

HERRING CONSERVATION RESEARCH SOCIETY

Terms of Reference

Mandate

The Herring Conservation & Research Society (HCRS) was created to support the collection of basic biological information, and the advancement of knowledge and understanding of all British Columbia herring stocks that is essential for sustainable management.

The mission of the society is to support basic and applied research in marine and coastal environments. This research will improve our knowledge and understanding of herring biology; factors affecting fluctuations in abundance; and the role of herring in marine ecosystems. The goals of the HCRS are to help DFO in developing the tools necessary for ensuring responsible and sustainable management of the herring resource for all British Columbians, and to participate in co-management activities for the roe herring fishery.

Roles and Responsibilities

The formation of the Herring Industry Advisory Board (HIAB) was approved and supported in a democratic vote of all roe herring licence holders in the fall of 2004. The HCRS is a registered non-profit society whose directors are appointed by HIAB. HCRS responsibilities will include:

1. Meet with DFO representatives to review DFO and industry priorities for research and management funding.
2. Appoint HCRS Science Panel members.
3. Review all research proposals submitted to the HCRS for funding.
4. Review and approve Science Panel recommendations as appropriate.
5. In conjunction with DFO, develop and approve a joint project agreement which details contributions, commitments, and responsibilities of DFO and the HCRS
6. Implement a regional test fishing and assessment program that has been approved by HIAB.
7. Provide annual test fishing and research reports to HIAB and to DFO.
8. Monitor and verify ongoing HCRS costs and commitments, and provide reports to HIAB.
9. Review, provide advice and participate in herring stock assessment (PSARC)

Organization

1. HIAB will appoint seven HIAB members to sit on the HCRS Board of Directors.
2. The HCRS Board of Directors may appoint up to two additional directors at their discretion
3. Directors will serve a term of two years
4. A quorum of four members is required.
5. A President, Chair and a Treasurer will be chosen by a vote of directors.

Procedures

1. HCRS will meet, at a minimum, two times a year.
2. Where possible, meeting dates will be established at the beginning of the year
3. One of the meetings will be designated as the 'Annual General Meeting' (AGM). The AGM will be open to the public.
4. An agenda and available relevant information will be, whenever possible, prepared by the Chair and distributed at least 7 days prior to the meeting
5. Feedback on the agenda and confirmation of attendance by representatives should be provided to the Chair prior to the meeting date.
6. The HCRS will provide ongoing reports as requested by HIAB and receive advice from HIAB members.
7. HCRS will provide an annual report of its activities at HIAB's fall meeting.
8. HCRS will operate by consensus whenever possible.
9. HCRS and HIAB will review the Terms of Reference after each election of GN and SN representatives. Changes would be made by consensus.
10. HCRS can change its Terms of Reference at any time with the approval of HIAB