

The background of the slide is a scenic photograph of a coastal area. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted trees and foliage on the left side. The middle ground shows a calm body of water, likely a bay or fjord, with a small, forested island or headland in the distance. The background features hazy, rolling mountains under a soft, overcast sky. The overall tone is serene and natural.

# Pacific Urchin Harvesters Association

## A History of BC's Red Sea Urchin Fishery

**Presented by:  
Mike Featherstone  
PUHA President**



# 3 Pillars of the Pacific Urchin Harvesters Association (PUHA)

- **Sustainability**
- **Maximizing Economic Value of the Catch**
- **Increasing community awareness and knowledge of the industry**



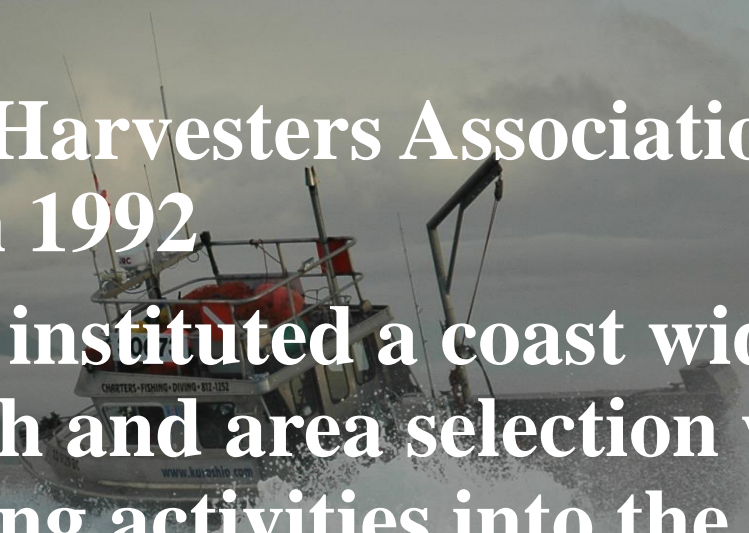
# Early days (Pre-quota)

## 1971 - 1993

- Fishery grew slowly until the early 80's.
- Expanded rapidly until 1992 when fishery landed just under 29 million pounds.
- Limited entry in 1991
- Late 80's and into the early 90's the management became more intensive
- Relationship between managers and fishermen was uncooperative



# Early days (pre-quota)

- Pacific Urchin Harvesters Association was incorporated in 1992
  - 1993 managers instituted a coast wide Total Allowable Catch and area selection which intensified fishing activities into the classic “Shot-Gun” style openings
    - poor safety practices, poor compliance to harvest regime and supply gluts (poor prices).
  - Up to 1994 license fees were \$50 and PUHA fee was \$25
- 
- A fishing boat is visible in the background, partially obscured by the text. The boat is white with red accents and has "CHARTERS-FISHING-DIVING • 811-1121" and "www.kauaiinfo.com" written on its side. It is on the water, and the background shows a cloudy sky.



# Voluntary Individual Quota System 1994 - 1995

- January '94: 1 million lbs. landed in first few days
- February fishermen stopped fishing and created Voluntary IQ System
  - VIQs included validation log, off load monitors, equal division of TAC
- Financed by a fishermen imposed \$.02/lb landing tax



# Voluntary Individual Quota System: Impacts

- No quota overages
- Improved safety records
- Increasing cooperation between managers and fishermen
- Prices increased and market supply more consistent

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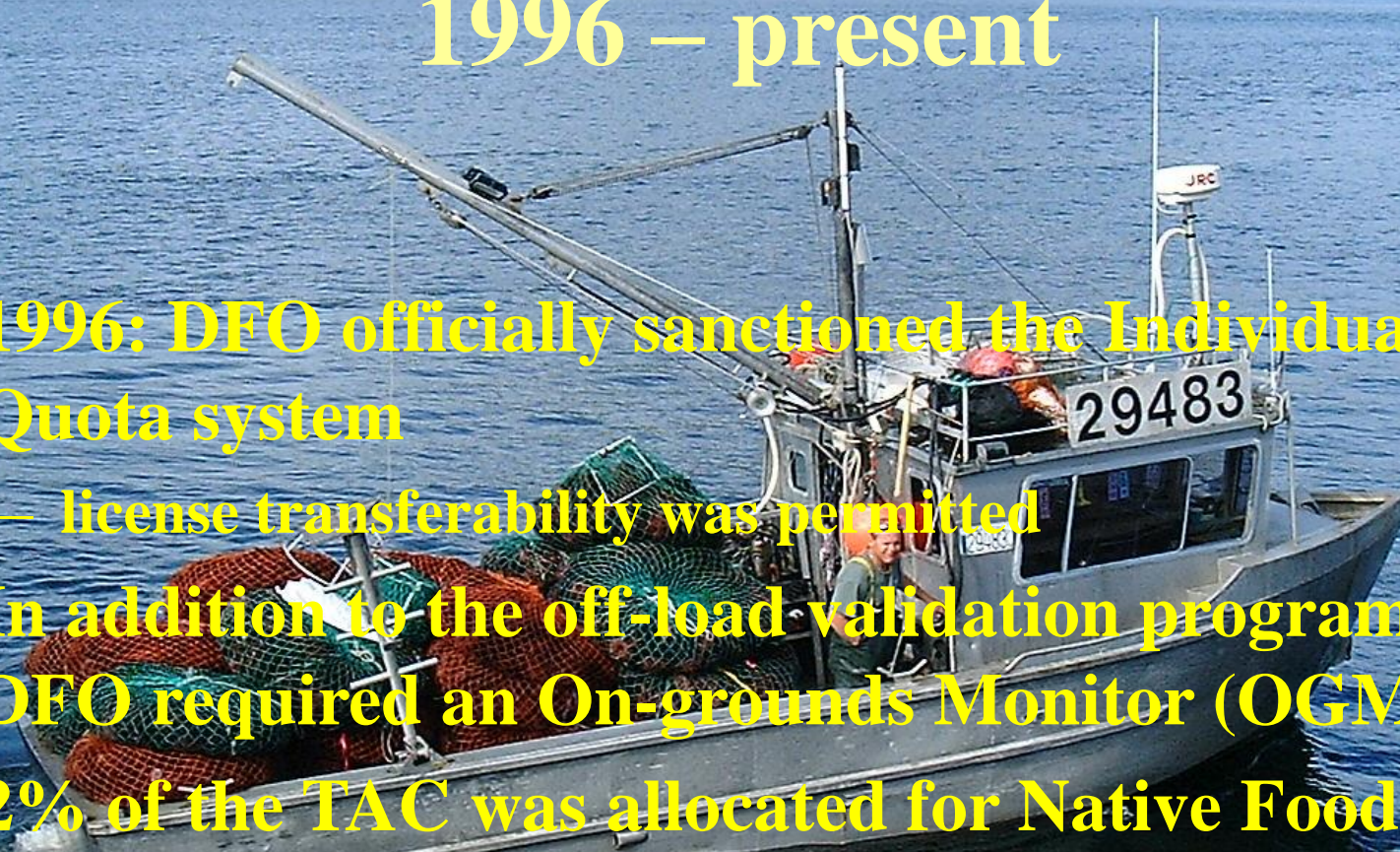
# Investing in Co-management

- 1994 PUHA in co-operation with DFO, Community Groups and the Province of B.C. set aside 5 Experimental research management areas
  - Haida Fisheries Program, Kitasoo Fisheries Program, PUHA and DFO
- Research funded 50% by Province of British Columbia
  - Partners In Progress Program



# DFO Sanctioned IQ System

## 1996 – present

- 1996: DFO officially sanctioned the Individual Quota system
    - license transferability was permitted
  - In addition to the off-load validation program DFO required an On-grounds Monitor (OGM)
  - 2% of the TAC was allocated for Native Food, Social and Ceremonial Use
  - 23 south coast fishing areas and 33 north coast fishing areas.
- 
- A fishing boat with the number 29483 on its side is shown on a blue body of water. The boat is carrying large red and green fishing nets. In the background, there are mountains and a small town on the shore.

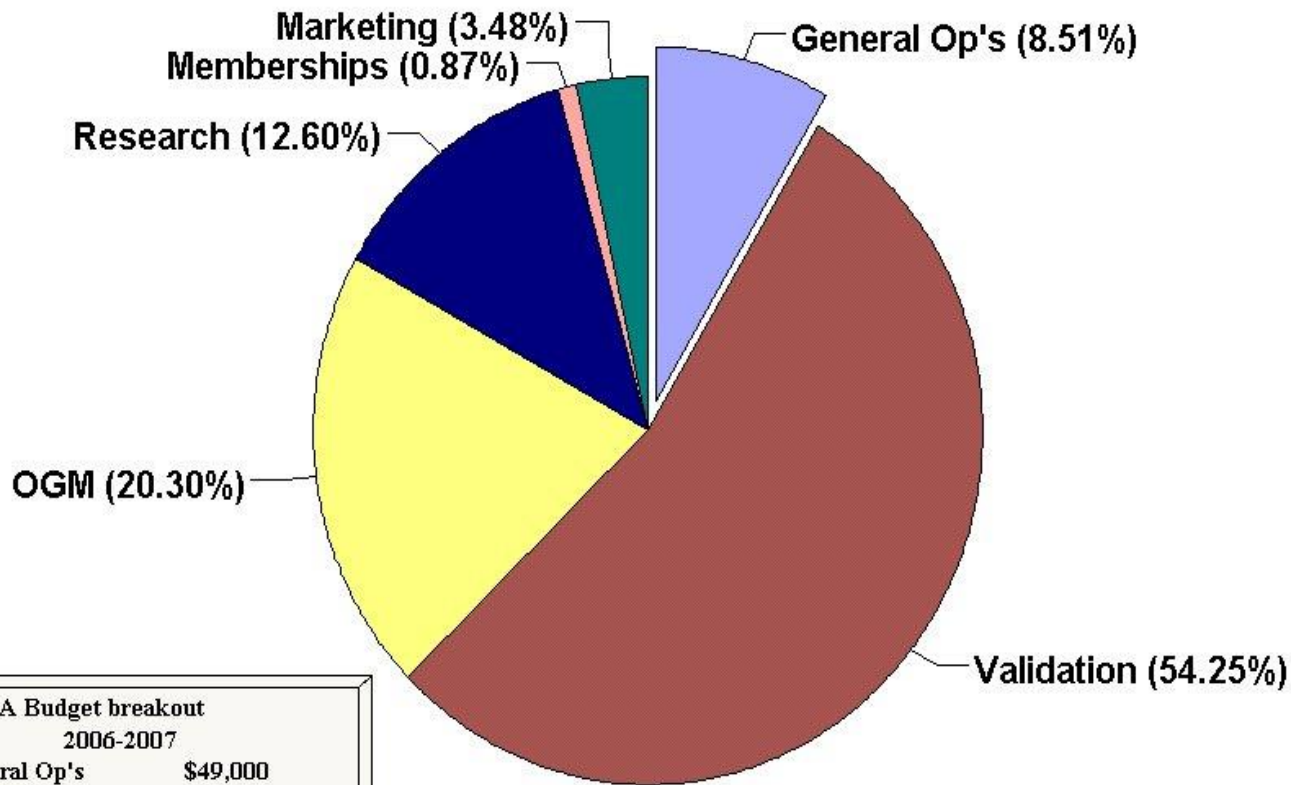


# **IQ System: 1996 - present**

- **Prices increased steadily until 2002 and then stabilized**
- **All licenses validated with PUHA until 2004**
- **PUHA administered program cost was \$5,000/licence,**
- **This increased to \$5,321.36 in 2000 and \$5,500 in 2002**



# PUHA Budget Breakout for 2006-07



PUHA Budget breakout  
2006-2007

General Op's	\$49,000
Validation	\$312,214
OGM	\$116,823
Research	\$72,500
Memberships	\$5,000
Marketing	\$20,000
Total	\$575,537

–Forecast only 80 licenses will validate,  
–leaving a budget shortfall of \$165,000



# Today's Fishery

## 2006 - 2007

- **Fishery has evolved to a modern progressive fishery embracing co-management**
  - **Co-management involves commitment to core values, co-operation with DFO science and management**
- **34 South and 71 North coast fishing areas**
- **58 permanently closed areas**
- **Current system of management and science is a role model for other fisheries**



# Today's Fishery

## 2006 - 2007

- **Market demand sporadic, prices trending lower since 2003**
- **Market limitations are making it ever more difficult for industry to fully fund all of the current science, management and operational commitments.**
- **Challenge today is where do we go from here and “how will we do it?”**