

BC FISHING INDUSTRY TAKING OWNERSHIP OF SAFETY

we are on the radar



Transport Canada supports and funds Stability Education.



Herring Safety Tips from fishermen distributed by Fishing Companies



Quinte Marine develops Fishing Enhanced MED training



Canadian Fish takes a pro-active role in fishing safety with vessel orientations, MED and Stability training and rewards program



Real Fishermen do wear PFDs



650 fishermen complete Stability Education Program



Vietnamese fishermen organize MED and Stability courses



Fishing Associations put safety on the agenda and distribute safety information



Transportation Safety Board hires a fisherman



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A Celebration of Making Safety Your Business

Real Fishermen wear PFDs

It seems almost too obvious to state but over 85% of all fishing fatalities are caused by drowning. This means 67 of the 79 friends we lost over the last 16 years succumbed to drowning. Many of these were as a result of a capsizing. In 2007 two fishermen fell overboard and drowned and what is disturbing is that WorkSafeBC reported that in both cases these terrible losses may have been prevented with the use of a PFD (personal floatation device). Since new technology has afforded the industry with many options to use while working on board, it is time to get the word out and "create the PFD habit". Fish Safe is working in several areas to create awareness. This includes a working relationship with Mustang to look at the design of existing inflatables and recommend adjustments to make them more fishing friendly. Revisions to the manual pull tab to reduce the snag hazard are underway. Western Marine has joined in the promotion by offering a Fish Safe discount on Mustang Inflatables. But most importantly "Real Fishermen" are wearing PFDs and this is the best awareness program available.



Fish Safe Stability Education

266 fishermen took advantage of the more than 30 Fish Safe Stability Education courses offered this year. This brings the total number of fishermen voluntarily participating over the last two years to 656. Courses were delivered over 9 months this year in 12 different locations including 3 First Nations Communities. Harbour Authorities in French Creek and Comox have provided venues for the course as well as Safer Ocean Systems in Nanaimo. This support comes in recognition of the value of the course to the fishermen in those harbours. Some highlights were the trips to Sechelt and Bella Bella where the community support and appreciation was amazing. Also noteworthy is the over 100 Vietnamese fishermen from the Prince Rupert and Vancouver area that have organized several courses.

As we enter into the 3rd year of this fully subsidized program (thanks to support from Transport Canada Marine Safety in Ottawa) we have undertaken a formal summative evaluation. This evaluation includes a questionnaire to be completed by all participants as well as 3 focus groups. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine the success of the program – what works, what doesn't and why, so we can better plan future programs.

This year we also said goodbye to two of our original course facilitators who found delivering the course a valuable stepping stone to other opportunities. Al Johansen and Glenn Budden took on positions with Maher Terminals and the Transportation Safety Board. We wish them well and we also welcome two new and very qualified facilitators to the program. John Krgovich comes to us shared from the UFAWU/CAW (thanks Irv) where he also acts as safety director and Bob Strom a director of Mutual Marine. Both longtime fishermen join our existing facilitators Paul Bevandick, Bob Hall and Barb Howe (Education Consultant to Fish Safe) to create a well rounded out team.

The courses' success has created a demand for use of the curriculum and course materials both locally and internationally which prompted the development of a Use of Materials Agreement to audit use and create sustainability. A full slate of courses are scheduled starting in September and look for a special PFD promotion included in your Fish Safe course registration fee!



FISH SAFE'S ROLE IN BC FISHING SAFETY

Fish Safe is a fishing industry program administered by the BC Seafood Alliance. All programs are developed and driven by fishermen for fishermen for the purpose of reducing injuries and fatalities. The Fish Safe Advisory Committee provides direction to Fish Safe by discussing current safety issues and recommending solutions based on the 5 points of the Fishing Safety Strategic Plan: education and mentoring, regulatory reform, communication, funding and coordination between regulatory agencies and the industry. On behalf of the fishing industry Fish Safe coordinates and develops safety tools, safety awareness and safety advocacy by:

- > serving as an advocate for health and safety within the fishing industry;
- > coordinating industry advice to regulatory agencies on health and safety issues and regulations;
- > developing training tools for fishermen;
- > monitoring and communicating accident patterns;
- > improving safety awareness and procedures on board vessels, and;
- > coordinating industry meetings and seminars on safety.

Fish Safe also works with WorkSafeBC to bring clarity to the process of claims and reduce overall costs to the industry. This is accomplished through:

- > providing fishing industry orientations for WCB staff;
- > reviewing all relevant WCB reports on claims in the fishing classification units and following up on claims where advisable;
- > acting as liaison between the injured workers, individual vessel owners, fish buyers, and WorkSafeBC case managers dedicated to the fishing CUs, and;
- > encouraging vessel owners to actively manage claims.





Gina Johansen
FISHING INDUSTRY SAFETY COORDINATOR

Coordinator's Comments

At our recent Fish Safe Advisory Committee it struck me when someone commented that that with the exception of the Fish Safe Stability Program, not much had changed around safety in the fishing industry. I found this to be a fairly profound comment considering that maybe there had been so much change that we are now taking some things for granted. This is a good sign because it means things like the Fish Safe Stability Program have become part of the fishing routine.

So what has changed? We are already in our 3rd year of fully subsidized course delivery, this is amazing

considering it was 30 years in the making. As I write I can hear the 10 fishermen in the course today with similar ah ha's that we heard when we piloted the course on Feb. 28, 2006. I just hung up the phone after being invited to attend an Annual General Meeting of the Area A Crab Association. After discussion with the Executive Director we agreed that a immersion suit race would be just the thing to liven up their meeting and provide invaluable information back to those who will be racing to be the fastest into their suit. Will all the zippers be ready to go? Will the suits still fit? - We will find out. Mustang agreed to provide the winner of the fastest time with a new Ocean Commander. The next call was a request to provide safety updates to a Board of Directors meeting of the Groundfish Society. Safety is now on the agenda.

What else? Ownership. Like local fishermen stepping up to promote PFDs on board. Thanks guys! These are all significant and noteworthy steps towards "Making Safety Your Business". So this year to help you note the progress, I am featuring just a few highlights of all of the great work that is be accomplished jointly and individually as an industry towards becoming a world leading safety culture. Enjoy! And keep up the good work.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2007/2008 Source of Funding

Previous Year Carryforward	5,500
WCB Fishing Assessments	250,000
WorkSafeBC	30,000
Transport Canada	97,000
Course and Material Revenue	23,800
Total	406,300

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2007/2008 Use of Funds

Stability Education /Safety Promotion	219,000
Meetings/Events /Workshops	89,000
Claims/Assessments	17,000
Administration*	53,000
Total	378,000
Carry Over	28,000

Any excess funds are carried forward to next year's budget. *Salary has been allocated to programs

West Coast Fishing Orientation (or what we like to call Fishing for Dummies)

As BC fishing industry becomes more aware and more involved in their safety on board they are expecting more from existing processes, agencies and suppliers than they have in the past. Regulations, certification programs, stability books, inspections and safety products all need to be designed and conducted so that fishermen benefit. This workshop and accompanying video were produced to provide regulatory agencies and suppliers that are involved in the fishing industry with a quick reference to commercial fishing operations in BC. With a better understanding it is hoped that more emphasis will be put on communicating with fishermen to determine what they need to operate safely. Three different workshops were held this year featuring a fishermen's panel and discussion about the different gear types and for some, vessel tours.



Comments from the workshops tell the success story of these types of workshops.

"the presentations by the working fishermen helped to paint a very human picture of the issues facing people in the fishing industry"

"some of these people come from two, three, four generations of fishing families. It's not just their jobs, it's their lives. I think everyone who attended the workshop has a much broader, more accurate and empathetic understanding of what that actually means."

"The National Marine Safety Training Program (TC) would like to express heartfelt thanks for the visit aboard the two vessels for training purposes. We recognize that your contribution was a key in the success of this training"



Claims and Assessments

The last five years show a level pattern of the number of claims and claims cost. Fishing Claims are reviewed monthly to monitor any developing trends to assist in developing safety programs as well to ensure that claims are coded correctly with the right gear type and employer assigned. Claims and Assessment staff participate in fishing orientation workshops and receive fishing reference information from Fish Safe to be better prepared to deal with a unique industry. The Fishing Form 7F for reporting injuries in the fishing industry is undergoing revision and the new forms will be distributed shortly. The master or owner of the vessel is required to complete a fishing form 7F and a fishing investigation form for injuries on his vessel. These forms should be faxed immediately to WorkSafeBC and the current fish buyer to ensure timely handling of the claim.

A Look at the Numbers

This graph is based on the number of accepted claims for injuries and fatalities.

There may have been other injuries that were either not reported or did not meet WCB's policies for acceptance.

	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Number of Wage Loss Claims	122	129	125	126	132
Number of Fatalities	3	2	4	7	3

COST OF FISHING CLAIMS

Opening Balance	2,130	4,182	(174)	(7,365)	(8,859)
Fishing Assessments Income	5,895	7,234	8,314	8,831	7,468
Current Year Claim Costs	(5,038)	(5,527)	(3,770)	(5,648)	(3,410)
Prior Year Claims Costs	(6,058)	(7,810)	(3,613)	(492)	(7,144)
WCB Operating Costs	(1,425)	(1,249)	(1,095)	(1,123)	(804)
RG Restructuring	(18)	755	(107)	(103)	(200)
Investment Income	9,760	8,720	6,404	5,746	5,584
Current Year Balance	5,246	6,305	2,338	(174)	(7,365)
Transfers to Reserve	(6,204)	(4,170)	(1844)	-	-
Ending Balance	(958)	2,136	4,182	(174)	(7,365)
Assessment Rate	4.67	5.89	5.81	6.08	5.17

This year's ending balance resulted in a negative due to WCB's transfer of 6.2 million to Capital Adequacy Reserve. WCB established the Capital Adequacy Reserve in 2007 to ensure it maintains a funding level for the Accident Fund that is adequate to mitigate against the risks in its assets and liabilities. (Formally called investment fluctuation reserve.)

Regulatory Updates

TRANSPORT CANADA

Regulatory Reform has profiled many existing regulations and created more awareness around the need to comply. Changes include the requirement to complete a safe manning document to be available during your CSI inspection. This document indicates how many men must be on board your vessel to safely carry out different activities including abandoning ship. As with most marine regulations, the nuances of fishing operations were not necessarily considered and as a result some adjustments are to be expected to ensure that the regulations are not too far out of line with reality but accomplish the purpose intended. These adjustments were

discussed at Spring National CMAC in May 2008 and we understand policies are currently being written to address some of them. Still to come is the regulations on construction and stability. We have asked TC to test out any criteria that is developed prior to implementation to give a more hands on practical approach to presenting these technical regulations. We expect to see this at Fall CMAC in November.

Questions on Marine Personnel Regulations? Contact:

John Yeung 604-666-9179 or Zenon Szlachetka 604-666-3791

Fishing Vessel Modifications History Documentation Required

WORKSAFEBC

WorkSafeBC continues with inspections and direction around three main areas: cold water survival, emergency drills and vessel stability documentation. This means immersion suits, PFD's and safety procedures are required and will be expected on inspection. Approximately 70 vessels have been inspected to date with 12 completed and 2 in penalty for non-compliance. It is understood that one of the penalties was \$7,000. Five safety officers are now assigned to work in the fishing industry full and part time.

Shane Neifer	Northern BC	250-615-6640
Bruce Logan	Lower Mainland	604-244-6477
Pat Olsen	Vancouver Island	250-218-4866
Mark Lunny	Vancouver Island	250-334-8732
Dave Clarabut	Vancouver Island	250-881-3469

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

The TSB also has some new energy with the addition of several new staff members; Brian Young comes from BCIT/PMTI, Joanne Nichol from Coast Guard and of course our very own Glenn Budden who brings with him all his fishing and Fish Safe facilitation skills. This new energy and expertise was evident with the release of the Marine Safety Advisory in May in regards to the loss of the West Isle. The MSA was directed at the fishing industry and provided a fairly quick report as to some of the major contributing factors leading to the capsizing. The TSB also participated and shared in putting together the West Coast Fishing Orientation Workshop to improve the understanding of fishing operations amongst their staff.

Want to know more about the TSB, give Glenn a call at 604-666-2712

Fish Safe Advisory Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 9, 2008.

The Advisory Committee meets a minimum of 4 times per year. The committee is open to fishermen and members are appointed by getting signed off by their sector or association. This makes them responsible to report on safety issues to the committee and take information back to industry. Meetings are always well attended and supported by technical experts and ex-officios from TSB, TC, DFO, CCG and WorkSafeBC. Phone 604-261-9700 or email fishsafe@telus.net and let us know if you want to be included on our mailing list to receive safety updates and meeting notices.

Check Out the Website

Need some information on regulatory requirements? Want to know when the next Stability Course is? Want to learn more about cold water survival? The Fishermen's Tool Box, Injuries at Sea and Requirements tabs will take you to the information you need to keep up to date on fishing safety.



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