

Squid Fishery – 2007

The Standing Fish Price-Setting Panel (the Panel) received a request, a copy of which is attached, from the Fish, Food and Allied Workers (FFAW), dated the 3rd day of August, 2007, requesting the Panel to “*set a date by which a collective agreement must be concluded for squid*”. Attached to the request was a copy of their Notice to negotiate with respect to squid (attached). The FFAW also noted the anticipated opening date for the squid fishery to be August 25, 2007.

By Notice, dated August 7, 2007, the Panel set Thursday, August 16, 2007, as the date by which a collective agreement binding on all processors in the Province that process the species squid must be in effect.

In the event of no such collective agreement being in effect by that date, the Panel advised that a hearing would take place on Monday, August 20, 2007, at which time it would receive submissions and presentations regarding price and conditions of sale. No majority processors or processor organizations having been identified by the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture for the species squid, the Panel advised that it would accept presentations from a processor, processor organizations, and the FFAW. Written submissions were to be provided to the Panel not later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled hearing.

The Panel convened its hearing on squid at 9:00 a.m. at the Battery Hotel and Suites in St. John's on August 20, 2007. The only written submission to be filed with the Panel was that of the FFAW (copy attached). The only party to appear before the Panel at the hearing was the FFAW. The FFAW made a brief presentation in support of its position.

It is noted by the Panel that no processors or processor organizations made any submission or presentation to the Panel with respect to the prices or conditions of sale for the species squid.

The Issues:

Squid landings to date have been minimal. The fishery is unpredictable, but it appears highly unlikely that the landings in 2007 will exceed the requirements for the domestic bait fishery. Squid is the primary bait for the crab fishery, the requirements for which are approximately 6000mt of squid.

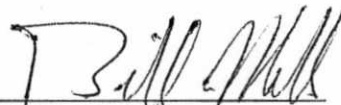
As noted in the FFAW submission and supported in its presentation to the Panel, 15 cents per pound has been the price for squid in the domestic bait market. Should landings exceed the domestic requirements for bait, a different price may be considered as a result of export market conditions. In 2006 the Panel confirmed an initial price of 15 cents per pound for round squid and 30 cents per pound for tubed squid. The prices reflected what was actually being paid in the fishery. The concern in 2006 was that landings might actually exceed the 6000mt domestic bait requirements. The Panel was receptive to a price review in 2006 should the landings exceed the domestic requirements. The Panel is of the same view this year; in the unlikely eventuality that landings in 2007 should exceed the domestic bait requirements, it is prepared to review raw material prices related to market opportunities for the export of squid as bait or in the food market.

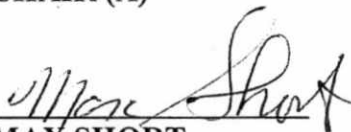
Decision of the Panel:

It is the decision of the Panel that the minimum price for the species squid for 2007, as of the 20th day of August, 2007, will be 15 cents a pound for round squid and 30 cents a pound for tubed squid. These minimum prices and other matters agreed upon between processors and the FFAW will constitute the Collective Agreement(s) with respect to the species squid for 2007.

By virtue of the Act, this price and Collective Agreement(s) will be binding on all fish harvesters and processors of squid within the Province.

DATED at St. John's this 20th day of August, 2007.


BILL WELLS
CHAIR (A)


MAX SHORT


ROSALIND WALSH-PERRY