early closure of the fishery.

Under the Collaborative Agreement the prawn industry will provide DFO with funding to offset enforcement of the single haul requirement as well as management and research costs for the 2005 commercial prawn fishery.

DFO, the Industry Caucus and the PPFA have again approved J.O. Thomas & Associates Ltd. as the service provider for delivering the various in-season management programs including spawner-index testing and data reporting so prawn vessel owners can comply with the 2005 licence conditions. Costs for services from J.O. Thomas will be slightly higher in 2005 due to the annual incremental increase in the anticipated program costs.

An Order Form for J.O. Thomas is included with this mail out. All vessel owners 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 vessel owners 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 2005.

The industry must also incur costs to co-ordinate the Collaborative Agreement and provide advice to DFO on the growing list of issues facing the commercial prawn and shrimp by trap fishery. As many of you are aware, in 2003 the commercial prawn industry was advised that the fleet had to address its rockfish bycatch or it would be shut out of the rockfish conservation areas, resulting in a significant loss of traditional fishing ground. The Industry Caucus and the PPFA worked

proactively with DFO to design a program that included additional testing in 2003 and augmented data collection in 2004. As a result, the commercial prawn fleet will be allowed to fish in the rockfish conservation areas in 2005.

Rockfish bycatch continues to be an issue that must be addressed; however, it is but one issue facing the commercial prawn fleet. Undertaking initiatives to address the issues facing the fleet can cost money. If the industry does not have the resources to properly address such issues, the costs to the fleet can be significant and all commercial prawn vessel owners could be affected. In order to better position the industry to address its issues, the Industry Caucus and the PPFA have increased funding to some current expenditures as well as funded some new initiatives in 2005 (e.g., contracted staff time, communications, government relations).

If you have any questions about these projects or how the industry funds will be spent, please contact a member of the Industry Caucus or the PPFA office (604-415-2491). A detailed summary of 2004 activities and costs is also available from the PPFA office.

J.O. Thomas will collect the funds for the Collaborative Agreement and industry projects at the same time vessel owners make their service provider arrangements. Prawn vessel owners can pay by credit card or cheque made out to “**JO Thomas & Associates**”. For the 2005 prawn and shrimp by trap fishery, the costs are as follows:

**Single License (300 traps)**

**\$2,766.00 Total (incl. GST)**

**Stacked License (500 traps)**

**\$5,532.00 Total (incl. GST)**

In 2005 GST is being charged on all fees collected due to a ruling from the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. However, commercial prawn fishermen will be able to claim the GST back.

Please note that this does not include JO Thomas logbook or processing fees (see JO Thomas order form), or the DFO licence fee (\$320.00).

We hope this information regarding the 2005 commercial prawn by trap fishery is helpful. If you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact an Industry Caucus member or the PPFA Office (604-415-2491).

Sincerely,

THE PACIFIC PRAWN FISHERMEN’S ASSOCIATION & THE PRAWN INDUSTRY CAUCUS

Chris Sporer  
Executive Director  
Pacific Prawn Fishermen’s Association