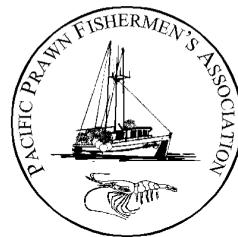


PRAWN NEWSLETTER



From the PACIFIC PRAWN FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

December 2015

Volume 1, Issue 2

Are you receiving emails from the PPFA ?

Important prawn industry information and updates are distributed primarily by email; if your email address has changed, please contact Emily to update.

Welcome to the Prawn Newsletter! We hope you find the information here useful and informative. The PPFA administrative team, Board of Directors, and Caucus Reps work year-round to protect, promote, and strengthen our Prawn Industry; this newsletter is designed to provide summaries and insights about the successes and challenges that are part of that work.

If you have questions or comments about topics discussed in the newsletter, please refer to the back page for contact info and communicate with a Director, Caucus Rep, or Administrative staff.

Classifieds and Business Advertising are also ways to put this Newsletter to work, 'gaining direct access to your commercial prawn fishing community. Sell, lease, or seek licenses, vessels, gear and equipment by placing an ad in the Prawn Newsletter.

'Wishing everyone a terrific Winter, a Merry Christmas, and all the best for the coming New Year!

PPFA Annual General Meeting

The 2015 Annual General Meeting was held November 23rd, 2015 at the Dorchester Hotel in Nanaimo. Members in attendance reviewed a presentation highlighting the year's activities and discussed issues for the coming year. The report to members is available upon request.

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Membership Profile Maintenance

All Membership Profiles have been cross-referenced using 2015 DFO license reports. Work to correct incomplete or outdated contact and license information is ongoing. If you have recently moved, have a new phone number, email address, or have acquired an additional W license, please contact Emily to update your Membership Profile.



Update On...

RCAs (Rockfish Conservation Areas)

Dana Haggerty, PHD candidate at UBC, has been working with DFO and Pacific Biological Station (PBS) to determine whether RCAs are effective. Dana presented a summary of her research at PBS on October 14th. Emily Orr attended the presentation on behalf of the PPFA, to assess what the findings implicate:

- No observable difference in fish populations in vs. out of RCAs
- Fly-Overs show poor compliance levels / Rec fishing activity common within RCAs
- Many fishers are unaware of the location of RCAs and so fish without realizing they are in a no-fish zone
- First Nations maintain the right to fish in RCAs and are actively doing so
- As species of rockfish which are targeted for protection are generally not able to survive catch/surfacing, they cannot be protected by catch-and-release effort – which is why trap fishing is considered detrimental despite the incidental catch rate being so low in the commercial prawn fishery (0.015 per trap per day)

The presentation included a suggestion that the prawn fishery may need to be managed differently in these areas –hinting that RCAs could/should become no-fish zones. –Dana did not give specific advice as to how it could be managed differently, and also was not aware/did not include in research whether modified prawn traps could be effective. – This research has the potential to influence DFO's management of trap fishing in RCAs; we need to monitor this closely and seek clarity around DFO's process for next steps. With 164 RCAs in place, there is heavy potential impact for the commercial prawn fishery.

Consideration was acknowledged for the relatively small amount of time that RCAs have been in place (7-10 years); as rockfish are long-lived and with small home-ranges, it may take a considerable number of years before success can be reasonably measured.

For more info and RCA maps:

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/maps-cartes/rca-acs/index-eng.html>



The 'Prawn Star' returning to port during the Stuart Channel PSSI test.

Prawn Advisory Board

(Formerly known as the Prawn Sectoral Committee)

• Highlights from the September 29th Meeting

The Terms of Reference for the Prawn Advisory Board is an ongoing topic and body of work which was a focus of this meeting. Steven Richards has taken a lead role in the writing of the ToR. A subcommittee of the PAB has been tasked with the refinement of this document. Until the new ToR has been approved, the standing ToR from the Prawn Sectoral Committee is in place.

DFO provided the post-season review, including that of spawner index sampling which occurred during the 2015 season, (2900 samples, averaging 300 per week). It was noted that 14 logbooks had yet to be turned in, which delayed the availability of landings data. DFO suggested that in order for the post-season review to be more fulsome, it may need to take place later in the Fall, to incorporate Post Season index work and for in-season catch data to be collected and processed. Conservation and Protection reported 122 prawn fishery patrols, (110 of which were dedicated prawn patrols, 12 of which were opportunistic.) C&P reminds fishers to ensure that their VRN numbers are visible to aerial patrols, and not covered by gear or stowage.

• Highlights from the December 8th Meeting

Presentations by DFO focused on the key characteristics of the Prawn fishery including the commercial, recreational and FN efforts. The 2016-2017 IFMP was discussed with comments from the SFAB and PPFA. The SFAB recommended several changes to the commercial sector including a higher SI, more access for recreational fishers, vessel caps, area-based management and that commercial fishery in Nootka Sound be limited to 30 days. On behalf of the PPFA, Steven Richards proposed changes with respect to the numbering system on buoys to facilitate easier identification by both DFO enforcement and other fishermen as well as a reduction in the frequency of VMS hails from 4 to 2 per hour.

NEXT PRAWN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING:

Observers are welcomed and encouraged at PAB meetings. Often the commercial fleet is under-represented in the observer section of the room. Your presence is noticed, important, and appreciated.

• September 2016 (Date, time and location tba)

2015 In-Season Activity Report from J.O. Thomas

Provided by Doug Tallman

For the past 15 years an industry-funded program has been implemented through J.O. Thomas and Associates Ltd to assist with the management and control of the British Columbia commercial prawn fishery. One of the main objectives of this program is to collect spawner index data during the fishery that is provided to DFO biologists and managers for review each week upon which they base their in-season management decisions.

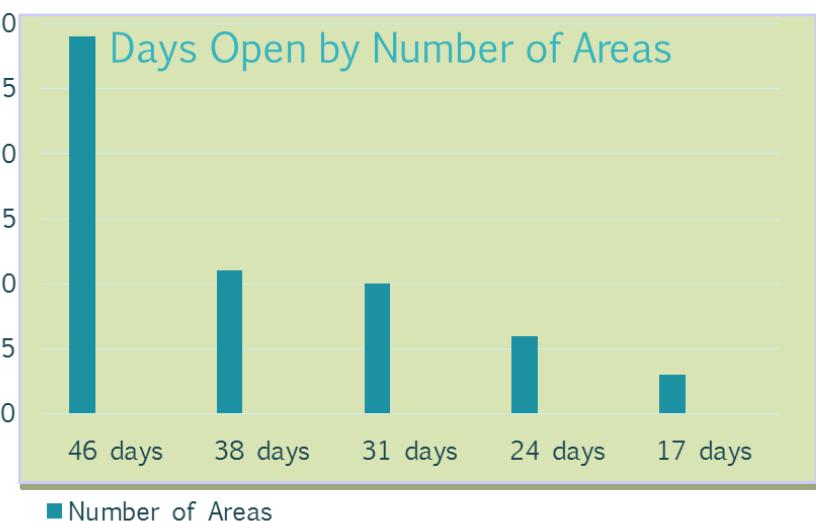
This year, as in past years, JOT at-sea observers along with the DFO sampling team spread out across the coast to collect spawner index data shortly after opening day on May 12. Electronic vessel and gear position reporting (VMS), in its second year of implementation, played a key role in providing a large quantity of very high quality information with which to direct these observers. Almost one million electronic position reports were received in real time at the JOT program office which were processed and analyzed continuously through the course of fishery providing for focussed and efficient field operations. At an average rate of over 45 strings of gear per fishery-day, a total of 2,090 strings were sampled for spawner index data, the highest rate and largest sample size ever achieved by this program. Observers looked at over 775,000 individual prawns in 34,000 traps on 198 different vessels this year attesting to the skill and commitment these people bring to this fishery. Every day they

spend on the grounds is an intense and challenging experience but ultimately gratifying knowing that they are making a real contribution to the sustainability of the resource. Equally important are all of the fishers who extend a high degree of co-operation to observers during the fishery. Together, this partnership has created a world-class program in which everyone can take pride.



LogBooks

At the end of September, 14 LogBooks had not yet been turned in to DFO. LogBooks are due back 28 days after the end of the month in which the fishing season closes.



Update On... The Ahousaht Case

To date, the PPFA's position in the ongoing Ahousaht case has been one of interested observer. We had been trying for some time to be granted intervenor status and in late October, the court heard our arguments. On November 25th, the judge's decision was released and it grants limited intervenor status to the PPFA and others. Our testimony will be limited to the *'investment of an individual fisherman who fishes on the WCVI to his costs related to fishing gear, boat, crew and other direct costs of fishing'* and "...the costs of sampling, monitoring and catch reporting and direct costs..." A PPFA lay witness will provide this information and preparations are now underway.



Update:
**Wastewater
Outfall
Relocation**
Area 18 (-7, -8)



The CVRD, in partnership with Cowichan Tribes, Municipality of North Cowichan and City of Duncan is pursuing an amendment to the CSLWMP (*Central Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan*). This amendment would authorize relocation of the treated effluent outfall from the Cowichan River to a new ocean outfall location. The relocation is required due to an expiring lease agreement with Cowichan Tribes, and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the outfall, which is currently challenged by low river levels during dry periods.

Public consultations have been completed for this process. Emily Orr has attended the public consultations on behalf of PPFA, to determine whether the relocation would have adverse effects on prawn stocks and or the commercial prawn fishery. Project planners indicate an outflow terminus well above prawn habitat depth, (no physical interference), and effluent that is a clear liquid, fully treated and disinfected beyond the regulatory standard for protecting fish and other aquatic life.

Cowichan Tribes Chief and Council as well as CSLWMP Public and Technical Committee supported the amended plan to relo-

1-800-465-4336

Observe, Record, and Report

C&P officers rely on accurate and current information with which to pursue cases of fishery violations. Calls to the O.R.R. line result in lead information being sent immediately via BlackBerry to all officers in the area of report. Information regarding excess of daily limit, fishing in closed areas, illegal fishing gear, damage to fish habitat, and pollution are examples of offences to report.

Information regarding illegal sales of prawns, and retention of illegal prawns, should be reported via the O.R.R. Line.

cate the outfall to Satelite Channel. The proposed amendments were to be reviewed by the Steering Committee on October 5th, for possible recommendation to the CVRD Board that the amended plan be submitted to the Minister of Environment for review.



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&
LURE DIP

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PRAWNING - ADD TO PELLETS THE NIGHT BEFORE
LURES - SALT OR FRESH WATER - DIP OR DOUSE LURE**

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False Creek Prawn Festival

On May 17th the 9th Annual Chef's Table Society Spot Prawn Festival at False Creek took place and was a full-scale success. Line-ups stretched in all directions for the prawn boil lunch, and to purchase live product direct from the boats. Live cooking demonstrations, entertainment, and exhibits by Oceanwise and PPFA were all part of a delicious, educational, and exciting day on the wharf.



A message from Fish Safe...

Fish Safe Asks - Are you ready?

Are you ready for traps full of prawns?
Are you ready for full freezers? Are you ready for full live tanks?
Are you ready for prices going through the roof?
Are you ready for an emergency at sea?



If you can answer yes to all these questions, then Fish Safe thinks you will be prepared for all most anything next season throws your way. But, if you are not ready, then Fish Safe can help you prepare!

The *Transportation Safety Board* reported that this past year was among the worst in recent history for fishing fatalities. While we continue to struggle with the loss of fishermen at sea, we need to reflect and be more determined in our approach to preventing these losses. What can we do? How can we prepare ourselves for changing these statistics? Fish Safe has the tools to help you prepare yourselves so that you will be able to answer, at the very least the last question, with "Yes, I am ready".

Stability

Vessel stability continues to be an issue when it comes to being ready. Knowing your vessel's stability limits and understanding where the stability threats are, and the effect they can have on your vessel, are essential to a fisherman's knowledge. The Fish Safe Stability Education Course is a four day course designed to help fisherman understand their vessel's stability limits.



Safest Catch Program

Working on deck continues to be an issue when it comes to being ready - having your raingear and boots on does not make you ready to work! The Safest Catch Program has been designed to help fishermen formalize their safe work practices and create a vessel specific safety manual which will document all you need to do to keep yourself safe while working on deck.

The Safest Catch Program will also help you prepare for emergencies that could arise while working at sea. Having a plan for an emergency and practicing that plan are key components of the Safest Catch Program. The Safest Catch Program begins as a one day program on your boat which will see you work with a fisherman Safety Advisor. By the end of it, you will be able to say: "**I am ready for an emergency at sea**". It can also give you a Transport Canada Marine Emergency Duties A3 (MED A3) certificate, for free!



So I again ask: **Are you ready?**

Call Fish Safe to help prepare you for your safety readiness.
As for the full traps.....we'll let you figure that out.

John Krgovich, Program Coordinator
Fish Safe BC

Update On...

Glass Sponge Reef Protection Areas

The PPFA has been an active part of the consultation process of this important project, and promotes the protection of these areas while striving to minimize the potential effect of loss of fishing grounds.

This past fishing season, the nine sponge reef protection areas were elevated from voluntary avoidance, to complete closure to bottom-contact fisheries. PPFA advocated industry's position that closures should be announced outside of the fishing season, with reasonable buffer zones, and that closures should be applicable to all sectors.

The sponge reef protection areas have subsequently been clarified as no bottom-contact fishing zones for FSC fishing efforts, effective April 1st.

For additional info:

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/10/131018-glass-sponge-reef-canada-ocean-science/>

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/protection/mpa-zpm/hecate/index-eng.html>

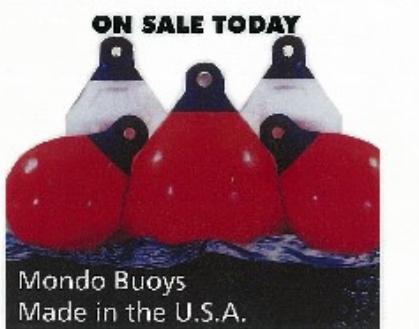
PRAWN PRODUCTS



Live prawn holding
19" X 14 X 4"



Prawn dipping tank
21" X 18 1/4" Deep



TRI-CORE PLASTICS CONTAINERS LTD- 1-800 214-3542
In stock at Richmond B.C. <http://www.plasticfishcontainers.com>



Live prawn holding
19" X 14 X 7"



Insulated Container
48" X 43 X 46" High



Low-drag float

Classifieds

For Sale:

-135 double ring prawn traps, 31" bottom, 316 stainless steel. Used one year. **\$10,800**

-New aluminum prawn sorter. **\$5,800**.
-Mathers MicroCommander Electric Controls. 12 volt. Two sets of controls. Used. **\$1,500**
(604) 223-0446

Vessel, license, traps, gear for sale or lease?

- Contact Emily to advertise in the next Prawn Newsletter

20th Annual China Fisheries and Seafood Expo

PPFA Director Stewart McDonald recently took a personal trip to China, and while there, had the opportunity to attend an international seafood trade show. This trade show is the largest of its kind in Asia. The BC seafood industry was well represented with sea urchin, herring roe, and others. His attendance and reporting of this event raises the issue about whether this type of expo may be an opportunity for the PPFA to consider in the future.

For more information go to: <http://chinaseafoodexpo.com/>

The PPFA wants to hear from you!

*Contact a Board Member, Caucus Representative,
or your administrative staff*

Your insights, questions, and concerns are important to the people who are tasked with protecting and improving your fishery. Make sure to connect with a director, representative, or administrative officer with your point of view. We are here to answer your questions, and to be the collective voice of your industry.

Election Results 2015

Election of representatives to the Prawn Advisory Board, formerly known as the Prawn Sectoral Committee, for a new 2-year term of 2015-2017 has occurred. See below for new Representative contact information.

Contact Us

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PPFA Executive Director

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ppfa@shaw.ca

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PPFA Office Administrator

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PRAWN INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OBJECTIVES

1. TO INCREASE LONG-TERM STABILITY AND SECURITY OF ACCESS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING OPPORTUNITY TO THE B.C. PRAWN RESOURCE
2. TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS FAIR AND EQUITABLE ACCESS AND RULES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE COMMERCIAL PRAWN FISHERY
3. TO COMMUNICATE AND WORK WITH GOVERNMENT AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN A PROFESSIONAL AND RESPECTFUL AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, A COOPERATIVE MANNER FOR THE SHORT AND LONG TERM BENEFIT OF THE PRAWN RESOURCE AND COMMERCIAL PRAWN FISHERY.
4. TO SUPPORT IMPORTANT MONITORING, MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS
5. TO ENSURE EQUITABLE, EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE USE OF HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR IMPORTANT RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS SHARED BY COMMERCIAL PRAWN LICENCE HOLDERS
6. TO MINIMIZE THE COST OF IMPORTANT RESEARCH AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND ENSURE THEY AND THE COSTS OF CONSERVATION ARE EQUITABLY SHARED BY ALL COMMERCIAL PRAWN LICENCE HOLDERS, AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, ALL USER GROUPS.
7. TO DEFEND THE COMMERCIAL PRAWN FISHERY AGAINST UNWARRENTED ATTACKS FROM OTHER INTERESTS
8. TO DEMONSTRATE TO GOVERNMENT, OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, CONSUMERS AND THE PUBLIC THE RESPONSIBLE NATURE IN WHICH THE PRAWN FISHERY IS MANAGED AND FISHED
9. TO PLACE INDUSTRY IN A POSITION TO RESPOND TO GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES (E.G., PROTECTED AREA STRATEGIES)
10. TO PROVIDE AND SPEND THE NECESSARY FUNDS WITHIN BUDGET TO CARRY OUT THE COMANAGEMENT DUTIES REQUIRED BY THE PPFA ON BEHALF OF THE FLEET TO OPERATE A SUCCESSFUL COMMERCIAL FISHING SOCIETY DEDICATED TO THE LIVELIHOODS OF COMMERCIAL PRAWN LICENCE HOLDERS
11. TO INCREASE COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS WITHIN THE INDUSTRY OF ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES AND PRAWN ISSUES
12. TO PROMOTE AND INCREASE MEMBERSHIP IN PPFA
13. TO PROMOTE VESSEL SAFETY AND SAFE FISHING PRACTICES



Prawn Advisory Board

(PAB) Representatives

North Island Prawn Association

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Coastal Prawn Group

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