

# **Red Sea Urchin Live-Market Validation Pilot Program Protocol for the Commercial Red Sea Urchin Fishery**

The DFO and the PUHA will be piloting an alternate validation program to trial two new methods of catch validation.

The two new validation methods are intended to allow the validated weight of urchins destined for the live-market (transported submerged in sea water) to count towards the same amount of quota as urchins destined for the traditional processed market (transported out of water).

The two alternate validation methods will include a volumetric method and a water-loss conversion method and are described in section 2.

## **1. Protocol**

- Those harvesters interested in participating in the pilot program must contact one of the resource managers or the service provider in order to be added to the eligible vessel list.
- Participants will be limited to those landing urchins destined for the live/fresh market. These alternate methods of validation are not to be used for urchins heading to the processed market.
- The alternate validation methods will only be available at the following landing ports: Steveston, Victoria, Campbell River and Port Hardy.
- When hailing to the service provider, participants must indicate how their product will be landed (ie. Submerged in sea water for the live market or dry for the processed market).
- Participants should make arrangements with the service provider prior to harvest to measure the internal volume of any containers that will be used to land submerged urchins. The containers used should be a standard type and not of an irregular shape.
- Only 50% of the quota of any given Quota Area in the south coast may be landed using the alternate validation methods with the exception of Quota Area 17 – Nanaimo which has been set aside specifically for the live/fresh market.
- The alternate validation methods are to be used for red sea urchins harvested from the south coast licence area only.

## **2. Alternate Validation Methods**

### For urchins landed in totes full of sea water

Urchins that are landed at the dock in containers full of sea water may be validated using a volumetric method in which:

1. Arrangements should have been made with the Service Provider prior to landing any submerged urchins to measure the volume of any landing containers.
2. The dockside observer will determine the volume of urchins within the container by measuring the height of urchins and by applying length and width measurements

obtained prior. For full containers, urchin spines may protrude over the top of the container but not the urchin tests.

3. Once the volume of urchins has been determined it should be multiplied by a factor of 16 pounds per cubic foot in order to determine the validated weight in pounds. This converted weight will be recorded in the harvest logbook as the validated weight.

*For example:* An urchin volume of 20 cu-ft \* 16 lb./cu-ft conversion factor = 320 lb. of validated urchins.

For urchins removed from sea water immediately prior to validation.

Urchins that have been submersed up until the point of validation may be validated using the water-loss conversion method in which:

1. The tote of 'wet' urchins must be weighed on a certified scale as is required for the traditional processed urchin fishery.
2. Once the wet weight has been determined, it should be multiplied by a water-loss conversion factor of 0.90. This converted weight should be recorded in the harvest logbook as the validated weight.

Important: This method is not to be used for urchins destined for the processed market.

*For example:* 320 lb of wet urchins \* 0.90 water-loss conversion factor = 288 lb. of validated urchins.

If you are interested in participating in this pilot program or have any questions please contact Pauline Ridings at 250-756-7118 or [Pauline.Ridings@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Pauline.Ridings@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)