

# 2021/2022 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 2021/2022 season in order to increase monitoring efficiency. This will be the tenth year of this pilot program.

1. There will be a limit of two separate fishing groups permitted to operate within the north coast region at any time. This includes the central coast and Haida Gwaii.
2. Each north coast 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.
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

<b>Morning Report (Prior to fishing activity)</b>	
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>
<b>Evening Report (After fishing activity)</b>	
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.
<b>1-800-775-5505 or 1-604-886-4819</b>	

- For the 2021/22 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 two blocks of quota areas (blocks) can be opened for fishing at one time in the north coast. 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 unless approved by DFO. 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.
- 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](mailto: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**

<b>Block Name</b>	<b>Quota Areas</b>
Haida Gwaii West	RU01a Lepas Bay
	RU01b Frederick Island
	RU02a Langara Island
	RU02b Virago Sound
	RU07 Lower 2W
	RU08a Flamingo
	RU08b Englefield
	RU09 Van Inlet
	RU10 Rennel Sound
	RU11 Hippa Island
	RU12 Port Louis
	Haida Gwaii East
RU04b Section Cove	
RU05a Skincuttle Inlet	
RU05b Carpenter Bay	
RU06 Lower 2E	
Prince Rupert Area	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	

Porcher Island Area	RU19 Porcher Island
	RU20a Cape George
	RU20b Freeman Passage
	RU21 Willis Bay
	RU22a Beaver Pass
	RU22b Beaver Pass
Banks Island Area	RU23 Upper Principe Channel
	RU24a Mid Principe Channel
	RU25 Petrel Channel
	RU26 Larsen Harbour
	RU27a Upper Banks Island
	RU27b Mid Banks Island
	RU28 Bonilla Island
	RU29 Kingkown Inlet
	RU24b Lower Principe Channel
	RU30 Lower Banks Island
	RU32 Calamity Bay
Estevan Group	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
Aristazabal Island Area	RU31a Moore Islands
	RU31b Harvey Islands
	RU37 Rennison Island
	RU39 Upper West Aristazabal
	RU40 Woodcock Islands
	RU41 Normansell Islands
	RU42 Lower West Arisazabal
	RU43 Upper Laredo
	RU44 Lower Laredo
	RU45 Laredo Inlet
	RU46a Laredo Sound
RU46b Prior Pass	
South of Aristazabal Island	RU47b Day Point
	RU48 Milbanke Sound
	RU49 Finlayson Channel
	RU50 Mathieson Channel
	RU57b West Calvert Island
	RU57c Grief Bay
Central Coast Special Management Area	RU58 Smith Inlet
	RU47a Thompson Bay
	RU51 Seaforth Channel
	RU52 Tribal Group
	RU53 Spider/Kildidit
	RU54 McNaughton Group
	RU55 Hakai Pass
RU56a Nalau Pass	
RU56b Fitz Hugh Sound	