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Sea Urchin Fishery Community Safe Plan for Haida Gwaii During the 2021/22 Season Presented to the Council Haida Nation by the PUHA and D&D Pacific Fisheries

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The Pacific Urchin Harvesters Association (PUHA) and D & D Pacific Fisheries (D&D) are coordinating a fishery that is part of a sector designated as an essential service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PUHA values the relationship with Haida Fisheries Program, D&D, Secretariat of the Haida Nation, and the Council of Haida Nation. Sea Urchin vessel crews, owners, exporters, packers, and sea urchin fishery contractors are represented by the PUHA. D&D collaborates with PUHA and DFO to coordinate the fishery and oversees every sea urchin opening, fleet movements and offload.

The PUHA and D&D submit this **Sea Urchin Fishery Community Safe Plan for Haida Gwaii** along with the **Sea Urchin Safe Work Procedures** that have been developed to keep fleets and communities safe. Vessel operators and crew have participated in the development of these procedures and plans.

The following recommendations are based on best practices known at this time. This is a working document and is subject to change as new information and advice becomes available.

Background:

The corona virus was recognized by the WHO on January 8, 2020 and on January 30, 2020 a global health emergency was issued. On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared the Covid -19 outbreak a pandemic. The sea urchin fishery has continued, albeit at a reduced level, due to various and changing global market restrictions, throughout this pandemic. The PUHA and D&D worked together to develop procedures for safe operation during COVID and after the designation of fishing as an essential service ([Provincial BCCDC link](#), [Federal link](#)). The procedures are based on Fish Safe and Work Safe guidelines and are posted on PUHA website:

Sea urchin vessels plan to start fishing Haida Gwaii around the middle of March 2021 which follows the usual annual fishing plan. The timing of the fishery is important due to the urchin quality and the sea urchin market expectations, at this time. The fishery in Haida Gwaii will start on the east coast (Rose Harbour area) and proceed north in sequential RSU designated fishing areas, which typically takes approximately 3 weeks. The sea urchin fleet then proceeds to the West Coast and finally to Langara Island area. Overall, it is expected the sea urchin fleet will be in Haida Gwaii for approximately 2 months.

PUHA and D&D **Sea Urchin Work Safe Procedures** focus on rules and guidelines such as education, increased cleaning, disinfecting, hygiene, and limiting contact between dive vessels, packer crews, and communities. These guidelines also rely on proper use of PPE when practical.

This **Sea Urchin Fishery Community Safe Plan for Haida Gwaii** focusses on keeping Haida Gwaii Communities safe and minimizing the risk of transmission to and from sea urchin fishery participants.

Sea Urchin Fleet Recommendations for the Community Safe Plan:

The following procedures are based on best practices known at this time. This is a working document and is subject to change as new information and advice becomes available.

1. Pre-Trip Departure:

- Complete the Sea Urchin Vessel Crew Pre-Trip Questionnaire or your own companies pre-trip paperwork.
- Review and educate your crew on the PUHA and D&D **Sea Urchin Work Safe Procedures**
- Provision grub and supplies for multiple days. Vessels should have protocols in place to minimize interaction with shoreside suppliers.

2. Sea Urchin Fleet Fishing Operations:

- Treat your crew and vessel as a separate unit and limit contact outside your vessel.
- While the CHN continues to minimize off island contacts, the fleet will receive fuel and grub from the Sea Urchin packers while on the grounds in Haida Gwaii.
- Follow the protocols in the **Sea Urchin Work Safe Procedures** to maintain physical distance from the packer crew.
- Vessels will avoid landfall in Haida Gwaii unless there is an emergency or protocols in place to provision from local suppliers. Such protocols could include vessel crews staying on-board and local suppliers delivering goods. Suppliers and crew to maintain physical distancing at all times.
- Pauses in fishing: while flights are limited sea urchin vessels will travel to and from Haida Gwaii on-board their vessels and will not moor vessels in Haida Gwaii communities.

3. **Sea Urchin Fleet / Community Interaction:**

- Sea Urchin dive vessels and packers to avoid landfall in Haida Gwaii while the CHN wishes to minimize off island contact.
- Vessels will avoid mooring in Haida Gwaii ports during pauses in the fishing season. There are no commercial flights available out of Haida Gwaii at this point.
- If a vessel requires shoreside supplies or contractors from Haida Gwaii communities crew will always maintain physical distance from shoreside personnel. Crew will remain on vessel and arrange for delivery of goods. Sanitize goods transferred between vessel and shoreside (i.e. parts, supplies).
- Fueling vessels in Haida Gwaii: Sea urchin harvest vessels will receive fuel from the sea urchin packers, which arrive and depart from the grounds daily. If the packer is delayed and vessels require fuel from Charlotte the crew will remain on their vessel, sanitize fuel nozzle before and after use. Crew will wear disposable gloves for fueling, wear masks and maintain physical distance whenever interacting with shoreside staff and personnel.

4. **Community Interaction:**

- Sea urchin vessels and crew to avoid landfall in Haida Gwaii while the CHN wishes to minimize off island contact.
- Vessels will receive fuel and provisions from sea urchin packer whenever possible.
- If a vessel requires shoreside supplies or contractors from Haida Gwaii communities crew will always maintain physical distance from shoreside personnel. Stay on vessel and arrange for delivery of goods. Sanitize goods transferred between vessel and shoreside (i.e. parts, supplies).
- Fueling vessels in Haida Gwaii: Sea Urchin vessels will receive fuel from the sea urchin packers, which arrive and depart from the grounds daily. If the packer is delayed and a vessel requires fuel from Charlotte, the crew will sanitize fuel nozzle before and after use. Crew will wear disposable gloves for fueling, wear masks and maintain physical distance whenever interacting with shoreside staff and personnel.

Contact Information:

Haida Gwaii Contacts:

Council Haida Nation website: haidanation.ca

Council of Haida Nation Essential Work Permit Applications:

essentialworkpermits@haidanation.com

CHN COVID-19 State of Emergency Incident Command: 250-559-4468

Queen Charlotte Fast Fuels: 250-559-4611 – call ahead for service

Sandspit Harbour: 250-637-5700 (Kelly cell: 250-637-1084) – open 9-12 daily. Call ahead to arrange with Kelly

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