U.H.A. RESEARCH SOCIETY
2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
July 2, 2025
Beban Park, Nanaimo and Via Web Conference

The Annual General Meeting of the U.H.A. Research Society for 2024 was held July 2, 2025, at Beban Park and via web conference. UHA voting members representing 40 voting "G" or "FG" licences (16 Proxies) were in attendance.

Agenda attached: UHA_WCGRC July2025 AGM Agenda.pdf

1. **Call to order and review agenda.**

- Grant Dovey chaired the meeting, which was called to order at 09:15
- Reviewed the draft agenda
- Reviewed procedures for GoTo virtual meeting for those on-line:
    - Voting procedures: online, you will receive instructions to email or text Katie Lindsay for any votes required to be tallied. Reply with a yes or no by agreed upon time and Katie will tally votes. If you have trouble, I will ask if anyone needs the opportunity to vote via verbal web conference before voting time ends.
    - For motions that are not controversial, I will just ask if any opposed and carry via web conference.
- Confirmed attendees

2. Review and approve minutes from the June 2024 UHA AGM.

Motion to approve the UHA 2023 Annual General Meeting minutes from June 2024 as distributed.

Moved by:	**Mike Dennis**
Seconded by:	**George Dennis**
All those in favour:	**Yes**
Any opposed:	**None**
Carried:	**Yes**

3. SEE WCGRC AGM minutes

4. Review of 2024 UHA Financial Statements.

- Financial Statements for 2024 had been sent out prior to the meeting and had been approved for distribution by the Directors at the June 2025 Director's Meeting.
- Leslie Martin reviewed the UHA financial statements with the Members. Sara Krauel was present as well.
- Thanks to both for finishing financial statements in time for a June AGM after the fishery was extended to the end of April due to PSP and tariffs.
- $2.6 million budget in 2024
- Revenue Notes:
- No pre-seed harvest sales
- Geoduck sales from Hernando tenure $241 K. Up from $129K in 2023. Most significant tenure harvest revenue to date.
- Marketing: Received $90K from federal government (AAFC) and no Provincial Buy BC
- Expenses Notes:
- Fishery Operations under budget by $31K.

Monitoring – overbudget $32k (Dockside under $43k, North Coast over $33k, West Coast over $37k, Cages over $5k). Harvesting – expenses incurred to earn the Aquaculture sales (not a budgeted item). PSP Testing – Under budget by $65k (North & Central under by $5k, South under by $60k)

- Marketing under budget by 3K
- General and Administrative: overall – under budget of $480K by $47K. Consulting fees down by $6K. Legal and Gov Relations combined and under by $60K. Gov Relations on budget of $40K. Legal spent $40K of $100K.

Motion to accept the 2024 UHA Research Society financial statements as presented.

Moved by:	**Guy Dean**
Seconded by:	**Jamie Austin**
All those in favour:	**Yes**
Any opposed:	**None**
Carried:	**Yes**

5. See WCGRC AGM minutes

6. President's Report

- Jamie Austin presented a report with highlights for UHA activities such as marketing, government relations, culture, surveys, and contracts.
- Thanks to all contractors: Katie, Grant, Jenika, Atkins, Accounting

- Noted Mike Featherstone's 46 years in the industry
- Market: china economy v difficult. Factors into quality, supply, price.
- Marine Planning: new gov. Continue to lobby and mitigate impacts.
- Gov Rel: Craig's time also funded by Trawl and Prawn. Realize value.
- Seafood shows: num positive contacts for Europe, hopefully buyers following up.

7. Executive Director's report

- Grant Dovey provided a presentation on the main activities of the UHA and WCGRC Executive Director over the last year.
- See attached: West123_ED_UHA_WCGRC_June2025AGM.ppt
- Key issues listed by Grant were Marine Planning, linkage of Reconciliation with marine planning, Licence Reform, and Marketing and tariff issues
- 2025 Goals include: use all methods possible to maintain access and not lose significant ground to marine planning, continue oversight UHA/WCGRC financial, FN relationship building, oversee contractors, collaborate with BCSA, MPT, FCC.

8. Election of Directors and Officers

- A list of current UHA directors and officers was distributed/displayed
- In 2022 members increased the number of Directors from 14 to 15 and changed the quorum for a Director's meeting to 8
- Bylaws: all Directors serve until the AGM at which time they are eligible for re-election. If no successor is elected the person previously elected or appointed continues to hold office unless they resign.
- Eligible Directors include Voting Members in good standing or an Associate Member in good standing
- Mike Featherstone and Evan Scoffings have resigned from UHA board. Both will be missed. Mike Featherstone was one of the original Board members.
- Called for nominations for new Directors

Motion to nominate Darrell Thomas as a UHA Director.

Moved by:	**James Austin**
Seconded by:	**Mike Fay**
All those in favour:	**Yes**
Any opposed:	**None**
Carried:	**Yes**

Motion to nominate Paul Hackert as a UHA Director.

Moved by:	**James Austin**
Seconded by:	**Nicole McLelland**
All those in favour:	**Yes**
Any opposed:	**None**
Carried:	**Yes**

Motion to nominate Mike Dennis to the North Area Committee.

Moved by:	**Darrell Thomas**
Seconded by:	**Jamie Austin**
All those in favour:	**Yes**
Any opposed:	**None**
Carried:	**Yes**

Motion to nominate Darrell Thomas as the Chair of the Gulf Area Committee and Andrew Quinn as Co-Chair.

Moved by:	**Mike Dennis**
Seconded by:	**Jamie Austin**
All those in favour:	**Yes**
Any opposed:	**None**
Carried:	**Yes**

Motion to elect the slate of 14 UHA directors and committee members as listed for 2025/26.

Moved by:	**George Dennis**
Seconded by:	**Mike Fay**
All those in favour:	**Yes**
Any opposed:	**None**
Carried:	**Yes**

9. Review of Gord Gislason Fishery Profile Proposal

- Members agree that the Board should pursue a contract with Gord to complete a Geoduck Fishery profile

10. Government Relations Update – Craig Jangula

- Craig Jangula from Jangula and Associates provided an update
- UBCM conference late Sept.
- Oct. 27th – evening with Prov. MLAs. Follow-up on late May lobby day in Vic. Min. Popham put Christina on Prov task force. Also spoke to fuel tax exemption request. Hope to see movement on fuel tax in next budget.

- Federal: seems to be active dialogue with China.
- We will see the new RDG and Kathy Graham on July 15th.
- Good news on FOPO appointments: Aaron Gunn, Cliff Small, Mel Arnold, Patrick Weiler. Sept. first meet: lic reform first.
- Craig meeting with full Liberal caucus in Sept.
- Fisheries Min, PS, DM teed up for Oct. Ottawa trip when UHA Executive will be in Ottawa for FCC Conference

11. Legal Update – Ian Knapp

- Ian Knapp provided an update: Four key subjects.
- 1. Kitasu Bay MPA: Shawn Jones helping mitigate conflict. Chatting with KX lawyer.
- 2. NSB MPA Potential Litigation Plan: working with Katie on a draft. Potential challenge to MPA zoning.
- 3. Haida Title: Haida proposed to court that the court put title into law. Hearing scheduled for Sept. Ian representing BCSA. Hearing focused on current agreement and rights.
- 4. Five Nations Draft Fishing Management Plan: comment due date on July 5th. Mentions geoduck again, despite previous litigation. Responding on behalf of BCSA.

12. Highlights: Area Committee Reports – Moved to Business Portion

Gulf – Darrell Thomas:
- Started in Hardy, then moved south. Still quota left in Hardy after it went hot.
- About 60K still avail in Area 12
- Sample Hardy this weekend
- Nanaimo fishing going OK
- Some PSP issues in Area 18/19

WCVI Area Comm. – Les Tulloch, Jesse, Christian
- Over 65% complete on WCVI
- PSP cooperating in Clayoquot and Barkley
- Continuing to work in Area 24 despite Plan saying we need to fish Barkley first. Reality is PSP could be an issue in Clayoquot or Barkley.
- DFO: fallback avail in Millar?
- Quality has been good. YB still avail.

NC Area Comm. – Clint Ridgway
- Completed 11% of fishery in May
- Hope to start sooner than later. Testing as of Aug. 1st or earlier. Start last week of July for sampling in order to open last week of Aug.

<u>Cages</u>:

- Please do not leave on top of vessel. Get in hold or at storage out of sun and away from thiefs.

11:00 – UHA AGM adjourned

Grant Dovey
Executive Director, UHA

Open portion of the meeting summary (11:10 – 15:00):

After the AGM, the open portion of the meeting was attended by UHA voting and associate members, DFO science & management, Archipelago Marine Research, Christina Burridge from the BCSA, Jason McLinton from FCC, Jim Gibbons from Seattle Shellfish, WCB Officers, UHA Consultants and WCGRC Consultants.

Presentations available at:
https://geoduck.org/members/
password: Geoduck-AGM2025

Some highlights below:

Christina Burridge:
- Min Thompson is just Min. of Fisheries (dropped Oceans and Coast Guard)
- Coast Guard to Nat. Defense
- Oceans to Parks? Carney – Sec. of State for Nature? Name?
- Assoc. DM Kaili Levesque now with Sec. of State for Nature
- Prov: food businesses need to scale up! 40% farm businesses have revenue <$10K per year! Foreign investment, productivity, need more exports – at odds with WLARS initiatives. At odds with Skipper Otto. Seafood is currently only profitable sector within food industry. Reframe material to show that wild seafood can make a real contribution to economy.
- Worksafe BC: coordinated approach to how they deal with comm fish. Meet with WCB in next month or so. Looking like: sole operations fishing – will not have to register with WCB. Likely Aug.

Jim Gibbons:
- Quantity of farm product rising in Wash, but not at exponential rate.
- S Shellfish: sold just over 1 mil lb last year. First company to do so. SS farms about 100 acres. Cont. to pick up smaller farms from “Mom & Pop” companies.
- 2 ½” tube is SS technology of choice. Leading to increased survival (50+%)
- Prices down by about 30%

Worksafe Visit – Cody King and Paul Mathews:
- Working group on working pressures / Quincy 310 compressor. Capable, but limitations. Looking – single diver 70’ and above, should be OK. Likely need to adjust pressure to diver. Right now Quincy 310 still OK. Vessel needs to know limitations. Standby would have to be set up on SCUBA.
- Quincy 325 would meet 2 divers no problem
- “Double volume and 25% more pressure than anticipated”. Constant pressure OK, if high enough.
- Status Dive Computers: no jurisdiction that accepts them.? Mike to pass on report again.
- Variation order for science perhaps?

- Bring regulation up to current practice.

Erin Wylie & Erin Porszt:
- DFO perspective on Kitasu Bay: in IFMP, will likely open. FRRA process is ongoing. Has been issues in the past, ie Kulleet Bay. There is contingency plans.
- Inside Fallback Questions: Request fallback in green beds? Not before all green beds fished. EW: fish green beds first within GMA. Then, go back and fish fallback on green beds. Yellow bed FB good to go anytime.
- EP: next stock status report out soon. Quota Calcs avail for 2026/27 in next couple weeks.

Jason McLinton:
- FCC update from Ottawa
- UHA is a member of FCC. Our voice in Ottawa.
- Jason President for 3.5 months. Loving job and engagement with the Industry.
- See presentation from Jason.
- Very grateful for his time out in BC. Made it out to harvest vessel with Acapulco.
- Suspects Liberals will have a grace period of about 1 year where they act like a Majority. Cons and NDP licking wounds. Carney more center focused than Trudeau left of center.
- Confirmed new Min is Min of Fisheries and moving Oceans and Coast Guard elsewhere. Opportunity to influence new structure of DFO.
- Fisheries Act review will restart in the fall. Licence Reform?
- Support for Fishers due to tariffs – Will be submitted Aug. 1st
- 30 by 30. Opportunity to mitigate economic impacts with this gov.
- Ottawa Conference Oct. 1st and 2nd
- Send Jason the ECCC data re: percent protected in BC already.

Open meeting adjourned at 15:00.