

SELECTIVE FISHING MEETING

SEINE GRIDS AND KNOTLESS BUNTS

Update on results and approach leading to a PSARC paper and the future

Date: December 8, 2004
Time: 0900-1530
Location: Vancouver DFO office 401 Burrard boardroom F

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Purpose of Meeting (Gordon Curry)
3. Grids and Knotless Bunt Evolution - Summary 1998-2003 (Jim Thomas)
4. Results from experimentation and implementation in 2004 (Jim Thomas)
5. Summary of comments from skippers using grids and knotless bunts in 2004 (Paul Brajcich)
6. Industry perspective (e.g. risks/benefits, effectiveness, costs, implementation schedule and/or scenarios?) (Areas A and B reps.; Paul & John Brajcich)
7. Development of the PSARC Paper (Brent Hargreaves)
 - a. Why review the work through PSARC?
 - b. Review the RFWP (Request For Working Paper)
 - c. What are the key components of this paper?
 - d. Roles and responsibilities (e.g. authorship, acknowledgements, analysis)
 - e. Funding
 - f. Availability of the data
 - g. Timeframe leading to a final paper May 2005
8. Next Steps
 - a. Two approaches for 2005
 - i. Wait for the PSARC paper and then consult on further work
 - ii. Preliminary results to guide experimentation and/or implementation in 2005

MEETING RESULTS

In Attendance: Paul Brajcich, Chris Cue, John Brajcich, Chris Ashton, Jim Thomas, Vic Palermo, Brent Hargreaves, Gordon Curry, Andrea Petersen, Carmen McConnell, Ron Goruk, Brian Assu

The Selective Fishing Policy objectives and some of the principles were reviewed to help clarify the Departments direction and context for moving to more selective fisheries.

Three presentations were provided. The first was a review of the evolution of grids and knotless bunts from 1999 to 2003. The second highlighted the coast-wide results from 2004. This was followed by a summary of results and recommendations from the skippers involved in the work in 2004. Agenda item number 6 was accomplished through discussions throughout the meeting along with clarification on study design, results and future directions. Following is a list of the key discussion points:

- Communication of the results of this meeting should go out to the Area A and B harvest committees and DFO staff.
- The results to date appear compelling that seine fishing mortality impacts on chinook and coho can be significantly reduced with the use of this gear.
- Need to clarify for industry where the work on grids and knotless bunts is going. Recommended that the focus be on finding a solution to high bycatch mortality in Area 20 and Areas 3 and 4 before investigating other applications (e.g. releasing small sockeye regarding Sakinaw or sorting Fraser pinks from sockeye).
- Industry wants greater clarity around the benefits to harvesters from the potential implementation of this gear.
- Area Harvest Committees (AHC) to consider taking a small portion of their total allowable catch to fund further research or costs of implementation.

Development of the Pacific Science Advice Review Committee (PSARC) paper:

- Working paper due May 8, 2005 to highlight what grids can and can't do
- Brent Hargreaves, Gordon Curry and Vic Palermo are the lead authors although others may be required
- Industry input has come from past meetings and will continue. Industry is particularly interested in being consulted on the recommendations, the affects of implementation and how to implement the recommendations. This consultation to occur prior to decisions to implement.
- Consideration of including some estimation of the implementation costs
- The paper should focus on the applicability of this gear to Area 20 and Areas 3/4

Next Steps:

- Information from this meeting to be distributed to Areas A, B and DFO
- Have grids and knotless bunts on the agenda of the Area B AHC meeting on February 3. Additional information to be provided for this meeting:
 - Area 20 fishing time constraints in relation to coho impacts or sockeye and how DFO would consider these constraints for vessels with or without this gear
 - Coho stock composition in Area 20
 - Anticipated fishing plan for Area 20 in 2005
 - U.S. concerns regarding Canadian fleet fishing in front of them
 - What work should be carried out in 2005 and what decisions are required before the end of February to allow strategic work in 2005.
- Area A to have similar discussions relevant to the North Coast
- Development of the paper will begin with data gathering and outline of the paper's contents