

2013/14  
ANNUAL REPORT



## Safest Catch National

*"It shouldn't be just Fish Safe BC, it should be Fish Safe throughout the country and we should all be promoting and using these programs"* Duane Dakin, School of Fisheries, Nova Scotia Community College.

In this way Duane summarized the intent of the 2 week pilot Safest Catch Program in Nova Scotia's south shore.

Working together and collectively funding the 2 week pilot, Nova Scotia safety advocates: Lisa Fitzgerald, (*Nova Scotia Fisheries Sector Council*), Allen Tobey, (*Atlantic Policy Congress/Fisheries Consultant*), Duane Dakin, (*School of Fisheries, Nova Scotia Community College*) and Stewart Franck, (*Fishing Safety Assn. of Nova Scotia*) spearheaded the plan to have Fish Safe come and test the delivery of the Safest Catch program on their local fleet.

The focus of this trip was on sharing Fish Safe's Safest Catch Program which provides the tools for developing an on board Safety Management System.

Fish Safe Program Coordinator John Krgovich and Program Manager Gina McKay, provided Nova Scotia School of Fisheries instructors / fishermen Joe Grandy and Blair Campbell with some hands on

training to become Safest Catch Advisors. 5 Vessel Visits were scheduled in the Digby, Yarmouth, West Pubnico area. 3 lobster vessels, 1 haddock trawler and 1 scallop trawler participated and were representative of the fleet in that area. Of the 15 participants, all of the masters were Transport Canada certified FMIV and all but one of the crew had Marine Emergency Duties training.

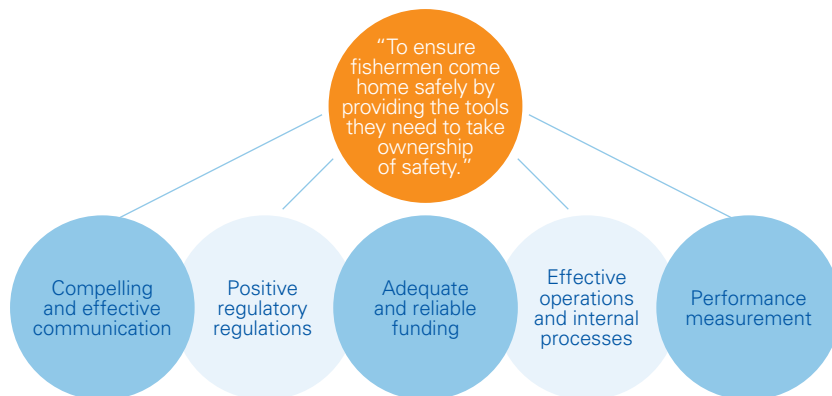
None had done a drill or safety orientation on their vessel prior to this program. None had tried on their suits or were familiar with their on board safety equipment. This was pretty much in line with what we see here on the west coast. All vessels did have immersion suits on board which is not a regulatory requirement in Nova Scotia.

There is definite support for moving forward with the Safest Catch program on the east coast. We look forward to continued progress and working with our Fish Safe counterparts on the east coast to find the ways and means of working together to improve fishing safety.



# All Systems Go!

It was a very productive year-we solidified our admin processes to become more efficient and focused. The result is a comprehensive Fish Safe Business Plan identifying both immediate goals and long term under 5 important pillars:



The business plan ensures our mandate of "Improving Fishing Safety" remains at the center of every decision that is made.

A new Fishermen-centric Database has pulled all our existing databases into one providing an effective tool for communication, documenting program participation and the ability to analyze the data for targeting activities. For example, we may get a report on an incident that can inform a particular gear type. Information will then be sent directly to those in the database with this gear type. Fishermen focused database has reduced admin time, creating more opportunities to focus on helping fishermen.

Another result of the business planning exercise was determining that we required full time program assistance. Connor Radil recently joined the Fish Safe team to fulfill this role. Connor just received his Commerce degree from UBC. Combine that with his fishing family street creds and we have a welcome and very competent addition.

While all this important admin stuff was going on in the background, Program Coordinator John Krgovich and his Safest Catch Advisors were busy in communities all over BC helping fishermen on their own vessels and getting them started on developing their on board Safety Management System.

John and I also were invited to pilot the Safest Catch Program in Nova Scotia. It was great to see that east coast recognizes the value of the program. So read on and see what was accomplished this year and if you haven't already, I suggest, you **GET WITH THE PROGRAM – THE SAFEST CATCH PROGRAM.**

# Financial Summary

April 1, 2012-March 31, 2013

WCB Fishing Assessment Levy	400,000
DFO PICFI	194,000
DFO Licencing	10,000
Safest Catch National	30,000
Course and Materials	25,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>659,000</b>

## USE OF FUNDS

Prevention Programs	169,000
Meetings/Events/ Workshops	3,600
PICFI Program	196,000
Claims/Assessments	2,500
Administration	235,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>606,000</b>

## STAFF

Gina McKay - Program Manager  
 John Krgovich - Program Coordinator  
 Ryan Ford - Operations Manager  
 Connor Radil - Program Assistant

## SAFEST CATCH ADVISORS

Paul Bevandick      Ralph Roberts  
 Harold Wulff      Cheri Hansen  
 Trung Ngyuen      Bob Strom

## EDUCATION CONSULTANT

Barbara Howe

# Fishing Safety Training Portal / What are my certification requirements?

Are you someone that is hesitant to find out what requirements you might have to meet to go fishing or to keep fishing safely? Here is a tool for you!

Enter your info and size of vessel that you are going to be on and find out what the requirements are. If you do need to take some training this same portal will help you find your nearest training provider.

Check it out at [FISHSAFEBC.COM](http://FISHSAFEBC.COM)



# WorkSafeBC Assessments

**HOW DOES IT WORK?** Rates of assessment are determined by: Assessment payroll divided by claims cost.

**WHO PAYS?** Fish Buyers are responsible to pay assessments on behalf of fishermen delivering to them.

In general assessments paid are based on 40% of the landed fish value multiplied by the assessment rate. These assessments pay for all fishing claims in the fishing industry, WorkSafeBC administration costs and for the core funding for Fish Safe.

## HOW MUCH: ASSESSMENT RATES

YEAR	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
ASSESSMENT RATE	6.54	5.95	6.03	6.32	5.37

There was an initial assumption by industry that by implementing a safety program (Fish Safe) the cost of claims and thus the assessment rate would go down. With so many variables and adjustments in both assessable payroll and claims cost this has not proven to be an effective performance measurement. For example the significant increase in assessment rates projected for 2014 was attributed to an overall increase to the Accident fund and average base premium rate, increased WCB Admin costs and other adjustments.

Does this mean that we have not seen returns on the investment to the Fish Safe program. Not at all! The returns are measured on the numbers of fishermen coming home safely and the increased level of participation in safety programs and overall changes in the safety culture in BC. The Transportation Safety Board also recognized a 44% decline in the number of fatalities in BC over the time frame that the Fish Safe program has existed.

Good news but it would also be nice to see a financial reward for all this hard work and investment in safety. This financial reward is available to all other industry sectors from WorkSafeBC through either their COR program or an experience rating. None of these programs have been made accessible to the fishing industry. To rectify this, BC Seafood Producers, working with Fish Safe are in the process of developing a proposal that would see assessment rates in fishing determined in part by the participation of fishing vessels in safety programs.

## CLAIMS STATISTICS FOR 2013 (only claims associated with wage loss are represented)

WorkSafeBC Claims Managers and the Fish Safe Program Manager review claims on a weekly basis. Proper coding for gear type as well as identifying trends and improving overall claims management is discussed.

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Dive	7	7	5	6	7	3
Trap & Longline	38	30	22	31	33	28
Trawl	30	38	30	24	22	28
Gillnet/Troll	17	22	15	11	9	10
Seine	13	9	17	23	14	16
Packing (including farm fish)	2	6	11	4	4	3
TOTALS	107	112	100	99	89	91
FATALS	1	1	2	1	0	2

## WORKSAFEBC CLAIMS WORKSHOP JUNE 12th, 2013

28 attended a one day jointly facilitated workshop to answer questions about:

Insurance coverage for fishermen, roles and responsibilities in claims management, claims filing process, how claims are accepted or rejected, retirement age and how we can improve the process.

This lively session included representation from fishermen, fish buyers, vessel owners and all involved in processing a claim at WorkSafeBC. Recommendations as a result of the meeting included:

- A means of changing the overall attitude towards the claim process by changing the name of the claims program to a return to work program. The concept would be to instill in those that are injured or filing a claim for any other purpose that they are now entering a return to work program.
- Return to work options that included an injured workers pool/database that vessel owners could draw from during and off season
- Communication piece on the actual costs of an incident
- Vessel owners to establish and review with crew the process of documenting an injury and filing a claim
- Provide a criteria for determining the retirement age of individual fishermen for pensions, disability and loss of earnings awards
- Find a means of documenting time on the water to compare with claims numbers. ie: Does longer fishing times = more claims?



# 2013 Program Review



It was a very busy year for program delivery. With the support of PICFI we are able to expand our outreach to deliver safety programs to more remote communities. Delivery in the communities is very rewarding and is appreciated by the participants as well. Program Coordinator was on the road most of the summer enjoying some of these beautiful communities while delivering the Stability and Safest Catch Program.

*“Thank you for providing the remote community members of Oculcje with the opportunity to participate in the Safest Catch Program. John is amazing and always goes above and beyond to assist fishers and encourage future fishers”*

–Hayu & Nuchatlaht

**Oculcje** is at the head of Espinoza Inlet, about 15kms north of Zeballos. We were invited to work with the fishermen there who had just purchased the Stebo-J. Two crews participated in the Safest Catch Program on the Stebo-J and also received their MED A3 certificates. We also provided

a cold water survival workshop for the whole community including children and elders.

**Skaha** is in the southern Okanagan. Sockeye is being harvested here and so we put on the Safest Catch Program with groups of fishermen based in Penticton. It was interesting to discuss cold water survival when people were swimming and water skiing right next to us. Fishermen also participated in a Stability course so they could apply this knowledge to the vessel they were considering modifying from a gillnetter to use for seining. After the course they decided this was not a good idea.

**Tseshah** is on the lower Somass River near Port Alberni. We delivered the Safest Catch Program to these fishermen with a heightened focus on PFD Wear. These fishermen spend a lot of time on the river in small boats and had not yet taken PFD wear seriously. This was also covered in the cold water survival workshop.

**Ahousat** is located on Flores Island in Clayquot Sound, northwest Tofino. Fishermen participated in the Stability

Education and Safest Catch Program and completed their MED A3 certification as well.

**Chemainus** is on the southeast coast of Vancouver Island. We conducted the Stability Education and Safest Catch Program as well as MED A3 and ROC-M. Owners and managers stood out as taking a more active role in fishing safety and roles and responsibilities of vessel ownership.

*“We are so grateful for the very meaningful work you do, and that you clearly enjoy doing it.”–Chemainus*

**Dididaht** on Nitnat Lake, southwestern Vancouver Island. This friendly place allowed for a lot of reflecting time. No internet, no phone and a lot of the time no power. Local fishermen received the Safest Catch, Stability, ROC-M and Safe on the Wheel program as well as SVOP certification.



PROGRAM	NUMBER OF COURSES/ WORKSHOPS/EVENTS	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	LOCATIONS
Stability Education	9	77	Alert Bay, Port Alberni, Penticton, Ahousat, Chemainus, Nitnat, Quatsino, Tsaxana, Richmond, Gilford Bay
Safe on the Wheel/SVOP	11	89	Port Hardy, Quatsino, Opitsaht, Tsaxana, Sechelt, Ahousat, Nitnat, Richmond
Safest Catch	105	343	On board fishing vessels
Marine Emergency Duties A 3	20	190	On board fishing vessels coast wide
ROC-M	10	74	Richmond, Quatsino, Port Hardy, Opitsaht, Alert Bay, Campbell River, Chemainus, Nitnat
Beachline Safety	1	6	Steveston
Coldwater Survival	3	20	Port Hardy, Gilford Island, Zeballos
Drills Days/Show us your PFD	1	50	Roe Herring Fishery

# 2013 Program Review



## EVENTS

### Herring Drills Day

After a couple of close calls in the Herring Food and Bait fishery the Roe Herring industry (fishermen and vessel owners, fish buyers and DFO fishery managers) were keen to ensure that herring safety was top of mind for the fishery. Fish Safe took the lead by creating pre-herring safety awareness events and activities.

Safest Catch Advisors and Program Manager Gina McKay hit the docks to meet with fishermen and get them signed up for the many safety events:

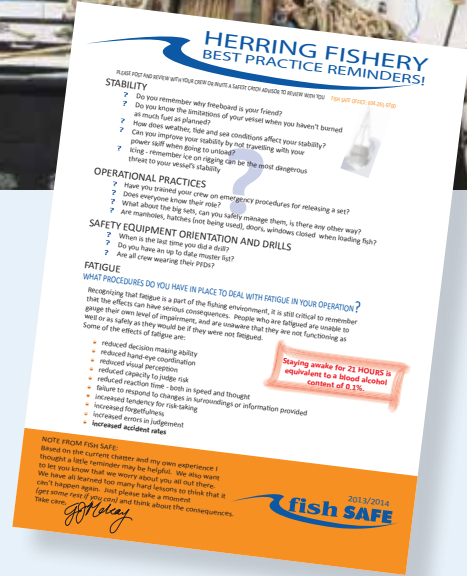
- Fish Safe Stability Education Program
- Stability Draw
- Safest Catch Vessel Visits
- Show me your PFD and win
- Emergency Drills

Over 36 vessels entered the Stability Draw which helped fishermen stop and think about stability procedures because it required entrants to list 5 stability procedures to enter and win a \$100 visa card. The winner was veteran fisherman Len Carr.

Also winning a prize for signing up his boat for the on-grounds herring drills is Bill Bird on the Ocean Cloud.

Safest Catch Advisor Cheri Hansen and Program Manager Gina McKay were on the grounds for the opening day which took more than a few by surprise. Their mission was to reward all fishermen wearing PFDs with a prize package and another draw entry form. Bottom line: **safety pays!**

The increased use of PFDs was noted as was the use of hard hats on board seiners. There is always room for improvement when it comes to taking ownership of safety but for now we are happy to report a safe and successful 2014 roe herring fishery.





# 2013 Program Review



## Beachline Workshop

Fish Safe held a successful Beachline Safety Workshop at Paramount in Steveston. Using the Pacific Quest as the venue for the morning's instruction and moving on to the water for the afternoon hands on activities, Safest Catch Advisor Ralph Roberts facilitated the workshop this year and took the new recruits through a comprehensive approach to staying safe on the beach.

Topics covered include cold water survival, PFD wear, knots, splicing, skiff set up and of course tying up to a strap and tree. Mark Lindsell of Redden Net provided some real insight in to the care of beachlines or any lines for that matter and breaking strengths and those things that affect the strength of a line. This is one of the highlights as mentioned by the participants.

Thanks to CFC for the loan of the power skiff, Bill Forbes for the dead skiff (with oars!) and Jay Grabher for manning the powerskiff and getting the guys safely to the beach.

### OTHER EVENTS

- Gulf of Georgia – Organizing the Industry Exhibit
- Harbours Association of BC Annual Meeting
- Nesika Insurance Open House
- National CMAC
- Pacific Marine Expo
- PICFI Fisheries Forum
- Fishermen Helping Kids With Cancer Herring Sale
- MUG UPS - Statx Fire Suppression, Nautilus Marine Radio



## Fishermen Helping Fishermen - DFO Licencing Assistance

Keeping up with technology has always been important in the fishing business. Finding the latest radio, radar, sounder or sonar is first on the list when visiting Fish Expo in Seattle. This is the fun stuff. Now you must make friends with your computer (or with your kid!) to access all kinds of important documents and in particular your FRC and Vessel Licence and conditions.

This system known as NOLS (National OnLine System) was introduced by DFO in 2012. The good news is there is help. DFO has contracted Fish Safe to provide one on one and group training support and computer access to ensure you get your licences in a timely manner. If you have never fished before you still must go into a DFO office and get your FRC (fishers registration card).

Otherwise, drop by for a coffee or your other option is to call 1-877-535-7307

# Regulatory Information

## Transportation Safety Board – [tsb.gc.ca](http://tsb.gc.ca)

Canada wide, there were 16 fishing vessel fatalities in 2013, up from the annual average of 11 in 2008-2012. There was 1 fatality in the Pacific Region for 2013.

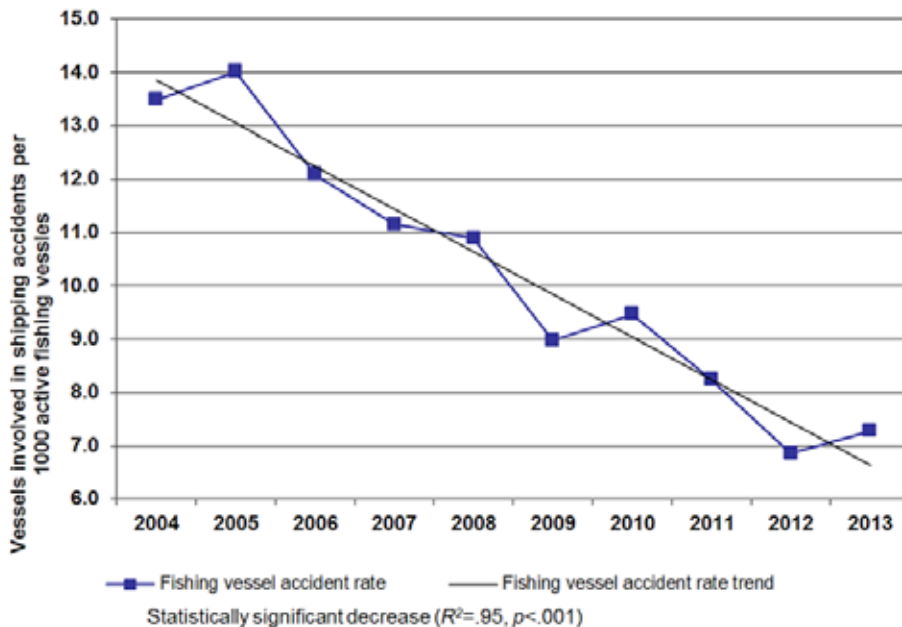
The TSB Watchlist contains this motherhood statement: “Every time the TSB investigates an occurrence, we make conclusions about causes and contributing factors, but many of these factors are bigger than any one event: they are systemic problems, which need systemic solutions. Concerns also remain about issues such as vessel modifications and their impact on stability; the use and availability of lifesaving equipment; regulatory oversight; and the impact of fishery resource management plans and practices on the overall safety of fishing vessels.

### SOLUTION

Concerted and coordinated action is required by leaders in the fishing community to implement a safety culture approach to fishing operations, recognizing the interaction of safety deficiencies.”

### Ed note:

*We are on the right track using fishermen to help fishermen with the Safest Catch Program. But as we know one bad accident can turn this all around so we can't rest on our laurels. **Keep reviewing your on board program, maintain your equipment, do a risk assessment and practice your drills!***



### REPORTS AVAILABLE ON [TSB.GC.CA](http://TSB.GC.CA) ON 2012 INCIDENTS:

- PACIFIC SIREN - Capsizing and Sinking, Banks Island, Hecate Strait, BC
- JESSIE G - Capsizing and Grounding, Cape Beale, Vancouver Island, BC
- VIKING STORM - Collision, La Push, Washington, US

## WorkSafeBC

WorkSafeBC Safety Officers continue to focus on the top three measures for preventing fatalities: PFD wear, Stability Procedures and Emergency Drills. The “how to” meet these requirements continues to be covered in the Safest Catch Program. Other things in the works are the review of the use of dive computers in the seafood harvesting sector and wearable PFDs. If you have any questions about WorkSafeBC regulations or orders you may have received you can contact a Safety Officer or Fish Safe for some assistance.

### SAFETY OFFICERS

Pat Olsen      patrick.olsen@worksafebc.com  
Mark Lunny    mark.lunny@worksafebc.com  
Bruce Logan   bruce.logan@worksafebc.com  
Wayne Tracey wayne.tracey@worksafebc.com

## Transport Canada - Good News for the Pacific Region!

Yvette Myers, New Regional Director, Marine Safety and Security brings a large cargo shipload of experience and qualifications to her new position. Yvette’s extensive resume includes working with Canadian Coast Guard, as the Vancouver Harbour Master and Director of Marine Investigations for TSB prior to coming to Transport Canada.

We appreciate Yvette’s energy and a commitment to work collaboratively with industry. Issues are being dealt with in the Region in a timely manner and the West Coast is being profiled at a National level.

Work continues on Marine Personnel Regulations, Small Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations and Life Saving Equipment Regulations. The New Marine Personnel Regulations came into effect in 2007 but as a result of ratifying the STCW-F international convention (Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995) it requires amending these new regs. The fishing safety regulations are almost ready to go to gazette (meaning they are almost done). Next on the radar is the Large Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations.

Transport Canada has also indicated support for industry programs through a potential National Fishing Safety Fund.

# BC's Regional Forum for Fishing Safety

The **Fish Advisory Committee** met 3 times this year. We welcomed some new faces and said goodbye to others. Ralph Roberts served his term out as co-chair and we welcomed new co-chair, Kim Olsen, President, UFAWU/Unifor. We also welcomed Yvette Myers back to the west coast in her new position as Regional Director for Transport Canada Marine Safety.

Longtime member and supporter of fishing safety Bill Duncan also resigned his seat as he is looking to reducing his commitments. We know he is still out there and available for good advice and thank him very much for his long term commitment. WorkSafeBC Safety Officer Shane Neifer also resigned from the committee as he leaves WorkSafeBC. Shane worked as a Safety Officer for WCB since 2000 and his passion and dedication to fishing safety was much appreciated.

## SAFETY TOPICS REVIEWED BY THE COMMITTEE INCLUDED:

- Fatigue
- Collision Avoidance – Fraser River Fishery
- TC Small Fishing Vessel Safety Regulatory Requirements
- Marine Personnel Regulations – Equivalency for Industry Training
- Dive Computers
- At Sea Boarding
- Return to Work Program for injured fishermen
- Wearable PFDs



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# Fish Safe Advisory Committee Members

## INDUSTRY MEMBER REPRESENTING

Art Davidson	BC Longline Fishermen's Association
Ben Mabblerley	Baines Fishing
Open seat	Native Brotherhood of British Columbia
Bob Hall	Canadian Fishing Company
Bob Strom	Fish Safe Advisor
Brent Melan	Fisherman
Brian Mose	Deep Sea Trawlers Association
Bryan Safarik	Manager, Nordic Pearl
Cheri Hansen	Fish Safe Advisor
Chris Ashton	Area B Harvest Committee / Area B Seine Society
Chris Cue	Canadian Fishing Company
Denise Jenkins	Oban Ventures
Gord Cranton	BC Tuna Fisherman's Association
Gordon Wasden	Aboriginal Fishing Vessel Owners Association
Harold Wulff	Fish Safe Advisor
Heather Mearns	UFAWU/UNIFOR
Joe Bauer	Scotch Pond Heritage Co-op.
John Lenic	Fisherman
John Murin	S&S Holdings
John Secord	Pacific Coast Fishermen's Mutual Marine Insurance Co.
Kent Hillman	Canadian Fishing Company
Kim Olsen (Co-Chair)	UFAWU/UNIFOR
Mike Buston	Aqualine Seafoods Ltd.
Mike Featherstone	Pacific Urchin Harvesters Association (Green & Red)
Paul Bevandick	Pacific Prawn Harvesters Association
Ralph Roberts	Fisherman / Safest Catch Advisor / Native Brotherhood
Renee Mann	Mariner Seafoods Ltd.
Ross Holkestad	Harbours Association
Sarah Buston	Select Seafoods Canada
Tim Joys	Underwater Harvesters Association
Trung Nguyen	Fish Safe Advisor

## EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Abby Ghuman	Department of Fisheries & Oceans (Pacific Region)
Andy Allan	Transport Canada Marine Safety
Bill DuTrizac	Transportation Safety Board
Bruce Logan	WorkSafe BC
Ellen Hanson	WorkSafe BC
Feliksas Markevicius	Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada
Glenn Budden	Transportation Safety Board
Glenn Ormiston	Canadian Coast Guard / Department of Fisheries
Pat Olsen	WorkSafe BC
Tom Amirault	Nesika Insurance
Zenon Szlachetka	Transport Canada Marine Safety Province of BC

## EXPERT / RESOURCE MEMBERS

Alex Brydon	Merlion Marine Services Inc.
Barb Howe	Quinte Marine Services
David Rahn	Western Mariner Magazine
Ivan Oxford	Camosun College
John Simpson	J. Simpson Ltd.
Leslie Taylor	Harbour Authority Association of BC
Michelle Drouin	Pacific Fishing Magazine
Peter Ryan	Ryan & Associates