



## Community Based Management in British Columbia Fisheries: One step forward, two steps back

Dan Edwards  
Executive Director, Area A Crab Association  
Ucluelet, British Columbia, Canada

## The Framework Shared stewardship in BC's Fisheries

"Canada promotes the integrated management of oceans and marine resources." *Canada's Oceans Act, 1996*

- Despite commitments to ensure greater stakeholder inclusion in decision-making, shared stewardship is the exception rather than the rule in BC's fisheries
  - Groundfish integration
  - WCVI Aquatic Management Board
  - Area A (North Coast) crab fishery

2

## Starting conditions for the AMB

- Troll fleet slated for destruction
- US - Canada Treaty
  - Trade-off with Alaskan catch of Canadian stocks
- Upriver First Nations issues
- Recreational salmon industry expanding
- Fish farm industry expansion
- End of \$ for wild salmon enhancement
- Weak stock management approach supported by ENGOS

3

## Where are we today?

- About 20 trollers remain = roughly 80% loss
- 'US-Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty = 50% loss of fish for west coast Vancouver Island trollers
- Biggest run of Fraser sockeye in a hundred years passing by these communities in 2010 with **0%** caught by west coast trollers



## What went wrong?

- Lack of political will for principled approach to shared management
- Absolute discretion of the Minister
- The best designed terms of reference will not lead to good marine plans if those who negotiated them do not follow through in good faith
- Uneven power at the table
- Consensus requires ongoing commitment and good faith

5

## Second kick at the can

- Fleet led initiatives for management
- Marine planning
- Partnerships for market development



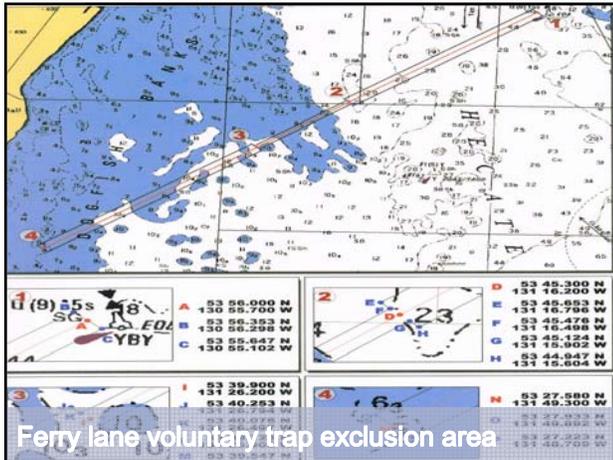
6

## Area A Dungeness crab fishery

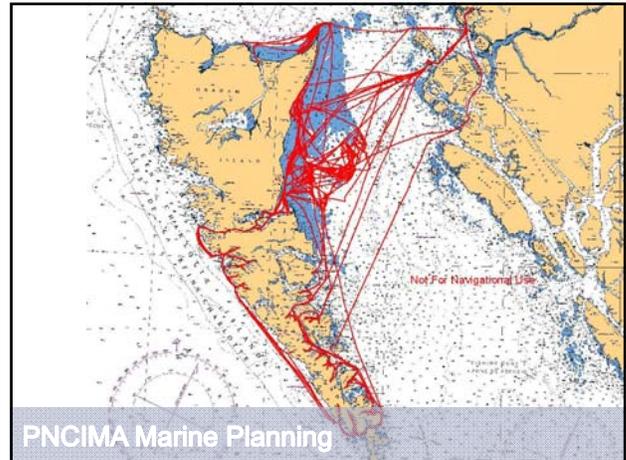
- ❑ 53 vessels managed by effort controls, size, sex and season – no TAC
- ❑ Landed value of CAD\$22M
- ❑ Pioneered electronic monitoring with full fleet monitoring since 2000
- ❑ Model of shared stewardship
- ❑ Partnership with Ecotrust Canada to develop an open source electronic monitoring program in 2010



Trap locations for entire fleet for one year



Ferry lane voluntary trap exclusion area



PNCIMA Marine Planning

## Market Innovation



- ❑ tracing product from boat to plate
- ❑ consumer facing technology
- ❑ designed with and for producers
- ❑ reducing risk and cost



## Challenges to sustainability

- ❑ Limited federal funding for science and management and no compulsory mechanism to raise funds from license holders
  - Larocque Court Case in 2006 removed option to raise funds through sale of crab captured during soft shell survey
- ❑ Highly variable stock abundance and drastic price fluctuations
- ❑ Rising monitoring, management and fishing costs (e.g., fuel)
- ❑ No standards of conduct or federal auditing protocols to ensure integrity of monitoring service providers
- ❑ No principle driven allocation process to stabilize access between recreational, Aboriginal and commercial interests
- ❑ Growing conflicts with other current and potential users of marine area (e.g., transportation, wind farms, oil and gas)
- ❑ Ocean acidification due to CO2 emissions

## Summary

- Continue to build governance in support of regional management
- Create partnerships to build alternatives at industry/community level
- Put more teeth in the Ocean's Act in support of Eco-system based management.

13

The concept of shared decision-making between government and stakeholder interests is a fundamental driving principle of sustainability and ecosystem-based management.

It is past time that shared decision-making enjoy the full support of the federal government in BC's fisheries to realize the aspirations set out in Canada's Oceans Act more than a decade ago.

**"Oceans and their resources offer significant opportunities for economic diversification and the generation of wealth for the benefit of all Canadians, and in particular for coastal communities."** *Canada's Oceans Act, 1996*

