

OCT. 25, 2004 PSC SUMMARY.

1. INTRODUCTIONS:

Additions to agenda

2. CLOUD SPONGES, SAANICH INLET:

DFO tabled a recommendation that commercial and recreational prawn fishing be closed in 3 areas in Saanich Inlet; Senanus Island, McCurdy Pt. and Christmas Pt.

Henderson Pt. was also discussed. Crab fishing and anchoring could also be limited.

3. RECREATIONAL FISHING AREAS:

Fall index survey progress was reviewed.

Saanich Inlet and Stuart Channel will require closure. Howe Sound does not. (ed's. note - Quadra-Cortez, Pender Harbour and Alberni Canal will also be closed by Nov. 22).

J. Morrison recommended that consideration be given to managing Saanich, Stuart and Alberni to the 135% level in the 2005 commercial fishery, the same as Howe Sound. These areas are presently managed to 125% above baseline index during the commercial fishing season.

4. MAA-NULTH TREATY NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE:

The Maa-nulth are 5 FNs of about 2000 persons on the west coast of Vancouver Island; 4 in Barkley Sd. and Kyuquot. Treaty negotiators would like to complete the fish chapter negotiations by the end of December. Only food, social and ceremonial allocation is being negotiated and that is likely to be between 8,000 and 10,000 lbs., based on a running average of abundance. Mitigation will be made for any allocation in excess of present FSC harvest levels which is estimated to be 2,000 to 3,000 lbs.

5. COMMERCIAL FISHERY - A PROCESS TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE FISHERY:

J. Morrison had sent a letter to industry reps. in Oct., recommending that they consider changes to improve the fishery, either by including electronic monitoring to reduce double hauling, or to consider a string haul quota, or a vessel quota. DFO had met the previous week, and offered two points of advice. It would be difficult to run simultaneous pilot programs for the 2 options because of enforceability issues, and support by industry would have to be demonstrated by questionnaire or ballot before proceeding.

At the PSC, J. Morrison passed along comments received from Chris Marshman and L. Chambers who could not attend that date, and advised he had been contacted by Craig Harper in Powell River who is establishing a group for vessel operators that may also include deckhands. DFO advised that it may be difficult for pilot programs to be established by 2005. Industry caucus will meet and work with DFO to establish a process to consider future management options.

6. OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:

L. Chambers had expressed concern for use of "Slice" sea lice control chemicals in the Broughton archipelago. This view was supported by all industry reps. It was suggested that Environment Canada

and provincial MAFF may have additional information about the locations and amounts used in salmon farms.
Robert Sam of Penelakut First Nation expressed concern for stocks in Stuart Channel, and an interest in becoming involved in testing programs.

MEETING CLOSED

This is only a summary. Draft minutes have been distributed to industry reps. for review, correction and comment, and may be contacted for additional information. Final minutes will be posted once they become available.