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Chairman’s Report

By Harry Liquornik, Chairman

I would like to thank everyone who came to the Annual Meeting and BBQ, and especially thanks to Wes Carpenter, his lovely wife Linda, and Rick Fellows for the great food; Jack Butler for rounding up all the raffle prizes; Scott Street for being the “MC” of a thoroughly entertaining raffle drawing; and Ryan Gordon for obtaining excellent beer.

Dr Charles Igawa was honored at the Annual Meeting and was presented a Resolution from the California State Legislature for his work with the California Sea Urchin Industry. John Duffy was on hand to present the Resolution to Dr. Igawa. Thanks goes to Pete Halmay for putting the resolution together and thereby helping us to remember all the work that has been done by this industry and people such as Charles, John and many others who have worked with us along the way.

(cont. on page 2)

Meet the New Manager



David J. Goldenberg was appointed as the Executive Director of the California Sea Urchin Commission during the Commission’s July meeting in Ventura. Goldenberg will be responsible for directing the Commission’s day to day operations, including coordinating and staffing meetings; industry and external communications; financial management; public relations; liaison with governmental agencies (Dept of Food & Agriculture, Fair Political Practices Commission, etc.); and overseeing all contracts. Commission programs such as legislation, California Fish & Game representation, Sea Otter and Marine Protected Areas issues will continue to be managed by Vern Goehring.

Goldenberg has over 28 years in managing commodity marketing groups. He has vast experience in industry promotion, food safety, *(cont. on page2)*

Sea Urchin Commission Members

San Diego

Rob Case, 760-420-1066, livedeal1@yahoo.com

San Pedro

Rene Rojas, 714-533-7773, buzo@pacbell.net
 Alt. - Bob Bertelli, 310-357-8708, kelpdragon@hotmail.com

Ventura

Chris Nelson, 805-796-6912, h2oman2go@mac.com
 Alt. – Dan Williams, 805-452-9560, uninews1@gmail.com

Santa Barbara

Harry Liquornik, 805-451-2504, abreojos.one@cox.net
 Alt. – Jack Butler, 805-403-2555, jack@butlerseafood.com

Ft Bragg

Harry Barnard, 707-357-0842, hbarnard@mcn.org
 Alt. – Mike Carpenter, 707-937-4362, carp16axeman@gmail.com



Dr. Charles Igawa is honored by senior leaders (old-timers) of the sea urchin fishery.

Chairman's Report *(cont. from page 1)***Management Changes**

The CSUC has hired David Goldenberg as new Executive Director for the Commission, this will allow Vern Goehring to focus more time on Legislative and ongoing program issues such as the MLPA. David has introduced himself elsewhere in this newsletter and we look forward to working with him. I would like to thank Vern for his 13 years of work with the CSUC and the sea urchin industry and I look forward to many more.

Moving Forward

In the past few years much of the Commission's resources and efforts have been focused on MPAs and sea otters, two issues which are very contentious and frustrating. Many divers have expressed concern about these issues dominating our attention and there is an interest among many to get back to working more directly on fishery management, data collection, and marketing. We have a lot invested in the MLPA and Sea Otter issue, so we cannot just walk away, I agree it's time to get back to work more directly on fishery concerns. This will take a lot of work at the port level. We need to restart discussions and exchanging ideas about changes we would like to see for the urchin industry. It will be important for everybody to engage in this effort.

Thanks and Good Fishing,

Harry Liquornik
805-451-2504

Meet the New Manager *(cont. from page 1)*

crisis and project management, public relations, and regulatory oversight. He also serves as the manager for the CA Salmon Council and the CA Sheep Commission and served for many years as the manager of the CA Pistachio Board until it ceased operations in August, 2010.

Previously David served as the Executive Director of the Pacific Egg & Poultry Association. And prior to coming to California in 1991, he served in management positions in various poultry focused commodity boards in Indiana.

David reports he is eager to get to work in behalf of the Sea Urchin fishery. Please welcome him on board.

New Address for the Sea Urchin Commission

PO Box 2077
Folsom, CA 95763-2077

Effective immediately all business mail to the CA Sea Urchin Commission should be sent to this new address. In addition, email should be sent to the new Executive Director at: golden59@pacbell.net

Report from the Coast Guard

By Jack Gaskill, US Coast Guard, Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examiner

Frequently we get questions regarding the Urchin Exemption that allows the use of wet suits as equivalent to the required Coast Guard approved immersion suit. This exemption is only acceptable when the vessel has a current Coast Guard safety decal, and has onboard a Type-1 PFD for each wet suit in use. Current means issued within the year. If a sea urchin dive vessel, not carrying a copy of the Urchin Exemption or meeting the requirements of that exemption, is boarded by the Coast Guard and doesn't have a current safety decal or the required immersion suits, the vessel stands a very good chance of having its voyage terminated.

The only allowance for not having the immersion suits in this case would be if the vessel is State registered and is operating or diving within 3 NM of the mainland in cold water months. Or, if the vessel is State registered and is operating or diving within 20 NM of the mainland in warm water months. All federally documented commercial fishing vessels are required to carry Coast Guard approved immersion suits when operating past the boundary line anywhere on the west coast and Alaska.

Cold Water is defined as <59 deg F and runs from Jan-May; *Warm Water* is defined as >59 deg F and runs from Jun-Dec; and *Boundary Line* on the West Coast is measured going seaward of the local harbor entrance.

Editor's Note: As you can see having a current copy of the Urchin Exemption is very important. The CSUC has requested the old exemption granted many years to the SD Urchin Producers Association be reissued in the name of the Commission. The exemption letter will be distributed widely and posted on the CSUC website when it's available to ensure all have ready access to it.

Your Help Needed

In hopes of improving communications within the sea urchin fishery and especially at the local port level, we need your help.

While the Commission office has mailing addresses and other contact information for many, but not all, sea urchin divers, this information is required to be held in confidence and cannot be generally made public without approval. None-the-less, Commission members desire to have contact information for local divers to help ensure all are included in decisions and actions of the CSUC.

Please contact your local Commission member or alternate and give them your phone number and/or email address so they may develop a current and complete list. Doing so will mean better coordination locally and better communications statewide. Contact information for CSUC members and alternates is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thanks for doing this today.

FROM THE PORTS

North Coast Notes

By Harry Barnard, Commissioner, Fort Bragg

Looks of disgust turned to surprise and comments like "hey, that's pretty good," when the local urchin crew served nearly 500 uni shooters to those attending the World's Biggest Salmon Barbecue at Noyo Harbor on July 4th. Many uni fans were eager to try the tasty concoction of sake, urchin row and secret ingredients; while others were skeptical at first but some actually returned for seconds with friends.

Local divers, friends, and family hawked the free treats to the crowd while distributing info on MLPA concerns. Congressman Thompson dispatched his aide for a couple of shots, perhaps leery of being seen too close to our blatantly anti-MLPA info.

Special thanks go to Ogawa-san, of Taka's Grill in Fort Bragg, for providing the shooter ingredients and to Carmella, Homestyle Café, for supplies. Taka's Grill decided to add uni shooters to its regular menu after numerous requests from BBQ patrons...a bit of on the ground product development.

The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, meeting at the Starr Center in Fort Bragg on July 21st, got a hearty welcome in the form of nearly 300 sign carrying and chanting concerned citizens. Demonstrators halted the proceedings for several hours while local Native American representatives and sea urchin workers gave the panel an ear-full. Thanks to Albion diver and CSUC alternate Mike Carpenter, the turnout was phenomenal and overwhelmingly anti-MLPA. Testimony on traditional use, failure to address water quality and other industrial threats, lack of enforcement funding, ignoring adaptive management, and the high-handed secret process made powerful arguments. According to Tom Trumper, member of the Regional Stakeholder Group, progress is being made to include adaptive management strategies regarding sea urchins in the final MPA plan.

Autumn Bremmer, Pacific Rim Seafoods, and Jeanine Pfeiffer, PhD., a local MPA activist, recently carried the fight to the "Women in Power, PAC" wine and cheese reception in Napa. Their gallant efforts to get the message to the well-to-do and politically connected in the region will help put a human face on our concerns.

This multi-pronged approach seems to be bearing fruit, possibly the motivation for Assemblyman Wes Chesbro's recent call for a six month delay in north coast MPLA implementation. None-the-less, we're still prepared for unpleasant surprises.

At our June port meeting we discussed the importance strong attendance at the Blue Ribbon Task Force and RSG meetings and the possibility of CSUC help with transportation - maybe a chartered bus or van. We also voted 12-0 to put transferability as a top priority of Commission business. Dirk Ammerman reported on the status of the sea otter lawsuit. There was general agreement that, while it's an important fight for the whole industry, it would be nice to end the expensive legal battle. Jon Holcomb spoke briefly about getting the FBHS marine lab, originally built with local diver funds and labor, operating again. A proposal to get students involved in developing pilot programs of propagating, rearing, and out planting of sea urchin, kelp, etc. has been drafted by the instructor, Steve Woultee. Many of us see this project as good for the industry's image and something that may well benefit us down the road for little expense.

Channel Islands

By Christopher Nelson, Commissioner, Ventura

I have often told this story to many colleagues whom I've had the wonderful privilege and opportunity to work with; so, if you don't mind I will tell it again.

As a young diver, I became very eager to work as much as I could and, my first experiences came to me on the deck of the "Down Under" in the summer of '87. I brought with me some food consisting of one peanut butter sandwich, water, a TV dinner, salad and two bananas, which were later, thrown overboard.

During the short trip from Channel Islands Harbor to Point Dume, Glenn proceeded to explain to me how to harvest sea urchins. It was only, about a 45-minute training course and what kept going through my mind was, "this couldn't be that hard." Now, my experience as a Surfer, a Diver and an Ocean Lifeguard was (I felt) more than adequate for someone pursuing a career such as this . . . but, I soon discovered, it wasn't.

You see, I want all of you to know that my story is *your* story; that you are not here by chance. You're here because of *perseverance* and the details that create that picture in one's mind most probably, would rarely be understood by someone coming off the street. So, since the word is so powerful for me and perhaps all of you, I would like to talk about it.

As young divers, old divers, and divers who no longer work, we all need for our licenses to be worth *something- someday* and that day (for a lot of us) is coming soon. We are now (I would think) the only fishing industry with such a problem.

A cure might be, to come up with a program by which we bring down the Capacity Goal and arguably, set new standards for obtaining licenses. At this point it is going to take the entire body of voting divers to come up with a, not entirely agreeable, compromise way of doing this, but at least it's a step in the right direction and it exhibits some perseverance on our part.

As far as MPA's are concerned, it would be wise (since they have already been implemented in some areas) to promote something practical that is useful for all so California remains financially healthy, with jobs and quality seafood's. And, it has been suggested to me, that if we could manage a way to be proactive instead of reactive we could get better returns on our investment here.

So, we've been given *another* 45-minute training course and it's up to us to use our time wisely. To take on the birth of all these ideas, means we will be raising them through infancy, then into their childhood stages, so that they become mature, well functioning adults, working for the betterment of us all. *How far can we go?* Perseverance will determine that.

Upcoming Events & Meetings 2010

Sept. 7 & 8	Ocean Protection Council, San Francisco
Sept. 15 & 16	Fish & Game Commission, Sacramento
Oct. 12	Marine Resources Committee (FGC), Santa Barbara
Oct. 13 & 14	Science Advisory Team (MLPA), Eureka
Oct. 25 – 27	Blue Ribbon Task Force (MLPA), Fortuna
Oct. 20 & 21	Fish & Game Commission meeting, San Diego (MPA hearing)
Nov. 9	Ocean Protection Council, TBD
Nov. 17	Science Advisory Team (MLPA) Webinar Conference
Nov. 17 & 18	Fish & Game Commission, Sacramento
Dec. 12	Blue Ribbon Task Force (MLPA), joint meeting w/ FGC, Sacramento <i>(Note: schedule uncertain, FGC meets in Santa Barbara on 12/15)</i>
Dec. 15 & 16	Fish & Game Commission, Santa Barbara (MPA adoption)

If you have a date for an important, fishery-related event you would like posted in the CommUNITY calendar, please call or email the Commission!



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