



PUHA NEWSLETTER



Presidents Report Mike Featherstone

The AGM is scheduled for August 19th, 2019 at Beban Park 9:30 am. You should have received your package in the mail and e-mail notification. Contact Karolyn at karolyn@puha.org to

update your e-mail and mail address if you haven't received your package.

The red sea urchin licences are now available for issue. The industry fees for greens remain the same as last year.

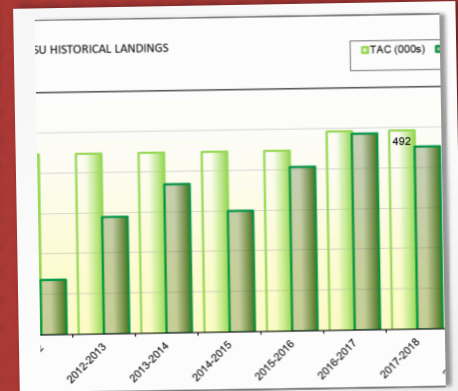
The red urchin fees have increased \$100. registration forms are available on the PUHA website - <http://puha.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2019-2020-RSU-PUHA-Registration-Form.pdf>.



PRESIDENTS REPORT



MARKETING REPORT



D&D PACIFIC REPORT



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The Green Urchin registration form can be found at: <http://puha.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2019-2020-GSU-PUHA-Registration-form.pdf>

**2019-2020 PACIFIC URCHIN HARVESTERS ASSOCIATION
RED SEA URCHIN ZC / FZC LICENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

**2019-2020 PACIFIC URCHIN HARVESTERS ASSOCIATION
GREEN SEA URCHIN ZA LICENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

Looking back on this past season, the total red urchin landings were comparable to the 2017/18 season. In 2018/19, there were more landings in the south coast and less in the north, with just under 6 million lbs total landed. This compared to just over 6 million lbs the previous season. Landings were down in August, December and April. The challenge was finding decent quality to fish. Many of the areas which typically produce good product did not have quality roe. Several areas were visited numerous times during the year and yet the quotas were not completed.

Due to lower daily harvest landings related to quality, the fleets cooperated more regularly to fill packers and trucks. This is a positive trend which benefits the overall logistic cost as well as the product freshness. Having the fishermen and processors cooperating is an important step towards being the best sea urchin fishery possible.

The green fishery saw another quota increase and the TAC was near 100% completed. The only product left behind was in area QMA 13 and due to quality. Typically, this area was either fished early in the season or at the end. Due to the Russian fishery the opportunity in February was not available. Nevertheless, there is a very positive trend in the green urchin fishery, both with quota increases, cooperation with DFO and increased market demand.

The unfortunate death of one of our divers last October brought a renewed focus on safety. PUHA organized 4 different training sessions in cooperation with DiveSafe International, and as a result over 70 divers and tenders upgraded or renewed their certifications. Following up on improving safety, seafood harvest divers and tenders met in Nanaimo on June 27th to discuss and begin to develop a Best Practices for Seafood Harvesting. The meeting was chaired and organized by Fish Safe BC - <https://www.fishsafebc.com/>. There is now a draft Best Practices document based on discussions at the meeting and subsequent comments from members. Ryan from Fish Safe will be at the AGM to provide further updates and next steps.





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Marine Protected Areas are another topic receiving and increasing focus for PUHA. The Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Management Plan was officially implemented in May 2019. The result is a decrease in red sea urchin quota in the Management Area, which is reflected in this new season harvest plan.

PUHA is continuing its long relationship of working with the Haida including the recent Kelp Reforestation Project - <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/agence-agency/bib-lib/rapports-reports/core-2018/ouest-west/ouest-west14>. 5 vessels participated in the urchin removal which undertook the removal of all sea urchin in a 3.5 km section of coastline in Gwaii Haanas. The area had been previously closed to sea urchin harvest over 10 years ago which resulted in an overgrown urchin barren.

The removal was successful completed, and the subsequent surveys have indicated very positive results with lots of new growth kelp settling in the cleaned area. PUHA is now working with the Haida and DFO to develop a plan to revisit the site and some adjacent areas as part of the commercial fishery.

The Northern Shelf Bioregion MPA is another conservation proposal PUHA is currently actively involved in. PUHA along with PSCHA and UHA have collaborated to fund Geoff to attend and report on all these meetings. Grant Dovey from the UHA, Brian Mose and Bruce Turriss are also actively involved.

The positive results from the Kelp Restoration project supports PUHA's position that our fishery is beneficial to the goals of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. Recent abalone surveys further support this, as the areas with highest densities of abalone, are the areas where there is a high activity of sea urchin fishing. This is slow process, as NGO's and many conservation organizations feel that simply eliminating fishing from an area will provide benefits. However, ocean systems and interactions are much more complex and increasing sea urchin harvesting is proving to be beneficial.

On the marketing front, PUHA representative Dave McRae and myself joined other industry representatives for the annual BC Wild Seafood Reception in Victoria in May and sponsored by the BC Seafood Alliance. This event provides an opportunity to meet Provincial MLA's and discuss current industry concerns.





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In June, Geoff and Karolyn attended the BC Seafood Festival in Comox. There was a large International Buyers delegation (43 buyers), a Gala dinner, exhibition booths and educational presentations. This event supports our industry and our Industry and Provincial counterparts.

In September PUHA delegates will join the UHA and PSCHA in Hong Kong, hopefully the demonstrations and political violence will have subsided. In November we will travel to China as well as Vietnam. Geoff will provide complete details at the AGM and here following in this newsletter. As part of our ongoing marketing program development, PUHA is undertaking a new branding program "we are the best" to promote our industry achievements as well as our great sea urchin products. Ron Ross will provide a draft of this new program at the AGM.

The outlook for the green fishery is increasingly positive. There is a growing abundance of green urchins and meetings are planned in late September to develop a new survey and research plan to support further quota increases. This is the last season of the 3-year plan and PUHA is proactively looking ahead to prepare for the next multi year program.

Over the year, PUHA representatives reach out to fishermen, licence holders and processors to reach consensus and jointly collaborate on management, marketing, logistics, research and planning decisions. I want to thank everyone who answers the calls and encourage everyone to who has any concerns or ideas to share to continue to share their ideas and inputs.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the AGM and to a successful 2019/2010 season!

NEWS

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/goalblue-report-chinese-consumers-willing-to-pay-premium-for-sustainable-seafood>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-protests-in-hong-kong-balloon-into-fundamental-challenge-of-chinas/>

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Life-Arts/Life/From-pest-to-payday-Japan-cities-try-to-tame-sea-urchin>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/07/government-of-canada-and-province-of-british-columbia-announce-salmon-restoration-and-innovation-fund-projects.html>

<https://www.seafoodnews.com/Story/1147273/Unusual-Die-Offs-of-Pink-Salmon-Marine-Mammals-Seabirds-and-Krill-in-Alaskas-Northwest-Frontier>

<https://www.seafoodnews.com/Story/1147914/The-Legacy-of-the-Blob>

https://www.fishsafebc.com/blog/2019/7/31/first-aid-training-requirements-for-fishermen?utm_source=Cyberimpact&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=First-Aid-Requirements-for-Fishermen



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We are well into summer now and things have slowed down, no doubt giving everyone a well-deserved break. That's a good thing and I am happy to report that things from my end are developing pretty much on schedule and I am pretty sure I am keeping on top of it all. The North Shelf Bio-region Marine Protected Areas Network initiative is on a time out now until after the election while on the marketing front we are getting everything in place for another round of shows this coming winter. I haven't heard anything about any surveys coming up but that's OK- it just means there is more time for all the other stuff. I'll give you the rundown.

As mentioned in the last newsletter (May), the 3 year project we submitted to Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada was approved and that included for last year. The way things were stacked up though, I could not actually get around to completing the claims part for last year until about a month ago. That is all in now and we are just waiting on the program to come back so we can confirm how much support we are getting for last year's efforts. Our budget this year is looking pretty good, although as above, we are still waiting on confirmation on what has and will and possibly will not fly so...

I would just like to mention the contributions of some members to our effort(s). There were a lot of folks participating in the trips this last year that are still waiting on getting reimbursed for a good part of their travel expenses. With their participation we managed to use up a good portion of last year's budget but about all I can say at this point is that I have all the numbers ready to go as soon as we get the money in. Thank you everyone for your patience.

The first activity on our marketing itinerary this year was the BC Seafood Expo in Courtney in mid-June. Activities around the show last for a couple of weeks and include a gala dinner on the weekend but we are generally only there for the actual trade show part. We again had a booth set up with the PSCHA on one side, UHA on the other. There were maybe 25 other companies- associations exhibiting but there were also a number of overseas buyers from China, Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Singapore and the US that toured the show and are apparently interested in our products. We did not actually meet with them because they are looking to talk business with exporters- and that remains outside of our particular remit. We meet with them at our booth and discuss the industry but can only direct them to individual companies for the more detailed conversations they are seeking.

This show is a great opportunity to meet others in the industry and find out what is going on and what everyone is thinking. There are also a number of presentations on site: this year the main ones that grabbed my attention talked about seaweed culture and fisheries innovation. Nathan Fong organizes a seafood cookup on the first night of the expo that explores the many options available with BC seafood and that in itself is something well worth attending.





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Moving forward: our itinerary this year is starting out similarly to last year: the Seafood Expo Asia is happening in Hong Kong at the beginning of next month and then we have the China show in Qingdao in November. You might have heard that things are a little bit unsettled in both these markets, most especially in Hong Kong. This is a bit of a worry as Hong Kong, which last year imported just over \$4 M CAD worth of processed Canadian uni, is our second largest market. This is about double what they bought in 2015. In contrast, Japan imported about \$ 6.5 CAD worth last year, down from about \$ 9 M CAD in 2015.

The situation in Hong Kong is serious. Demonstrations started in June in response to an extradition bill that would permit extradition to mainland China and they have carried on with apparently increasing levels of violence ever since. The government of China is noticing and is increasingly viewing them as a challenge to their authority. This is also a worry because they are a bit sensitive to challenges like this and, if unchecked, the situation could escalate and see Chinese forces move into Hong Kong to quell the unrest. This would be an unmitigated disaster for Hong Kong, and quite likely for China because of the reputational damage that would ensue as Hong Kong loses all vestiges of its independence. Hong Kong remains an important financial centre and economic powerhouse because it retains independent courts, Rule of Law and personal liberties not available in other parts of China. There are no doubt factions within the Chinese government that would prefer to see these demonstrations simply crushed as a lesson to other parts of the country but as a whole its response thus far has been restrained.

Taiwan, which by the by- at about \$1.7 M CAD last year, is our third largest market, is watching and will continue to watch - closely. And our fourth largest market: yes, I'm afraid it is China at just over \$1M. In fact, those three markets- Hong Kong, Taiwan and China, represented over 50% of our sales of processed uni last year - meaning we have a huge stake in how this plays out. And that is before we even start considering other products like sea cucumber and geoduck.

Unfortunately at this time, things do not look to be calming down. The Hong Kong government is refusing to discuss the issues with the demonstrators, the demonstrators are refusing to step back and the Chinese government is making more noises about getting directly involved. However I am quite confident that calmer heads will prevail and talks between the various parties will discover that reasonable compromise holds promise to benefit all sides. That may be overly optimistic in today's world, but perhaps having others like us there will give them some assurance that they are not alone and help them see that they are not really so different from each other.

The same more or less holds for China. Relations between Canada and China are not great these days but it is also worth noting that our sales to China increased last year by more than 25% to over \$1M CAD- a first for us in China. We were also assured by some visitors from China at the BC show that we have a lot of friends there and that they are, as always, looking forward to seeing us in November. There is definitely a lot of stuff going these days but we have never had serious problems arise there and it makes sense to carry on and keep building relationships with them as part of doing our bit.

One other thing we are looking at is the first annual Canadian Seafood Show in Montreal in late September. I have been busy so far just getting the Hong Kong arrangements behind us but will be starting on those next week as well. We are moving ahead in Asia with some faith, but it also makes sense to hedge our bets a bit too by exploring opportunities in Canada. Montreal and Toronto both have innovative and eclectic food scenes and the opportunities there may be significant. We will never actually know until we go to check it out- so we're going to get started on that.



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Other marketing ideas for this year include checking out shows in Korea and Vietnam just after the China show in November. We are still working out what needs to happen with these but they too should be coming together by around the end of the month. Vietnam is actually one of the hottest new tourist destinations, very popular with Korean and Japanese tourists and economic activity there is on the upswing because of the China-US trade war. There is no guarantee that it is going to last but it sounds like the Vietnamese are generous and friendly and serious in their quest to build their tourist industry. With this in mind, it seems that Vietnam too is probably a good medium to long term bet.

Moving back to the MPA stuff, I attended the Ocean Advisory Committee meetings for the North Island, Central Coast and North Coast and the Integrated Bio-regional Advisory Committee meeting on behalf of the Dive Fisheries of BC. There is quite a lot going on with the process right now, although they - the Marine Protected Area Technical Team aka: MPATT - are kind of taking a furlough from the end of June until after the election so they do not even inadvertently commit the next government to anything they might not agree with.

As a quick summary, I figure there are a lot of governments with a lot invested in this process, not even counting international obligations undertaken by multiple federal governments, so implementation of a Marine Protected Areas network is going to happen. None of the governments involved have endorsed the draft as yet - it sounds like there are going to be another 2 iterations before that step and for that we are probably looking out to the Spring of 2021 at least. There is still a long ways to go and I am approaching it in a constructive manner with the idea that contributing to the best outcome we can get. Of some note, the government recently declared a large MPA in the Arctic , a move that might take a bit of pressure off the west coast to cover off more than our fair share of Canada's MPA commitments.

We are going to hear from some folks at the AGM who I expect know more than I on what is going on behind the scenes, so I am not going to go into detail on what I saw happening. Just finish this off, after attending four meetings in May and June, I remain somewhat heartened by the approach. The process is breaking new ground on governance by involving everyone they can at an early stage and then taking the time and making the effort to accommodate perspectives and interests of everyone affected. It also seems to me that they (MPATT) are listening. The apparent sincerity of everyone involved to live up to a high collaborative standard is also encouraging. Despite that rosy view, I cannot attest to a good or even a fair final outcome because, as you guys probably know better than I, the messy parts where decisions are made will involve others that we have not yet met or heard from. That part is also still some ways down the road and things can turn sideways in backroom discussions are, but despite that - I remain hopeful.

That is about it for now. I look forward to seeing lots of members in a week or so.





2018-19 RSU FISHERY REVIEW



North Coast Fleet

- Weather an issue most of the season
- Quality another issue
- Average fleet size by buyer over the season was very low
- A very large amount of quota was left in Haida Gwaii
- No activity since June 16th.

South Coast Fleet

- Quality was an issue. Some QMAs noticed multiple spawns, restricting harvest opportunities
- Average fleet size by buyer lower than previous seasons
- Landings occurred weekly for Live Market in Steveston

Harvest Charts

Overdue charts increased dramatically this season, a requirement prior to 1994:

- Charts completed by midnight of the harvest day
- 30 day requirement for submission to D&D
- These conditions are not being met by multiple Vessel Masters
- DFO ccontacting licence holders
- Digitizing the harvest data will run into February of 2020 due to outstanding chart data.

Figure 1 – RSU Comparison by Month 3-Year Trend

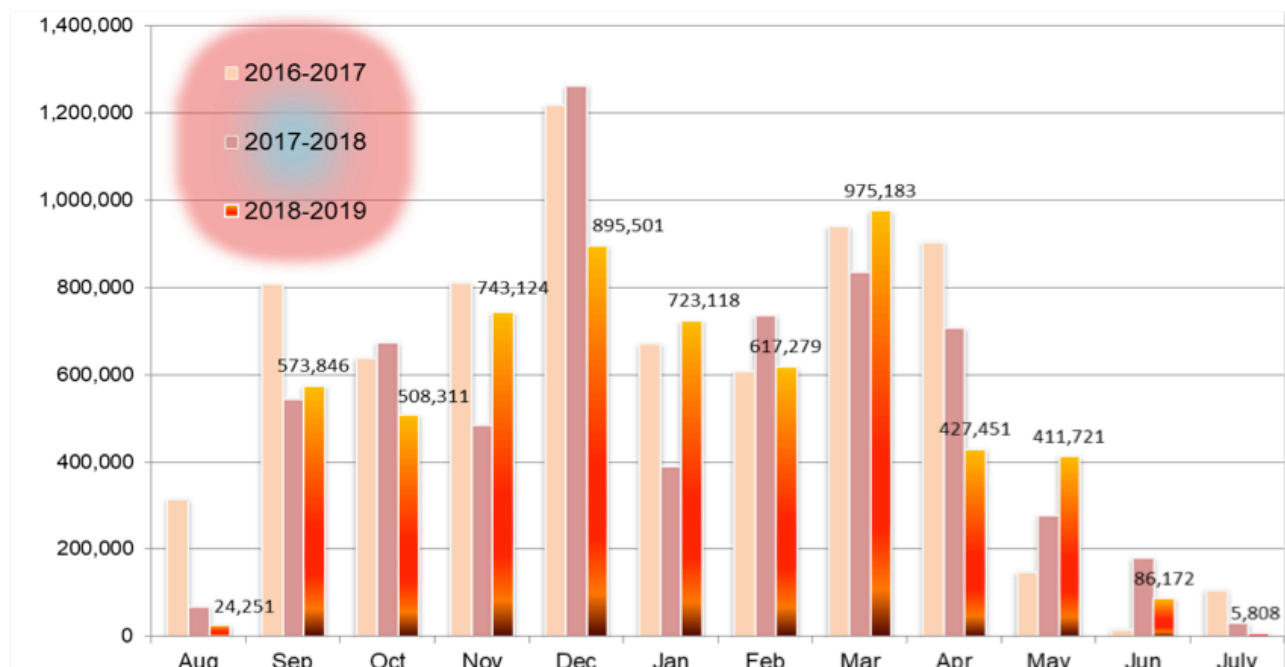




Figure 2 – RSU Comparison - Landings 4-Year Trend

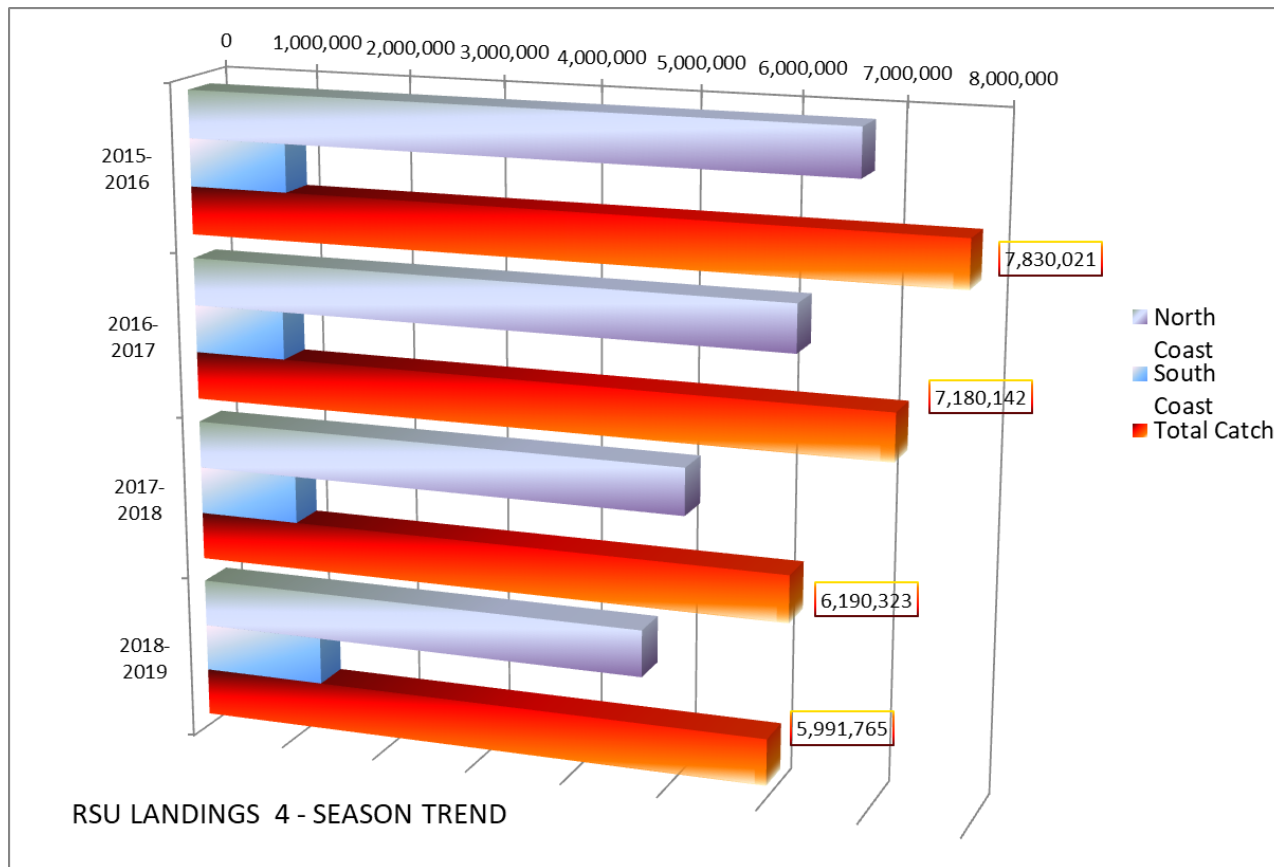
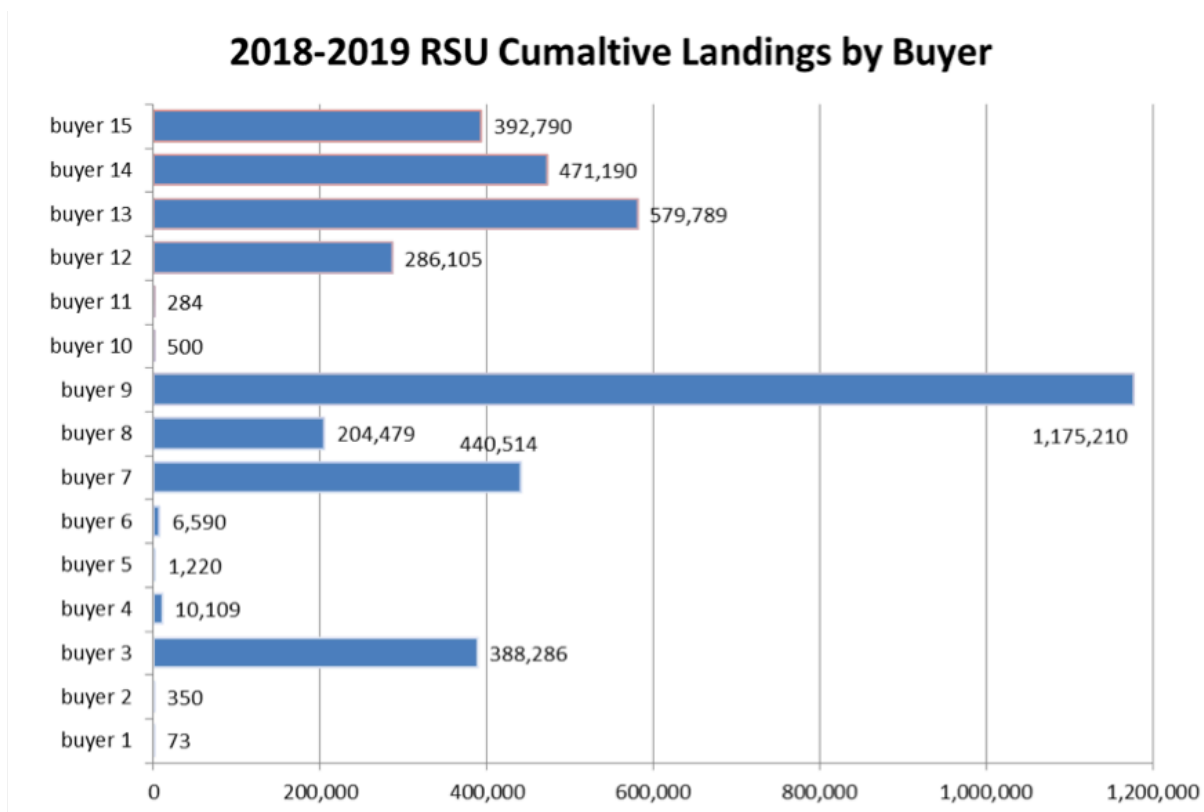


Figure 3 – Landings by Buyer





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.

Figure 3 – GSU Historical Landings – 8 Season Trend

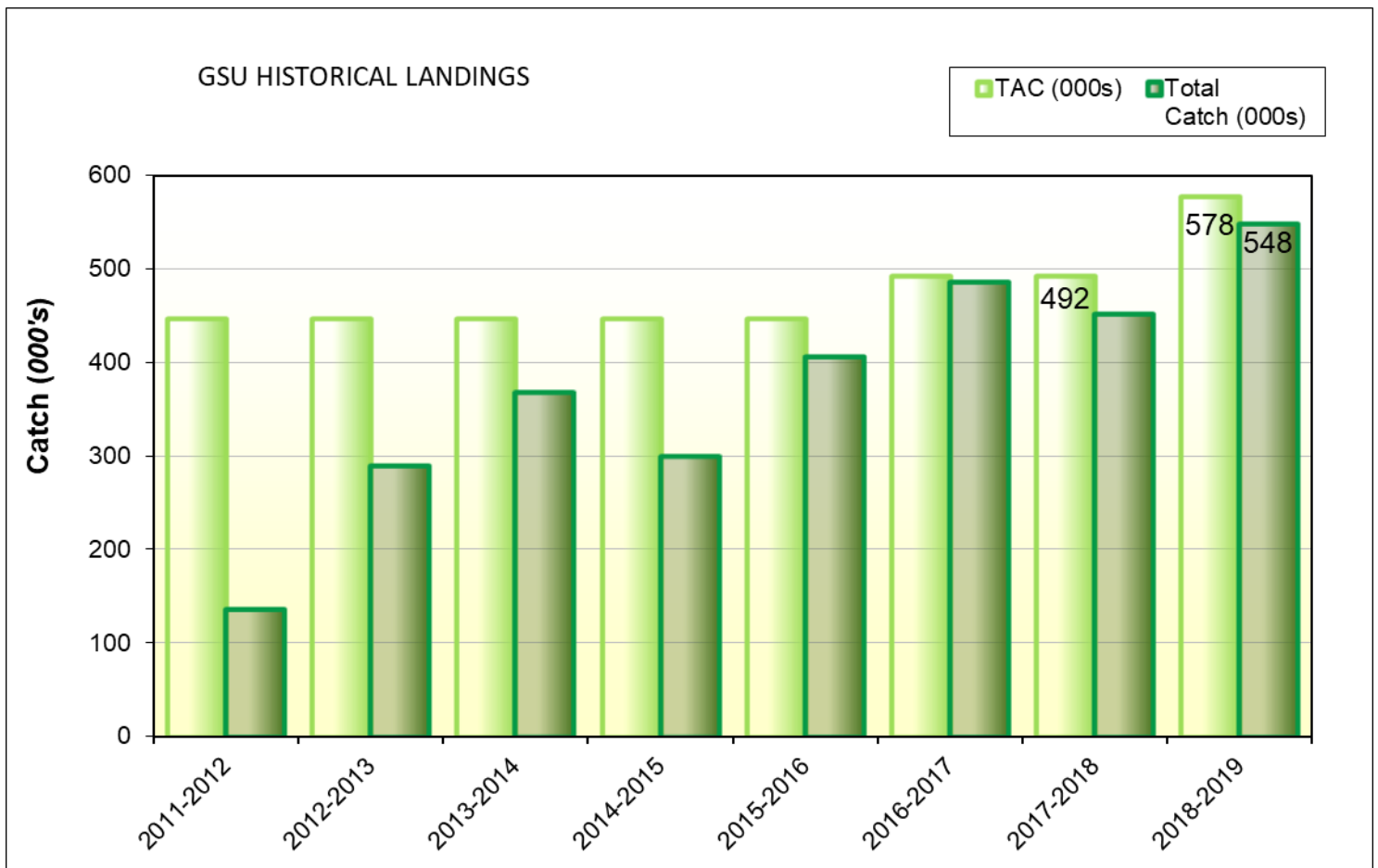


Figure 3 reflects that the GSU fishery had an increase to their total allowable catch this season.



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Figure 4 – GSU Landings by Buyer

