



PUHA NEWSLETTER



Presidents Report/Mike Featherstone

May 1st the Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Reserve and Haida Heritage Site permanent commercial and recreational fishing closures will be implemented. This completes a major goal for the Gwaii Haanas Reserve. The closures were approved in November

2018, by Government of Canada, after extensive consultation. With the implementation of the closures we now know the impact on the red sea urchin quotas for 2020. The 2020 draft North Coast quota is 8,261,000 lbs. (3,747.1 tonnes). Based on the closures

the draft individual quotas for the 2020 (opening August 1, 2019) are North Coast IQ = 94,954 lbs., South Coast IQ = 92,261 lbs. In the North Coast the 2019 quota is 96701 lbs so the decrease will be 1,747 lbs per licence.



PRESIDENTS REPORT



MARKETING REPORT



D&D PACIFIC REPORT



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Overall to date the 2019 fishery has completed just over 50% of the current TAC. Good product has been a challenge to find, however, the prices overall have stayed high. It seems no company can stand alone due to the low production and the lack of boats and divers. This year has seen an on going cooperation on packing, offloading and trucking between all the buyers. This has been good for cost efficiencies but at times has limited the daily fishing quantity of the individual harvest vessels.

Earlier we discussed the Gwaii Haanas fisheries closures, coincidentally the kelp reforestation project was just concluded earlier in April. The project involved removing overgrown urchins from an area which was closed for abalone research. Unfortunately with no control on the sea urchin population eventually only urchin barrens remained in the area, little kelp and not much bio diversity including abalone. The goal of the project was to remove the urchins to allow the kelp to settle and regrow. Eventually if the project is successful PUHA hopes that these areas will be reopened for fishing as a better way to control the sea urchins. Ironically there are more sea urchin closures in Gwaii Haanas under the implementations as of May 1st. Go figure!!! In spite of the overwhelming evidence that sea urchin fishery closures are detrimental to ecosystem goals the Government continues to implement more closures and in fact more are planned in other north coast areas. This is frustrating for PUHA as well as the DFO science and managers who have provided advice to the conservation groups that there are no conservation concerns for sea urchins and in fact these closures are detrimental to the ecosystem goals.

Geoff is attending the new MAPP conservation meetings and will provide his updates later in this newsletter.

The south coast areas seem to be all spawning and no good quality can be found, in the north the fleet is planning to continue moving thru the many areas with quota remaining.

Good luck to all, hopefully we can continue to fish as long as possible!

Industry Links

China retaliation: <https://www.seafoodnews.com/Story/1137668/PEI-Professor-Warns-Chinese-Sanctions-Could-Extend-to-Other-Commodities-Including-Lobster>

Ship Safety Bulletin

Subject: Launch of a new Small Vessel Compliance Program for Fishing Vessels not more than 15 Gross Tonnage

Bulletin No.: 06/2019 **Date:** 2019-03-29

Link: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/bulletins-2019-06-eng.htm>

Sea urchins devouring kelp and ecologists are smashing them:

https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-march-25-2019-1.5067999/sea-urchins-are-devouring-haida-gwaii-s-kelp-forest-so-ecologists-are-smashing-them-1.5068006?_vz=medium%3Dsharebar&sfns=mo





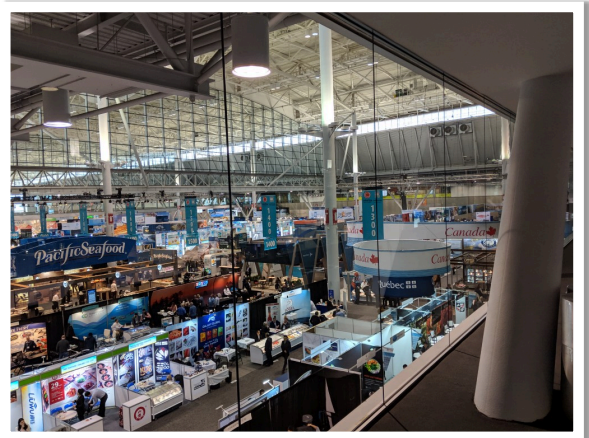
Marketing Report/Geoff Krause Page 3

It has been a busy couple months on my end. I have been keeping track and assisting wherever possible on three different projects: the International Marketing project under the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Kelp Renewal project in Gwaii Haanas under the Archipelago Management Board (including Parks Canada) and liaising with the Marine Protected Area Network Development group.

International Marketing

Lawrence Anderson joined me in attending the 2019 Seafood Expo North America (SENA) in Boston in mid March. We usually have more than just a couple of us attending but circumstances kept other guys away and everyone else was busy. I of course was committed to go and am really glad that Lawrence stepped up to help out. One person can handle these shows on their own, but that pretty much means you are chained to the booth throughout and don't get much chance to check out other parts of the show. It is always good to have guys who are active in the fishery there because that in itself lends a certain credibility that visitors looking to establish a business relationship with BC fishermen appreciate.

One of the things that was slowing us down was the delay in the funding approval. It was starting to get a little worrisome as the end of fiscal (March 31) was fast approaching and rumour had it that if things were not signed off by that date, we would at the very least lose our funding for 2018-19. And so it was with a bit of relief that on turning on my phone on landing in Boston, I finally received word that we had been approved for a three year project, and approved for just about everything we requested in our proposal. I was warned that everything did indeed need to be signed off by the end of the month to get 2018-19 funded, which got me to thinking about Murphy's Law, corollary 3 (i.e. when things are really looking up, you have obviously missed something). In this case I thought there might be a slight worry with that deadline because I was in Boston engaged in a different priority task and not back home until the 21st or so. Similarly while I was on my home, I learned on turning on my phone on landing in Montreal that the cukes proposal was also approved. I am sure everyone will be happy to know that we managed to get them both in under the wire so we got the funding for last year and are now good to go for the next few years.



Anyways- back to Boston- the show has been held in the Boston Trade and Convention Centre ever since I have been going there and while it might have grown a little bit, it pretty much fills the hall. We exhibit as part of the BC booth along with about 12-15 other companies/associations including the UHA, Pacific Rim Shellfish (Lobsterman) French Creek Seafood, Grand Hale, North Delta - and others.

It is a good group and we generally have at least a dinner or two together. This year we had Lana Popham, the BC Minister of Agriculture stop by and put on a bit of a cooking demonstration with Nathan Fong, the celebrity chef who has been taking care of preparing samples for the BC for years.



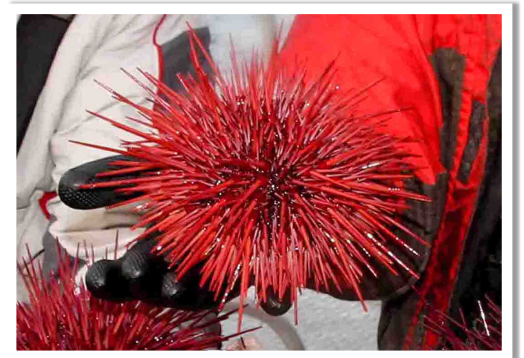
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The BC booth in previous years has been located some distance away from the rest of the Canadian Pavilion, but a country bailed this year and we get relocated so we were right next to the Canadian Pavilion. It may not have been all that big a deal, but it felt better. We were much closer to the entrance to the show so traffic seemed to build more quickly on opening.

The show went off much as it has for the past few years. We checked into the booth, got our badges, set up our information counter and got other things sorted out the day before the show actually started. That way when we arrived it was simply a matter of getting stuff up and out and we were ready to go.

The SENA opens on a Sunday, unlike other shows we attend which tend to start on either a Tuesday or Wednesday, and then run through 3 days to close in the early afternoon on Day 3. Traffic was again highest on Day 1 and the scores attributed to those people visiting also peaked that day. Overall traffic, at 56, was down about 12% from the 64 recorded last year. The scores attributed to the visitors were in the same ballpark as the last few years. One notable group was a substantial South Korean restaurant chain that is, and has been, trying to access Canadian RSU for the past few years to no avail. They visited on the first day of the show and were quite forthright and talkative about how they have been trying. It is worth noting that South Korea paid an average price of \$67 CAD/kg. in 2017, just under our highest paying market Hong Kong which paid an average of \$70 CAD/kg that same year. (Note: we do not have any market numbers for 2018 as the Agriculture Info Service program that provided detailed trade statistics in past years has been apparently discontinued. Numbers are available through Statistics Canada but they are basically useless on their own because they aggregate live and fresh product forms together so they cannot be pulled apart.)

I won't bore you with more details on the trip in this newsletter- there will be more published on the website shortly as soon as I get the trip report finished. It is taking a lot longer these days as there seems there are all sorts of other priorities jumping in front of actually getting that done.



Gwaii Haanas Kelp Recovery Project

The first of those priorities was of course making sure we secured the funding by the end of March but the next in line was the kelp recovery project. We had 5 boats participating in that project: Rave On, Skeena Maid, Sandy Isle, Terror Point 2 and Diver City. Their work started on March 28 when they scouted things out a bit and determined the quality in the area was not sufficient to support a commercial harvest. As a result the rest of the project focussed on crushing as many Red (~85% of the total observed/crushed), Green (~10%) and Purple (~5%) urchins as they could at depths down to about 60 feet along about 3 km of shoreline around the northern end of Murchison Island. The Ocean Ranger stood by in case things changed but they bugged out after a few days because it obviously was not going to. The dive boats each managed to put in 8 days, crushing about 391,000 urchins between them, and then wrapped it up on the 11th of April. I am still working on the final report for that but am hoping I can get everything in so we have a full wrap by the end the week and we can get the final invoicing in. Getting there means I can move on to the other stuff (read: MPA).



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Haida Fisheries personnel are conducting pre- and post treatment surveys to see if we achieved the required 75-95% urchin number reduction but I am hoping we did and that Parks Canada and the AMB will be sufficiently pleased with our performance. I am hoping this will be a project that will be repeated in various other areas of the new Gwaii Haanas National Park, and perhaps in other parts of the Marine Protected Areas network that is apparently emerging along the coast. We now have some key information on the boats that participated and hopefully we can gather vessel operator, diver and medical certs and other documentation for other boats etc. that I do not have on file more expediently if, or rather when, the call comes to thin out urchins in other 'protected' areas.

North Shelf Bioregion Marine Protected Area Network Initiative

The next round of meetings on this initiative starts in a couple of weeks and I will be attending the Ocean Advisory Committee meetings for the North Island, Central Coast and North Coast on behalf of the Dive Fisheries of BC. I think access to continuing supply is the most important issue facing commercial fisheries and especially the dive industry right now and I am expecting to more or less completely immerse myself in the process from about now until sometime in June. We have 6 days of meetings scheduled this month to discuss the "draft" network plan they are proposing and then we have until the end of June to file formal comments with the NSB MPA Network Committee. There will be a further chance for industry to work out compromises between fisheries to even out the load before the network is finalized and announced next spring, but I have a definite feeling that the clock is ticking.

We will see how it goes but I am thinking this is probably crunch time as there are all sorts of groups getting more and more invested in what they see as a successful conclusion. As I see it, part of the problem is that there are quite apparently a number of agendas at play, not all of which are shared, many of which are political and some which are very possibly conflicting to those which are shared and/or are public. I believe there are changes needed in BC fisheries but I am not convinced that the changes proposed in this initiative are going to be effective at anything other than creating more problems. However, with authorities being what they are, sometimes all you can do is shake your head as they insist on figuring things out for themselves and we are just left hoping they don't fubar anything too badly in the process. With any luck, they will come around to a workable common sense resolution in fairly short order even if they have to try everything else out first. I am hoping I can help out on that process and, as mentioned, plan on burying myself in this for a bit so I can get a better handle on what is, what is not and what should not be on the table. I do not yet have a lot in this regard I can report on at this point but expect that will change by the time the next newsletter comes out.

Until then- good fishing eh.





PUHA NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2019 – D&D

RED & GREEN SEA URCHIN FISHERY UPDATE

2018-19 RSU FISHERY

North Coast Fleet

Weather has been an issue most of March and April, and as a result, quality as well. The 24 vessel fleet worked their way south down the east side of Haida Gwaii to Flamingo Inlet. Weather and quality shut the fleet down, and the fleet went north to start the west side of Haida Gwaii. Again, weather was an issue and the fleet struggled to fish in the swell. Weather continued in Langara and the fleet moved back to the mainland.

A very large amount of quota was left in Haida Gwaii.

As of April 26th, the fleet is in Prince Rupert. The fleet will harvest on the mainland until further notice.

South Coast Fleet

No activity since the north coast fleet started in Haida Gwaii.

Harvest Charts

Overdue charts seem to be increasing dramatically this season. Requirements are:

- Charts completed by midnight of the harvest day
- 30 day requirement for submission to D&D

These are not being met by many Vessel Masters – DFO will be sending in-season letters of non-compliance to licence holders

Conditions of Licence

Undersize, late Hails are on the rise in the last few months. Vessel Masters (definitely not all) are reminded about the size limit and 30-day chart delivery after the dive date.





Figure 1 – RSU Comparison by Month 3-Year Trend

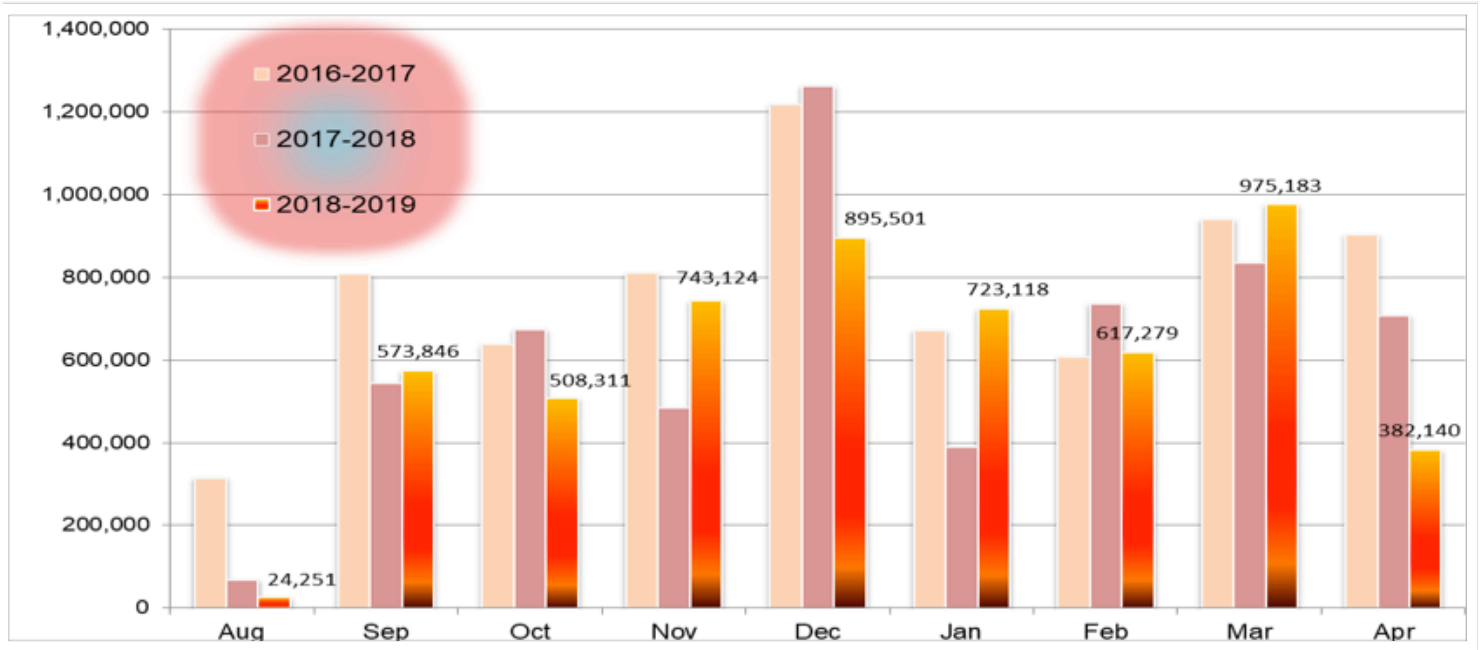


Figure 2 – RSU Comparison - Landings to Date [to April 26th] 6-Year Trend

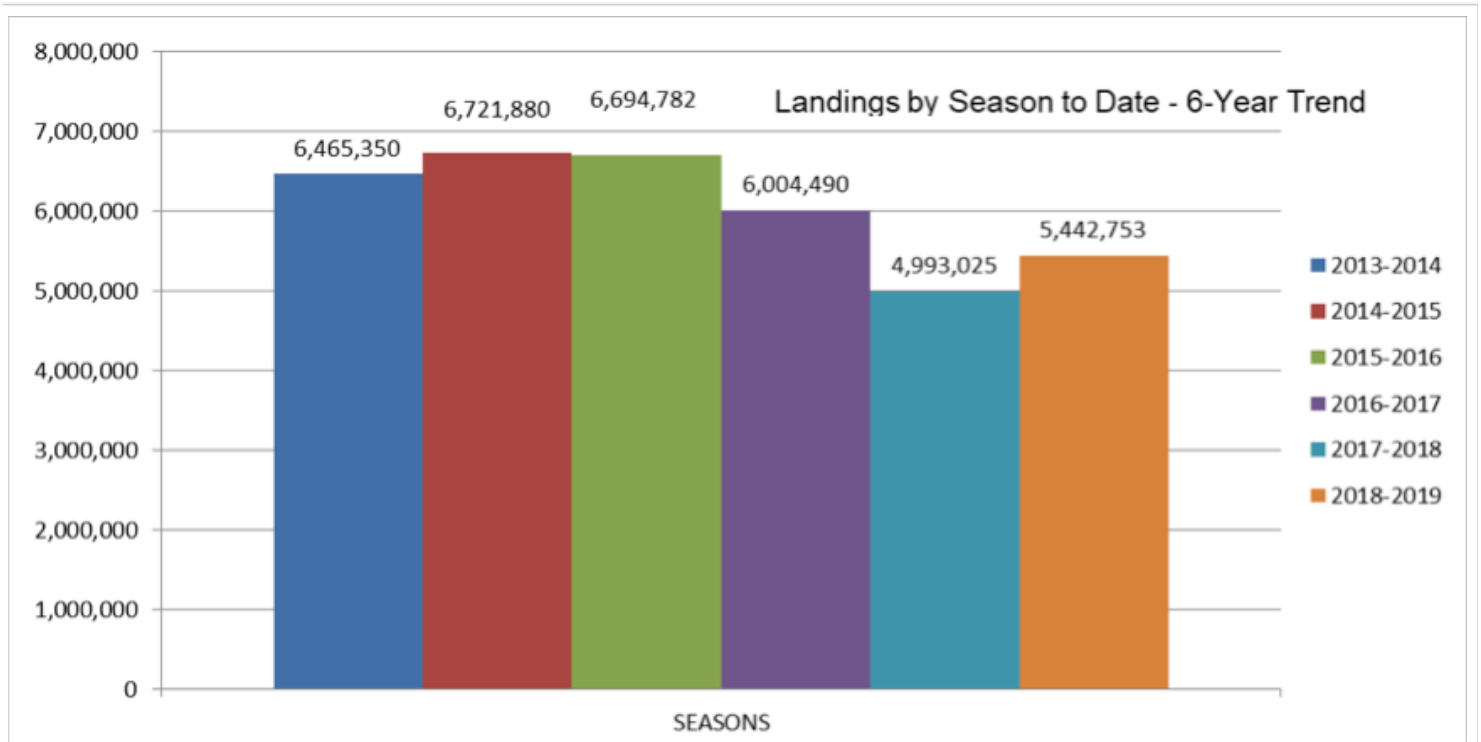
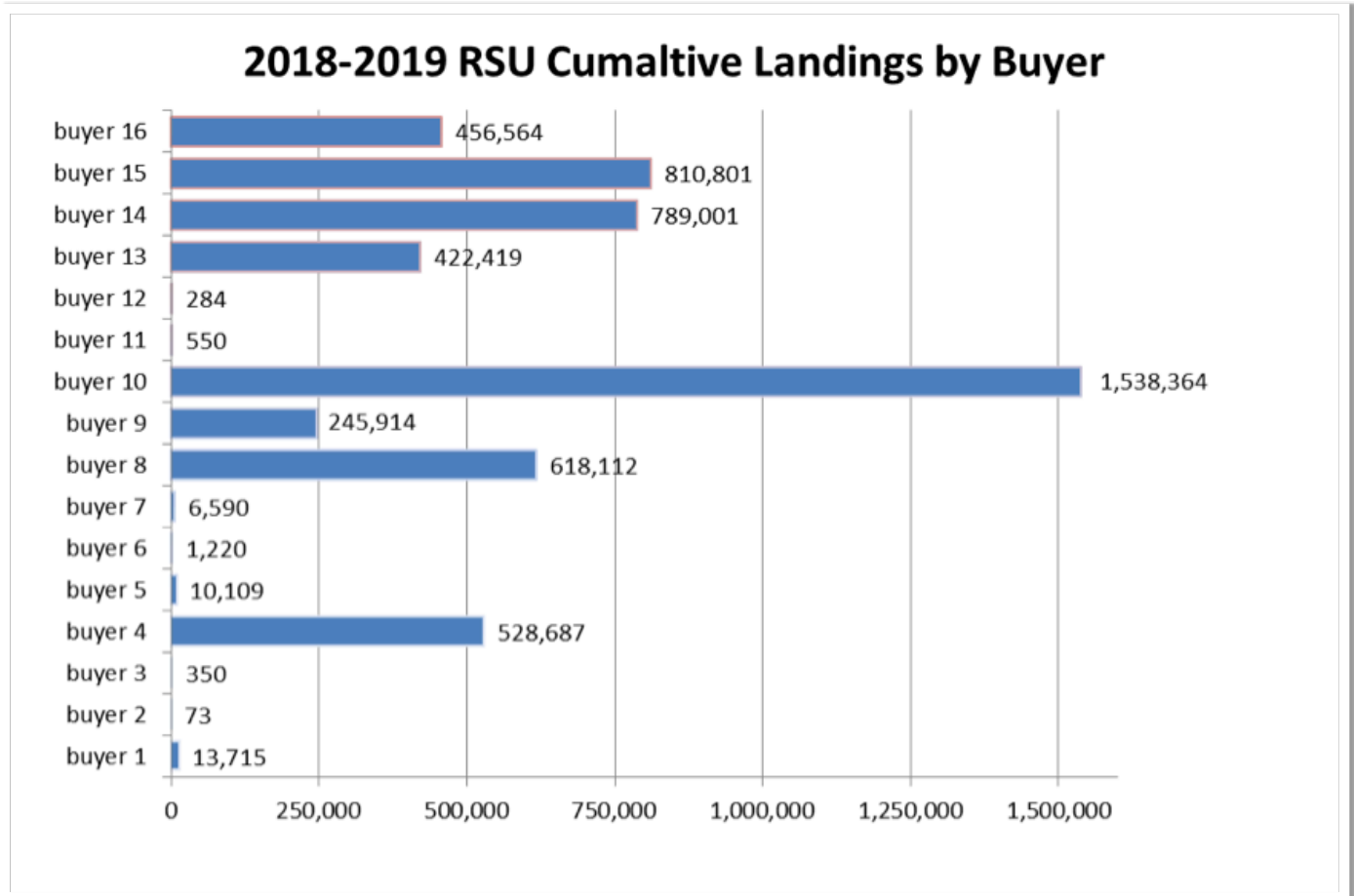




Figure 3 – Landings by Buyer



2018-19 GSU FISHERY

The 2018-19 fishing season started off slower compared to the last two seasons, but maintained high harvest levels into January.

The market dropped off in early January, but in the first week of February by a couple of vessels made efforts to complete their tabs. No activity since.





Figure 3 – GSU Historical Landings – 8 Season Trend

