

2016/2017 RED SEA URCHIN FISHERY NORTH COAST FISHING PROTOCOL

Part 1: Vessel Monitoring System Protocol

A Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will be piloted for the north coast fishery for the 2016/2017 season in order to increase monitoring efficiency. This will be the sixth year of this pilot program.

For the 2016/2017 season the following vessels will be piloting a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the North Coast licence area (this list may change over the course of the season):

Vessel	CFV
Forager	20204
Twin Starrs	21883
Wendy Dawn	25501
King Clam	26712
Rave-On	29599
Mega Bite	30176
Sandy Isle	30554
Kuroshio	30673
Zomby Woof	30679
Hello Dotty	30710
Diver City	31081

1. A total of four fishing groups will be permitted to fish at one time in the north coast licence area (Management Areas 1 to 10). Specific limits will apply depending on the quota areas being fished:
 - **Mainland North Coast (Management Areas 3, 4, 5 and 6)**: There will be a limit of two separate fishing groups permitted to operate at the same time within the quota areas on the mainland north coast in quota areas **RU13a to RU46b** – NO EXCEPTIONS.
 - **Haida Gwaii (Management Areas 1 and 2)**: One fishing group will be permitted to fish in addition to the two mainland north coast fishing groups in **RU01a to RU12**. Two fishing groups may be considered to fish at the same time in Haida Gwaii as long as the total number of fishing groups does not exceed four within the north coast licence area.
 - **Mainland Central Coast (Management Areas 7, 8, 9 and 10)**: One fishing group will be permitted to fish in addition to the two mainland north coast fishing groups in **RU47a to 58**. Two fishing groups may be considered to fish at the same time in the Mainland Central Coast as long as the total number of fishing groups does not exceed four within the north coast licence area.
2. Each fishing group must have at least one vessel equipped with a functional VMS or fishing activity will have to be ceased.
3. If a fishing group does not have at least one vessel with a functioning VMS, fishing activity may be suspended by closing the area.
4. The vessel(s) equipped with the VMS must be a vessel actively engaged in fishing (i.e. not a live-aboard).
5. Vessels equipped with a VMS unit must check that the system is operational prior to commencing fishing activity. See Part 3: How to check if your VMS is functioning.
6. The VMS must stay on for the entire red sea urchin season unless the vessel has ceased fishing for the remainder of the season.
7. Just because a vessel is equipped with a functioning VMS does not mean that vessel may fish alone. Group limits still apply at all times.
8. A functioning satellite phone is needed in remote areas in order to maintain in contact with D&D in order to keep track of remaining quotas and to meet hail requirements.

Part 2: On-Grounds Co-ordinator Protocol

PUHA has designated some of its members as “On-Grounds Co-ordinators” (OGC). The OGCs will communicate with D&D at the beginning and end of each fishing day.

The OGC requirement is essential at all times no matter how small the fishing group. In the event there is not a designated OGC on the grounds and there is no communication with D&D, fishing activity will be suspended by closing the area. The OGC must be on the fishing grounds.

OGC Checklist

Morning Report (Prior to fishing activity)	
1 Confirm Fishing & Vessels	Confirm if it is a fishing day or not, if so provide a vessel count with names for the quota area open, and any issues to be addressed.
2 Area Remaining Quotas	D&D will provide the OGC with the actual or estimated remaining quotas by area and go over possible fishing plans or vessel limits.
3 Vessel Harvest Limit	In the event that the remaining quota in an area to be fished is insufficient for a full day’s production, the remaining pounds will be divided equally amongst the fleet. The OGC will convey the vessel limit to the fleet. <u>No same day area changes or new hauls</u> will be permitted during a harvest limit or clean-up – NO EXCEPTIONS
Evening Report (After fishing activity)	
1 Catch Info by Area	Provide the total packer weight by quota area. It is the responsibility of the OGC to ensure the packer weights are provided to D&D in a timely manner. It is the packer’s responsibility to relay load information to the offloaders & Port Observer.
2 Game Plan	Keep D&D up to date with the talk on the grounds with respect to roe quality, weather outlook and general discussions on moving to a new area. Keep in mind <u>same day decisions to move to a new area will NOT BE PERMITTED - NO EXCEPTIONS</u>
3 Area Remaining Quotas	D&D will provide the OGC with the estimated remaining quota by area, and go over possible fishing plans or vessel limits for the next day.
1-800-775-5505 or 1-604-886-4819	

- A maximum of four quota areas can be opened and available for fishing by each fishing group. However, each fishing group is limited to fishing one area at a time unless approved by DFO.
- If an area is selected outside of the four previously opened areas this requires advance planning and a minimum of 48 hours notice (not including weekends and holidays) to open prior to fishing.
- Attempts will be made to complete each quota area before moving to a new area. If weather or roe quality prevents further fishing effort in a quota area the fishing group will be permitted to move to another area, as a group, but will not be permitted to switch within the same day.
- Clean-up protocol involves the estimated or actual remaining quota for an area to be divided equally between all vessels hailed prior to the day of the clean-up. Each vessel will have a harvest limit imposed, any overages of this limit will be tracked and reported to DFO.

Part 3: How to check if your VMS is functional

- Check if your VMS is functional well in advance of your fishing activity. This way if there are any problems it will be easier to get the VMS functioning again and your fishing plans will not be delayed.
- Contact Pauline Ridings at 250-756-7118 or Pauline.Ridings@df-mpo.gc.ca with your vessel name and CFV/VRN to inquire whether your vessel is reporting location data on DFO’s VMS website.
- If there are mechanical issues with your VMS unit or any questions please contact your satellite service provider :
 - For the ROMTraX VMS unit: ROM Communications at 1-877-860-3762
 - For the iTrac II VMS unit: JouBeh Technologies Inc. 1-800-565-1830

Part 4: Reminder of Conditions of Licence for the Red Sea Urchin Fishery

Note: These are provided as a reminder only and the actual condition of licence will be attached to the licence issued by the National Online Licensing System (NOLS).

Hail Requirements (Section 11 of Conditions of Red Sea Urchin Licence):

(1) Hail-out Report

Not less than 24 hours before a fishing trip, the vessel master shall make a Hail-out Report by contacting the designated Red Sea Urchin service provider at (800) 775-5505 and report the following information:

- (a) vessel name, vessel master's name and vessel registration number;
- (b) species to be fished (i.e. Red Sea Urchin);
- (c) Subarea(s) to be fished;
- (d) anticipated time of arrival at the fishing location; and
- (e) anticipated time that fishing will begin.

(2) Upon failure to arrive at fishing location within 24 hours of time stated under subsection 11(1)(d), the vessel master shall report the following information to the designated Red Sea Urchin service provider:

- (a) vessel name and vessel registration number; and
- (b) details of change in fishing plans.

(3) At least 24 hours prior to moving to a new Quota Area, the vessel master shall report the following information to the designated Red Sea Urchin service provider:

- (a) vessel name, vessel master's name and vessel registration number;
- (b) species to be fished (i.e. Red Sea Urchin);
- (c) Subarea(s) to be fished;
- (d) anticipated time of arrival at the fishing location; and
- (e) anticipated time that fishing will begin.

(4) Cancellation of fishing trip:

Should the vessel master decide not to fish after having made a Hail-out Report, the vessel master shall make a Hail-in Report by contacting the Red Sea Urchin service provider to indicate that no fishing occurred within 24 hours of the time stated under subsection 11(1)(e).

(5) Hail-in Report:

(a) Where the vessel is not landing Red Sea Urchin (i.e. Red Sea Urchin has been transhipped at sea):

Not more than 24 hours after a fishing trip, the vessel master shall make a Hail-in Report by contacting the designated Red Sea Urchin service provider at (800) 775-5505 to report the following information:

- (i) vessel name, vessel master's name and vessel registration number;
- (ii) species fished (i.e. Red Sea Urchin);
- (iii) Subarea(s) fished; and
- (iv) time that fishing stopped.

(b) Where the vessel is landing Red Sea Urchin ashore:

At least 24 hours prior to landing Red Sea Urchin, the vessel master shall make a Hail-in Report by contacting the designated Red Sea Urchin service provider at (800) 775-5505 to report the following information:

- (i) vessel name, vessel master's name and vessel registration number;
- (ii) species to be landed (i.e. Red Sea Urchin);
- (iii) name of the designated port and location therein where the catch shall be landed;
- (iv) anticipated time of landing;
- (v) name of fish processor or buyer that is buying or transporting the catch; and
- (vi) if applicable, the method of transporting the catch to a fish processor.

Harvest Data Requirements

The vessel master shall maintain a log of all harvest operations and provide this information in both hard (paper) copy and electronic copy to the Department. The content and format of this log (paper and electronic) shall meet the requirements as defined by the Shellfish Data Unit for the current licence year.

- (2) The harvest and fishing location information recorded in the log shall be complete and accurate.
- (3) The information for each day's harvest operations shall be recorded in the log not later than midnight of that day.
- (4) The log shall be kept on board the licensed vessel.
- (5) The log shall be produced for examination on demand of a fishery officer, fishery guardian or an observer.
- (6) The vessel master shall provide a chart record for each day's harvest operations, indicating the locations fished, to the service provider contracted by the Pacific Urchin Harvesters Association, within one month of the harvesting having occurred.
 - (a) The chart shall be marked with:
 - (i) the vessel registration number;
 - (ii) the licence tab number; and
 - (iii) the validation I.D. numbers.

The validation I.D. number is the unique page number assigned to each validation page of the Red Sea Urchin Validation and Harvest Log.

(b) Each harvest site shall be clearly marked on the chart with dive number, validation I.D. number and the dates that fishing activity occurred at each site. The dive numbers on the chart record shall correspond to the dive numbers in the log.

(c) The information for each day's harvest operations shall be recorded on the chart record no later than midnight of that day and provided to the service provider within one month of that day's harvest operations.