

Haida Gwaii/QCI Marine Strategy

'Living' Summary of Issues

dated 14 July 2004

1. **Abalone:**
 - Lack of abundance and threatened populations.
 - Poaching/Black Market.
 - Problems associated with monitoring
 - Return of the sea otters.
2. **Aquaculture:**
 - a. **salmon farming**
 - Salmon farming risks are too great
 - Land-based sites are preferable to open-nets
 - False economic accounting of aquaculture
 - Overcrowding concern and disease.
 - Halogen light attraction of fish, shellfish and birds problematic.
 - Concern about not learning from our mistakes.
 - Sea lice and impact on wild salmon populations.
 - Focus on wild salmon with which we are familiar.
 - b. **Mariculture and other aquaculture**
 - Farming that need added food is a concern
 - Issue of introduced species
 - Issue of access and competition among users
 - Ownership, land tenure, and local benefits
 - Concern about the scale of operations
 - Displacement of natural species.
 - Concern about the accountability of bureaucracy.
 - Privatization of marine resources.
3. **Geoduck:**
 - Fishing methods may damage sea bottom habitat.
 - The life history of geoduck is poorly understood.
 - Unclear link other species, esp. bottom feeders
 - No local benefit.
 - Concern that the fishery is wasteful
 - Difficulty of monitoring.
 - Relationship abalone/geoducks black market
 - Species displacement due to overharvesting.
4. **Halibut:**
 - Bycatch largely addressed by quota system.
 - Concern about age classes.
 - Benefits for coastal communities and aboriginals.
 - Size restrictions sport vs commercial fishery.
 - Impact of the recreational fishery on stocks.
 - Impact of the commercial fishery on stocks.
 - Are MPA's useful for migratory fish.
 - Sectoral management allocation and access.
5. **Herring:**
 - Lack of abundance.
 - K'aaw fishery (roe-on-kelp) first priority
 - The unsustainability of the roe fishery.
 - Stock levels impact higher trophic levels
 - Relationship between herring and jellyfish.
 - Know very little about the life history of herring
 - Local economic development opportunities.
6. **Krill:**
 - Risks too great because base of the food chain.
 - Initiating new fishery without known implications.
7. **Lingcod:**
 - Abundance unknown.
 - Impact of the sportfishery.
 - Lingcod bycatch in commercial fisheries.
 - Local economic opportunities for lingcod fishery.
 - Concern that lingcod are easy to overharvest.
 - Concern that lingcod is an important food fish.
8. **Local Economy:**
 - Issue regarding local benefits.
 - Issue regarding local control.
 - Issue of access to local seafood by communities.
 - Data gap First Nations and constitutional rights.
 - Issue of marine tourism development.
 - Local research activities and opportunities.
 - Unknown how much of the local economy and population relies on marine resources.
9. **Marine protected areas (mpas):**
 - Potential effects on fisheries and the biological effectiveness of mpas.
 - Access, including uncertainty surrounding First Nations food fisheries.
 - Flexibility and adaptive management of mpas.
 - Importance of using local knowledge to define where an mpa might be located.
 - Additional benefits of mpas.
 - Unclear policy context and concern about the role/interaction between province, federal, and local levels in designation and management of potential mpas
 - Confusion regarding mpas versus 'no-take' zones.
 - Issue of enforcement of mpas.
 - Concentration of impact in areas outside mpas
 - Concern about lack of baseline data.
10. **Offshore Oil and Gas:**
 - Risks too great to support offshore oil and gas.
 - Long-term sustainable energy alternatives.
 - Uncertainty around Hecate Strait ecosystem.
 - Local benefits of oil and gas development limited.
 - Potential impacts of oil and gas on food fisheries.
11. **Red Sea Urchins:**
 - Overabundance is leading to a decline in kelp
 - Link between sea otters and urchins.
 - Concern about local extirpation.
 - Relationship between urchins and larval abalone.
12. **Rockfish:**
 - Dealt with species by species.
 - Concern about local depletion.
 - Lack of info re: movement and abundance.
 - Uncertain impacts of the sportfishing industry.
 - Concern about bycatch in commercial fisheries.
 - There is a lack of information on age classes.
 - Issue of local knowledge of rockfish.

13. Wild Salmon:

- Concern about local stocks.
- Salmon fisheries targeting migratory stocks.
- Two sets of rules – one for commercial and one for recreational fisheries.
- Restrictions on opening periods and areas.
- Relationship Fisheries Act and habitat concerns.
- Fisheries management data analysis and decision-making.
- Value-added processing opportunities on-island.
- Impact of aquaculture on wild salmon.
- Access to wild salmon stocks in future mpas.
- Relationship between bears, salmon, and forest.
- Issue of natural variability of salmon stocks.
- Impact of future 'unknowns' e.g. climate change.
- Impacts of potential changes in salmon populations on other marine mammals.
- Establishing a time when salmon are not fished.

14. Sportsfishery:

- Concern regarding local benefit.
- Mortality associated with catch and release.
- Impacts on salmon stocks and high catch limits
- Issue of accountability and monitoring.
- Concern about impacts of sport fishing lodges.
- High mortality associated with the double hook.
- Concern about the use of bait.
- Two sets of rules – one for commercial and one for recreational fisheries.
- Moral ethic of the sportsfishery.
- Increased number of small boats used.
- Lack of respect for food.

15. Trawlers/Dragners:

- Concerns regarding negative impacts on habitat.
- Concerns regarding volume and scope of catch.
- Concerns regarding bycatch.
- Issue of local benefit.
- Concern regarding monitoring and accountability.
- Issue of recognizing variable impacts of different dragging fisheries.

16. General Management:

- Inadequate monitoring and enforcement.
- Need for strong local management.
- Problems associated with current licensing
- Concern about the treatment of First Nations.
- Concern about vertical integration of fisheries.
- Concern that monitoring of fleets be flexible and reflect capacity and scale.
- Issue of multiple laws for one species.
- Issue of accountability.
- Issue of ecosystem management.

17. Crab:

- Concerns regarding the impact of the dip net (recreational) fishery on mating crab.
- Impact of the commercial crab fishers.
- Undersize, female, and soft shell crabs are illegally being harvested.
- Concern about deformed crab.

18. Sea Otter:

- Sea otters are a missing element in ecosystem.

- First Nations food fishery and relationship between sea otters, urchins and abalone.

19. Razor Clams:

- Concern regarding impact of recreational fishery.
- Concern about commercial harvest.
- Issue of local abundance and population health.
- Concern regarding biotoxins and monitoring.
- Concern about vehicle traffic on North Beach.
- Concern about use of clams for bait.

20. Seabirds:

- Potential offshore oil and gas development impacts
- Potential offshore windfarm impacts
- Value of seabird habitat including colonies, foraging areas, migration routes
- Impacts from commercial fishery eg. long-lining