

2022/2023 RED SEA URCHIN 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 2022/2023 season in order to increase monitoring efficiency.

1. There will be a limit of two separate fishing groups permitted to operate within the QMA block system in one region only at any time. This includes the central coast and Haida Gwaii blocks.
2. Each fishing group must have at least one vessel equipped with a functional VMS verified by DFO 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 will be suspended by closing the area(s).
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 the VMS 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. The two group limit still applies at all times.

Part 2: On-Grounds Co-ordinator Protocol

PUHA has designated certain vessels 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) | |
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| 1 Confirm Fishing & Vessels | Confirm if it is a fishing day or not, if so provide a vessel count, and any issues to be addressed. |
| 2 Remaining Quota by Area | 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 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 will be permitted during a harvest limit or clean-up – NO EXCEPTIONS</u> |
| 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 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 Remaining Quota by Area | 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 | |

- For the 2022/23 season we will be using a block system for opening and closing quota areas in an attempt to minimize the amount of opening requests.
- A maximum of ONE block of quota management areas can be opened for fishing at one time in the north coast region. A minimum of 48 hours notice (not including weekends and holidays) to required to open a block prior to fishing. A list of quota areas within each block is available in Part 4.

- Each fishing group is limited to fishing up to two quota areas at one time within each block. There must be at least one vessel equipped with a functioning VMS unit in each quota area but both quota areas do not need a separate OGC.
- 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. The clean-up of a QMA is considered a one-day event.
- When two fishing groups are on the grounds and they are unable to fish due to various reasons (weather, day-off etc...) they are still considered active and this does not present the opportunity for another vessel or group to initiate fishing.
- If vessels within a group have opposing directives concerning fleet movement and where to fish next the decision will be made by conducting a vote on the grounds whereas each vessel will have one vote, and the majority rules. If the number of votes is even and the group still cannot come to terms the decision will be made for them by PUHA and/or 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 250-618-8699 or Pauline.Ridings@dfo-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 (e.g. ROM Communications).

Part 4: Description of Quota Area Blocks

| Block Name | Quota Areas |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Haida Gwaii | RU01a Lepas Bay |
| | RU01b Frederick Island |
| | RU02a Langara Island |
| | RU02b Virago Sound |
| | RU08b Englefield |
| | RU09 Van Inlet |
| | RU10 Rennel Sound |
| | RU11 Hippa Island |
| | RU12 Port Louis |
| | RU03b Kunga Island |
| | RU04b Section Cove |
| | RU05a Skincuttle Inlet |
| | RU05b Carpenter Bay |
| | RU06 Lower 2E |
| | RU07 Lower 2W |
| | RU08a Flamingo |

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|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| North Coast | RU13a Dundas Island North | |
| | RU13b Dundas Island South | |
| | RU13c Melville Island | |
| | RU13d Nares Islets | |
| | RU14 Tree Nobs | |
| | RU15 Outside Stephens Island | |
| | RU16 Inside Stephens Island | |
| | RU17 Kelp Pass | |
| | RU18a Edye Pass | |
| | RU18b Oval Bay | |
| | RU19 Porcher Island | |
| | RU20a Cape George | |
| | RU20b Freeman Passage | |
| | RU21 Willis Bay | |
| | RU22a Beaver Pass | |
| | RU22b Beaver Pass | |
| | RU25 Petrel Channel | |
| | RU23 Upper Principe Channel | |
| | RU24a Mid Principe Channel | |
| | RU26 Larsen Harbour | |
| | RU27a Upper Banks Island | |
| | RU27b Mid Banks Island | |
| | North Coast | RU28 Bonilla Island |
| | | RU29 Kingkown Inlet |
| | | RU24b Lower Principe Channel |
| | | RU30 Lower Banks Island |
| | | RU32 Calamity Bay |
| RU33 Otter Pass | | |
| RU34a Langley Pass | | |
| RU34b Develin Bay | | |
| RU35 Oswald Bay | | |
| RU36a Estevan Group East | | |
| RU36b Estevan Group South | | |
| RU38a Campania Island | | |
| RU38c Surf Inlet | | |
| RU38d Gil Island West | | |
| RU38e McKay Reach | | |
| RU38f Whale Channel | | |
| RU31a Moore Islands | | |
| RU31b Harvey Islands | | |
| RU37 Rennison Island | | |
| RU39 Upper West Aristazabal | | |
| RU40 Woodcock Islands | | |
| RU41 Normansell Islands | | |

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|-------------|-----------------------------|
| North Coast | RU42 Lower West Aristazabal |
| | RU43 Upper Laredo |
| | RU44 Lower Laredo |
| | RU45 Laredo Inlet |
| | RU46a Laredo Sound |
| | RU46b Prior Pass |
| | RU47b Day Point |

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|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Central Coast | RU48 Milbanke Sound |
| | RU49 Finlayson Channel |
| | RU50 Mathieson Channel |
| | RU57b West Calvert Island |
| | RU57c Grief Bay |
| | RU58 Smith Inlet |
| | RU47a Thompson Bay |
| | RU51 Seaforth Channel |
| | RU52 Tribal Group |
| | RU53 Spider/Kildidt |
| | RU54 McNaughton Group |
| | RU55 Hakai Pass |
| | RU56a Nalau Pass |
| | RU56b Fitz Hugh Sound |
| RU57a Rivers Inlet | |