# Fish Safe Annual Report

April 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009



# Taking Ownership – This Year's Highlights CANADIAN FISH LEADS THE WAY WITH VESSEL SAFETY PROGRAM



#### Other important ownership highlights this year:

- Fishermen regularly participating on the Fish Safe Advisory Committee, provide vessels, time and demos for Fish Safe projects such as the Safest Catch DVD. More importantly, they are involved in fishing safety from the boat to the boardroom.
- Ocean Fisheries provided Stability and Marine Emergency Duties training as well as PFDs for their trawl fleet. A beach line safety course was also organized as well as a focus on producing safety procedures manuals.



In 2006 Canadian Fishing Company recognized the need to reevaluate its safety and training programs on its fleet of over 100 company owned, shared, and private vessels. They started by evaluating the stability criteria for their vessels and determining which ones required a new stability work up and those that were still in compliance with the information at hand. A company safety manual was developed and Marine Emergency Duties training provided in house for all crews. Every time a vessel is dispatched on a fishery the crew and master receive an onboard safety orientation from a company rep with a long fishing history that includes: stability, safety gear, regulations, procedures and drills demonstrated on the actual vessel they will be sailing on.

- JS McMillan is taking the lead in developing fishing vessel safety manuals and has ordered PFDs for their vessels.
- Mutual Marine partnered with Fish Safe on the development of a 'Real Fishermen' vessel damage control promotion including informational brochure.
- Mustang Survival is working on changes to their immersion suit to further meet industry needs and the regulatory requirements for regular drills. Fish Safe is also working with Mustang on an in water study on high visibility colours.
- Whites immersion suit continues to impress and several vessels have chosen this suit for its unique design qualities such as the ability to don earlier and keep working, watertight integrity and the neckseal. Whites has provided several demo suits to Fish Safe and MED training providers. Drop by the office and try one on.

A reward system was also established for those Masters that maintain in-season safety training and drills with their crews. The rewards included a letter of recognition, an embroidered coat, their photo and acknowledgement on a placard placed on every company boat with a challenge to other crews to be the next to have their story told. Their most recent initiative was to develop a CFC special edition personal flotation device with the latest hydrostatic release mechanism and with the Vessel Safety Program logo affixed. They make these available to crews and encourage each one to wear a PFD at all times while engaged in work on or about the boats.

- Mariner Seafoods sent a representative to CMAC in Ottawa to work with Fish Safe on having fishermen involved in regulatory changes.
- ER Plus designed a "Fishing" Marine Basic First Aid Course which includes more practical fishing scenarios.
- Harbours Assn of BC distributed PFD brochures and posters at their annual conference and support fishing safety by promoting and hosting Fish Safe Stability Courses on site.
- TC Pacific Region staff are working closely with the Fish Safe Advisory Committee to ensure that fishermen have the information they need to understand regulatory changes.
- WorkSafeBC prevention, industry services, assessments and claims staff continue to support Fish Safe initiatives in many ways and this continued relationship provides the opportunity for both sides to come to a better understanding of the best approach for improving fishing safety.

# Fish Safe Stability Education Evaluation Report

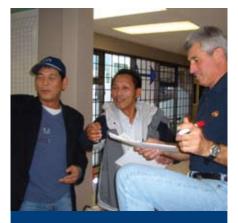
Through the WorkSafeBC work initiatives research funding we were able to have a third party evaluation conducted of the Fish Safe Stability Education program to date. This evaluation provides us with timely information on the course and potential needs for the future. A survey of all participants were held to determine what fishermen considered to be the successful features of the program and what direction we should take in the future.

The survey was conducted by Applied Research Evaluation Services at UBC. The first positive noted by ARES was the return rate which was 3 times the average return rate expected on similar surveys. Fish Safe offered a draw for PFDs as an incentive to complete the questionnaire. Dave Hardie of Comox and Jim Harris of Nanaimo both won a Fish Safe Edition Auto Inflate PFD. Two focus groups were held, one in Vancouver and one in Nanaimo with 8 participants each.

The full report will be distributed on request and posted on our website. This research project will assist us in meeting our Transport Canada funding requirement.

# **Stability Education Course Delivery**

This year 20 courses were offered and 17 courses were delivered. Courses were delivered in 8 communities to a total of 150 fishermen and some WorkSafeBC investigators and prevention officers. The special offer of a PFD for those that organize a group of 8 or more was effective and helped fill 4 or 5 courses. Now that we have delivered the course to over 750 participants it takes more effort to get guys together and organized. Those that do make the effort are still as positive about the course as the first participants were 3 years ago. A fishermen was recently quoted as saying:



"Without it, no one should be allowed to operate a fishboat."

Check out course dates in your area or organize your gang and pick your own date for a course.

# **Real Fishermen Wear PFDs**

To promote the use of PFDs in the fleet a pre-herring draw for a Mustang High Vis PFD was held March 5, 2009. Mark deCourte a Victoria fisherman and Director of Mutual Marine won the random draw. The pre qualification for the draw was to list 3 reasons to wear a PFD. The list of reasons that came back from the over 50 entrants were so amazing that we decided to do a secondary draw for the best reason. Dylan Hardie a troller from Victoria won for one of his reasons: **"To increase the likelihood of making it back home to loved ones instead of staying on the fishing grounds permanently".** The draw was advertised online, through harbour authorities and in Western Mariner. 120 posters were distributed to all BC Harbour Authorities and Mustang distributed a set to all their wholesalers and some retailers. Requests for more posters and brochures came from Winnipeg which apparently has a large fishing fleet (I was corrected when informed by the person requesting that this was developed for the commercial fishing industry). Ruth Innes of the PEI Maritime Fishermen's Union and Lisa Anderson of the Nova Scotia Fisheries Sector Council also distributed them amongst their fleets and at fishing trade shows in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.



# Fishing Mentors Pilot Workshop – PICFI

Fish Safe received a contract from DFO/PICFI to develop and deliver a Fishing Mentoring Workshop as a part of DFO's Capacity Building initiative with First Nations Communities. A curriculum and mentors handbook was developed and the 4 day workshop was delivered in April. Fishermen will be trained on how to transfer their knowledge and expertise by using mentoring techniques similar to the facilitators training we developed for our stability program. Taking on this project will assist in having more fishermen trained as mentors and the material developed gives us a head start on the Safest Catch Fishing Safety Advisors Program currently in development.



## **Claims and Assessments**

Establishing a statistical base line of fishing claims is an objective of the fishing industry. In 2003 as a first step in accomplishing this, fishing claims were divided into 6 different classification units: seine, gillnet/troll, longline/trap, dive, packing and trawl. This provides some separation but not nearly the level that would be helpful in determining specific safety programs. To this end the Fish Team meets monthly to review injury claim patterns and communicate with the industry on trends in a timely matter. This also provides an opportunity to further classify claims in more specific gear type and species.

CLAIMS STATISTICS (Claims associated with wage loss)					
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Dive	3	3	2	9	8
Trap & Longline	28	19	44	34	53
Trawl	28	19	34	27	17
Gillnet/Troll	10	12	26	19	7
Seine	16	8	9	29	25
Packing	3	3	14	7	4
Totals	91	122	129	125	126
Fatals	2	3	2	4	7

Approximately the same amount of Health Care Only claims are documented as well.

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# Roles and Responsibilities for Fishing Claims

Even though the number of claims are down significantly, fishing claims are generally of a serious nature and the sooner proper first aid and health care is provided the better. This can be facilitated by getting your Form 7F (employers claim form) into WorkSafeBC as soon as possible. This gives claims managers the ability to assist the injured person and their family if need be. Filing this form is the responsibility of the master or vessel owner, preferably the one that was on board at the time of the incident. Incomplete forms are better than no form at all. Forms should be carried on board along with incident forms.

# Inter-Provincial Fishing Safety Meeting

This was a Transport Canada initiative inviting all WCB's across the country as well as fishing organizations that have a safety program to attend a workshop in Toronto in order to share information on successful safety initiatives. Fish Safe was asked to present along with WorkSafeBC. The presentation on "How to create a successful safety program" received mixed reviews. Our east coast counterparts took exception to our 'fishermen taking ownership' approach as they prefer a more regulatory driven process supported by provincially funded training. At the end of the day it turned out to be more of a political difference of opinion and provided us with the motivation to focus a bit more on improving our educational and training situation in BC. Transport Canada was very appreciative of our presentation and in general the work that we do to create an industry driven safety program.

# **Assessment Rates**

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Assessment Rate	4.98	4.53	4.67	5.89	5.81	6.08	5.17

An increase in assessment rates prompted a meeting with WorkSafeBC's Gerry Paquette, Manager, Classification and Rates. Representatives from the BC Seafood Alliance, Fishing Companies, Fishing Associations and Mutual Marine attended to seek clarification on the increase and review the current rate grouping characteristics. Gerry provided a very clear explanation as to the changes in WCB's contingency requirements and the resulting effects as well as the investment returns on overall rate changes. He also provided a very preliminary look at the breakdown of rate drivers within the fishing classification units. It became clear that the goal of reducing rates by improving safety on board was not going to be possible within their current system. The fishing sector does not benefit from an experience rated program. Even though as a result of the efforts of fishermen and the success of Fish Safe programs, the number of claims and duration of claims and subsequent cost of claims have been reduced, the assessment rate will generally remain the same or increase.



#### FISH SAFE FINANCIAL SUMMARY

April 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009

Source of Funding	
Previous Year Carry forward	25,000
WCB Fishing Assessments	250,000
Transport Canada	105,000
Fisheries and Oceans	22,000
Course and Material Revenue	21,500
Total	423,500
Use of Funds	
Use of Funds Stability Education/Safety Promotion	237,400
	237,400 79,000
Stability Education/Safety Promotion	
Stability Education/Safety Promotion Meetings/Events/Workshops	79,000
Stability Education/Safety Promotion Meetings/Events/Workshops Claims/Assessments	79,000 18, 000

Any excess funds are carried forward to next year's budget \*Salaries have been allocated to programs

## **Program Manager's Comments**

Another year under our belt and the safety recommending the Fish Safe Stability Program Safest Catch Initiative to create a program that

over this last year and for taking the lead in their respective sector or organization.

Let's take a look at this years highlights and some plans for the future.



# **Fish Safe Programs**

**Fish Safe Stability Program** 

**Real Fishermen Promotion** 

# Safest Catch Advisors Program

- The Safest Catch DVD
- Safest Catch Procedures Template
- Safety Quik Emergency procedures guide
- 3 Year Funding Contract
- Project Coordinator
- Trained Fishermen Safety Advisors

Stability Handbook

Robert Allen DVD

course

education

Measuring Stability DVD

750 Fishermen completed

• A model for fishing safety

Nationally recognized

Increased number of

PFD Brochure

Posters

fishermen wearing PFDs

Advertising Campaign

Input into product design

Fishing Mentors Handbook

Fishing Mentors Curriculum

and Materials

Regulatory changes

- Overarching program for use by all involved in fishing safety
- Resource Directory
- Safety Advisors **Training Program**
- On board assistance for fishing vessels
- Safety Procedures Manual and reference information

momentum continues on the West Coast. Fish Safe's goal is to provide fishermen with the resources they need to take ownership of safety. For many this has required a paradigm shift away from regulatory driven thinking and processes that currently exist to promote fishing safety. In a short time and with the planets aligning so to speak, this concept has not only been embraced by the fishing industry but also regulatory agencies. The Transportation Safety Board recently began as an example of how to deal with reducing capsizing incidents. Transport Canada, WorkSafeBC, TSB, Coast Guard sponsored our not only provides fishermen with what they need to develop vessel specific safety procedures and emergency drills on board, but they are looking to this program to provide the basis for what should become safety audits rather than safety inspections. Kudos also to the Fish Safe Advisory Committee members for their commitment



**Fish Safe Advisory Committee** 

Fishing Safety Mentors Workshop - PICFI/DFO

- A cohesive formalized group dedicated to working on
- Strategic Planning Document
- **Education & Training** Workshop Strategy Report
- Use of the committee for all fishing safety discussions

- Ongoing funding support
- Fish Safe Database
- Program Evaluation
- More informed fishermen with a knowledge of threats to stability and how to remove them
- Refresher course

Price incentives

equipment

brochure

More advertising and

posters for use of safety

Vessel Damage Control Kit

Vessel Damage Control Kits

• Fishermen trained as

Mentoring

initiatives

mentors for PICFI program

that can be used in Safety

Means of keeping current on

regulations and all safety

transference of knowledge

• Training with fishing

relevancy for better

4

#### 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.

# **Fish Safe Programs**

# Image: Section Section

#### Website



#### **Regulatory Liaison**



#### • Recognized and understood regulatory agencies as a beneficial partner in dealing with fishing regulations

• Work with CMAC, WorkSafe BC and other agencies to ensure regulations are practical and relevant to fishing

#### Fishing Injury Claims and Prevention



# Fishing Orientation for claims staff

- Monthly review of claims for trends and prevention activities
- Fishing Reference Binder
- Claims Brochure
- Why file a Claim mail out
- More accurate coding of claims

# Reduced number of claims

- Reduced duration
- Continued improvement on claims management
- Improved Fishing Incident
  Report Form
- Baseline statistical information on fishing injuries

#### West Coast Fishing Orientation



#### West Coast Fishing DVD

- Fishing Reference Handout
- Workshops delivered to Transport Canada, Transportation Safety Board and WorkSafeBC
- Promotes a basic understanding of the different types of fisheries and provides an interaction between fishermen's panel and agency
- WorkSafeBC Investigations
  workshop
- Continue to provide workshops on demand
- Promote use of workshops with staff working with the fishing industry

# NEW Transport Canada Marine Personnel Regulations

As part of the Canada Shipping Act 2001 Regulatory Reform package the Marine Personnel Regulations were updated and infused with international content and released for implementation in April 2007. What does this mean for the fishing industry? Mostly, a new awareness of the regulatory requirements. As well the need to work closely with TC Pacific Region to review and adjust this new set of regulations to take into consideration that fishing vessels operate differently than other marine commercial vessels. Some key requirements you should note:

- All fishing Masters will be required to have a level of certification depending on the size of their vessel and its operation.
- All fishermen are required to take Marine Emergency Duties training
- All masters are required to provide a vessel familiarization and safety orientation to the crew
- Fishing vessels must have a person trained in Marine First Aid on board
- Fishing Master Certificates must be renewed to maintain validity
- Modifications History Form must be completed by the vessel owner and provided at CSI inspection
- Administrative Monetary Penalties (fines) can be applied for non-compliance with regulations

# New Transport Canada Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations

These are currently being finalized. Fishermen need to be aware of potential increased requirements for stability for all vessels and changes to length measurements. If you need more details, give us a call. To have a say or input into these changes you need to attend the next regional CMAC meeting on September 16, 2009 at BCIT in North Vancouver or National CMAC, November 2-6, 2009 in Ottawa. TC has made the recommendations and it is important that we give them feedback on the impact on our Pacific fleet.





#### **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.

www.fishsafebc.com

# WorkSafeBC

Commercial Fishing is identified as part of WorkSafeBC's High Risk Strategy which allows more resources to be allocated to the industry.

Occupational Safety Officers continue to focus on strategies that promote vessel stability, cold water survival and emergency drills to prevent fatalities and injuries in the industry. Officers inspect vessels for compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation with a particular focus on instructions to master and crew based on technical data. This includes documentation describing safety procedures, vessel characteristics and the location/use of all emergency equipment. Officers are also working with industry and Fish Safe to create a PFD habit, promoting the wearing of PFDs and life jackets appropriate for the job, whenever working on deck or there is some other risk of falling overboard.

Industry and Labour Services (ILS) at WorkSafeBC worked with Transport Canada Marine Safety to create a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding to provide funding for Fish Safe programs. This year \$105,000 was provided from TC for the development of the Safest Catch DVD and to subsidize the delivery of the Stability Education Program.

Also under development this year is the Toxic Spines Information brochure for fishermen and Medical personnel. The brochure will provide directions on appropriate first aid management for minimizing the potential for infection on board.

# WHAT'S NEXT THE SAFEST CATCH – SIGN UP NOW

Fish Safe BC has received three years of funding from the Search and Rescue New Initiative Fund for The Safest Catch.

The Safest Catch program will pull together Transport Canada, WorkSafeBC,

Transportation Safety Board, Marine Educators and Marine Suppliers to compile a resource directory of fishing safety information. This program will be the first of its kind – a means of coordinating existing training and safety resources into a comprehensive fishing safety program with trained safety advisors reaching the guys on the boats with the latest safety information, tips and tools. We expect it to be a welcome addition to the safety toolkit for fishermen trying to make it their business to come home safely.

This collaborative effort will ensure that we meet the three stated SAR NIF objectives:

- 1. Use fishermen to advise other fishermen about how to make safety an integral part of their commercial fishing business
- 2. Enable fishermen to take ownership and responsibility for safety on board
- 3. Reduce the number of Search and Rescue responses to fishing vessels

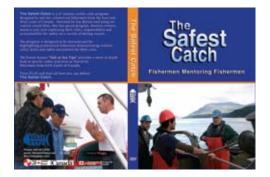
#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FISHERMEN:

The Safest Catch will provide fishermen as Fish Safe advisors who will be equipped to provide onboard assistance and resources needed to fill the gaps and assist fishermen in developing their onboard safety program. All mentoring will be tailored specific to individual vessels and can include everything from how to train your crew in emergency drills, develop safety procedures, or how to renew your fishing masters certificate or where to find the latest safety equipment.

Name:
Phone:
Email:
I am interested in having a Fish Safe Advisor work with me to:
Develop safety procedures on board my vessel
Improve my emergency drills program
Answer questions about regulatory requirements
Other safety concerns
Contact: John Krgovich, Program Coordinator Phone: 604-261-9700 fishsafecoordinator@telus.net

#### SAFEST CATCH DVD

The Safest Catch is a 25-minute, reality style, video-DVD designed for commercial fishermen across Canada. The program features fishermen from the East and West coast telling their stories about how safety is an integral part of their business. Familiarization of new crew, realistic safety drills, safety refreshers for skippers and experienced crew and an outline of the advisory program will all be highlighted. This program is not a traditional "How To" safety video, but a motivational tool highlighting professional fishermen demonstrating best practices and procedures for staying safe. Through on camera sound bites featuring owners, masters and crew, the program will explain roles, responsibilities and accountability for safety on a variety of fishing vessels. Both small and large vessels are featured, as well as different gear types on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. It shows how safety programs can be designed specifically for different types of fisheries and vessels.



#### FOR REGULATORY AGENCIES:

The Safest Catch will create a channel of communication direct to the fishermen on the boat. Agencies such as TC, TSB and WCB will provide a seminar for Fish Safe advisors that will create more capacity for understanding not only the regulatory process but how regulations work in an on onboard safety program.

#### FOR FISHING SAFETY SUPPLIERS:

The Safest Catch will work with safety suppliers to provide feedback on fishermen's needs and safety suppliers will inform and work with Fish Safe advisors on the proper use and maintenance of safety equipment so that this can be relayed to fishermen in a timely manner.

The Safest Catch DVD being distributed today to fishermen across Canada is the first step in the process of launching the program and using fishermen to advise and motivate their peers to enhance their safety program on board.



Thanks to the fishermen that shared their experience and expertise in this program to help motivate their peers to come home safely. The Fish Safe Advisory committee met 3 times this year. The May 8 and September 9, 2008 meetings featured safety equipment updates from Whites and Mustang and Peter Ryan. Committee members brought progress reports to the table and expressed concerns over the economics of the industry as a potential roadblock to taking ownership of safety and/or meeting regulatory requirements. The January 21, 2009 was focused on Transport Canada Regulatory Reform to provide the fishing industry with information on the new Marine Personnel Regulations and for input into the upcoming fishing vessel safety regulations. Ian Campbell, Project Manager for Regulatory Reform from Ottawa presented an update on the regulations that are currently under development including stability and safety equipment regulations. Upcoming meetings: September 15, 2009.

The committee is open to all 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. The Fish Safe Advisory Committee is the forum for dealing with fishing safety issues, make sure you are kept in the loop by attending and participating.



## Fish Safe Advisory Committee Co Chairs: Gina Johansen, John Krgovich

#### **INDUSTRY MEMBERS**

Bryan Safarik- Ocean Fisheries Ltd.

Ross Holkestad – Fishing Vessel Owners Assoc. / Harbours Association

Kent Hillman – Canadian Fishing Company

Renee Mann – Mariner Seafoods / Osprey

Bill Duncan – Native Brotherhood of BC

Brent Melan – Fisherman

Mike Buston – Leader Fishing

Joe Bauer – Scotch Pond Heritage Co-op

John Secord – Pacific Halibut Management Association

Paul Edgett – Canadian Fishing Company

Tim Joys – Underwater Harvesters Association, Cdn Sablefish Association

Brian Mose, Cdn Groundfish Association

Albert Radil, Royal Canadian

Tony Mijacika – Pacific Coast Fishermen's Mutual Marine Insurance Co.

Gordon Wasden, Aboriginal Vessel Owners Association

Ken Hanson – FV Ididit

Bob Hall – Canadian Fish

Paul Bevandick, Pacific Prawn Association

Mike Featherstone, Pacific Urchin Harvesters Association

John Lenic, Ocean Marauder

Ryan McEachern, Gillnetter, Packer

#### Remembering

During the course of this last year we lost both Pat Alfred and Russell Farrington in fishing accidents. We also lost many more of our old and young friends and family as they succumbed to age or health issues. They will all be missed and remembered fondly for not only their fishing legacy but also for their most important jobs as grandfathers, fathers, uncles, brothers, sons and friends.

Fishing Industry Safety and Realth

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Abby Ghuman – Department of Fisheries & Oceans (Pacific Region) John Palliser – DFO / Canadian Coast Guard Bruce Logan – WorkSafeBC Ellen Hanson - WorkSafeBC Glenn Budden – Transportation Safety Board Shane Neifer – WorkSafeBC Dennis Chalmers, Province of BC Ross Hickling, Transport Canada Mak Chowdry, Transport Canada David Rahn, Western Mariner Michel Drouin, Pacific Fishing

#### RESOURCE OR EXPERT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alex Brydon – Merlion Marine Services Inc. Barb Howe – Quinte Marine Services Peter Ryan – Ryan & Associates Shannon Gallagher – Mustang Survival Tyler Preston – Whites Diving Grant Brandlmayer, Robert Allan Ltd. John Simpson, J. Simpson Ltd. Transport Canada Training Providers

