



Fish Safe Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Meeting: Fish Safe Advisory Committee
Date: September 29, 2021 (10:00am – 11:00am)
Location: Zoom
To watch the full Zoom Meeting, click here:
<https://fishsafebc.box.com/s/2bd0cniw4099f2gyahd9u6g9mjsl7eho>

In Attendance (17):

Andria Charette - DFO	Paul Bevandick – Fish Safe
Andy Allan – Transport Canada	Ralph Roberts – Fish Safe
Denise Gillespie – Oban Ventures	Renee Mann – Mariner Seafoods
George Roddan – Transport Canada	Rhoda Huey – Fish Safe
John Horton – Canadian Lifeboat Institution	Ron Doumont – Fisherman
John Krgovich – Fish Safe	Ryan Ford – Fish Safe
John Wilson – Transport Canada	Stephanie Nguyen – Fish Safe
Michael Frost – Canadian Fishing Company	Tim Pryde – WorkSafeBC
Mike Phuong – Fisherman	

Introduction

Chair: Ryan Ford, Program Manager at Fish Safe.

Ryan Ford welcomed everyone to Fish Safe’s Zoom meeting. The agenda was reviewed.

Fish Safe Update – Ryan Ford, Program Manager

Ryan Ford provided an update at Fish Safe. The presentation deck can be found here:
<https://fishsafebc.box.com/s/nr9skcf6vn663hc0f5hp2z6nq0ahdci6>

Roe Herring PFD Outreach 2021

- In previous years, it was common for Fish Safe to go to docks and round up fishermen to do their drills but with COVID-19, things had to be done differently.
- Working with fishermen over the years, Fish Safe has noticed that inflatable PFDs were not maintained properly.
 - PFDs indicating they were “red” and not “green
 - PFDs that were deployed and cartridges not replaced
 - TSB has also reported on incidents where inflatable PFDs were worn but due to lack of proper maintained, not deployed



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- As a result of this, Fish Safe decided the focus for the roe herring season would be on the proper maintenance and re-arming of inflatable PFDs and rented a small RV to act as a mobile unit which held roughly 50 re-arming kits, safety resources, and allowed for set up at the wharf in a safe, outdoor environment.
- John Krgovich visited the main wharves of Vancouver Island over the course of 5 days and advertised to fishermen through sandwich boards placed around the wharves that Fish Safe had free re-arming kits available for the popular inflatable PFD models.
- Fish Safe observed and learned a lot from this experience.
 - Most fishermen don't inspect their PFDs, don't know how to inflate their PFD manually if necessary, and struggled to re-arm their PFD
 - An interesting comment was shared by a non-fisherman who worked for BC Ferries who talked about the difficulties of replacing the hydrostatic inflatable PFD cartridges. He said that "the first 10-20 were very tricky, but the next 100 were easier." For a fisherman who changes the cartridges out less frequently, we can imagine the difficulties they would encounter.
 - One PFD that was inspected was showing as in the "green" but was rusted to the point of being obsolete.
 - On 3 occasions, new PFDs that were opened for inspection had no CO2 cylinders attached to the inflator mechanism. It was discovered that some retailers sell their PFDs without ensuring that they are ready to go.
- The Roe Herring PFD Outreach was successful and Fish Safe plans on doing this again in the future and for other fisheries.

Transport Canada Funding

- On March 31, 2021, Fish Safe was awarded funding under Transport Canada's Boating Safety Contribution Fund. The focus of this project is on anti-collision and safe navigation practices, specifically targeting small fishing vessels.
- Fish Safe's commitment would include creating broad awareness and increasing knowledge around safe navigation practices through our Safest Catch program and extensive dock walks
 - Providing materials such as the Port of Vancouver Guide, Working Safely on the Fraser River brochure, Safest Catch Wheelhouse Log Book, and excerpts from our SVOP student manual, also translated in Vietnamese
 - Providing fishing day shapes, if needed. Day shapes are required as part of Transport Canada's Small Vessel Compliance Program-Fishing (SVCP-F) or "Orange Decal" program. These day shapes are hand-crafted in-house at Fish Safe.
- Fish Safe has also updated the Working Safely on the Fraser River brochure to include the new traffic control zones and designated clear transit areas.
- Fish Safe created nearly 700 packages that contained information on anti-collision and safe navigation practices to be handed out during dock walks. These packages found their way into fishermen's hands or left behind on their vessels in a weather-proof bag.
- As a hook for fishermen to engage with us, Fish Safe created a short collision regulation and the risk of fatigue quiz which allowed them to win one of two AIS GPS enabled radios – one to be given away at the end of September, at this meeting, and another at the end of the project in early April.

WorkSafeBC Update – Tim Pryde, OHS Consultant

Tim Pryde provided an update at WorkSafeBC with regards to the Marine Initiative. Every 2 years, the board meets and discusses what the focus will be for the marine industry. For 2021-2023 focuses for inspections include:

- PFD use, including maintenance, use and training
- Vessel stability
- Emergency response plans
- Slip, trips, and falls
- Safe work procedures
- Training and supervision, including master and crew orientations to specific vessels
- Rigging
- Alarms and emergency management

The First Aid regulation section is currently being reviewed and is at public consultation. The deadline is October 8th to provide feedback.

To take a look at the draft changes and/or to submit feedback, the link can be found here:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/public-hearings-consultations/current-public-hearings-and-consultations/consultation-on-proposed-amendments-to-the-ohsr-oct-8-21>

An update on inspectional activity for 2021 was provided. As of September 22, 2021, WorkSafeBC conducted:

- 397 inspections (108 at sea and 289 dockside)
- 63 employer location inspections
- 7 inspections with potential for high risk violation
- 1 orders to Stop Work
- 1 warning letter
- 1 penalty imposed

Many of the cited orders revolved around Emergency Procedures. Fishermen can expect this to be addressed when they see an officer. Fishermen may have conducted some of their annual drills, however may have not had procedures for crewmembers (ie. Man overboard, fire on board, flooding, abandoning ship).

2021 Marine Occurrences – Ryan Ford, Fish Safe

Ryan Ford provided a summary on the major marine occurrences in Canada.

- 6 fatalities have occurred, all on the East Coast



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- 2 deaths in Nova Scotia – vessel sank. Vessel of opportunity recovered 4 – 1 deceased, 1 missing. No PFDs.
- 1 death in Newfoundland – vessel capsized. No PFD
- 1 death in Nunavut – factory ship gillnetting and processing turbot, worker dragged overboard while setting. PFD worn
- 2 deaths Newfoundland – vessel reported overdue – presumed sunk. No distress call, no EPIRBs, no PLBs. 48 hours were spent searching by the JRCC and spanned 4500 nautical square miles. Search was turned over to the RCMP and military for another week. Search unsuccessful.
- Success stories
 - Atlantic Destiny had a fire on board and sank. All 31 onboard were rescued with joint effort from the US and Canadian Coast Guards.
 - Fisherman in the UK rescued. The Captain discovered deckhand was not in his bunk. The deckhand was wearing a PFD and PLB. PLB had activated and rescue efforts were underway - rescue occurred within 90 minutes.

Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) – Ryan Ford on behalf of Bobby Kirkley, Operations & Sales Manager at Fitzwright Survival

Ryan highlighted 2 Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) that have come down in cost (WAMBLEE W470 MOB AIS and RESCUEME PLB1) – unit cost \$450-\$500. Some features include allowing an individual to send a distress signal on AIS and VHF. Another unit that is set to hit the market in Europe combines the distress signal via AIS as well as sending a return signal to provide the individual with a peace of mind that help is coming. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Transport Canada/Fish Safe ‘Safe Navigation’ project - VHF Radio with AIS/GPS Prize Draw

The winner of the Fish Safe VHF radio with AIS prize was announced. John (Butch) Aleksich on the New Gamble is the winner!

Update – Mike Frost, Canadian Fishing Company

Proposed Area B fishery is tentatively to take place October 21-22, 2021. There will be no Area D gillnet fishery planned this year. There is uncertainty about the troll fishery.

Transport Canada Update – George Roddan on behalf of Andy Allan

Due to technical difficulties, George Roddan provided an update on behalf of Andy Allan.

The Small Vessel Compliance Program-Fishing (SVCP-F) or “Orange Decal” program is now available electronically through the SVCP website. Please see Ship Safety Bulletin 14/2021



<https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety/ship-safety-bulletins/update-small-vessel-compliance-program-fishing-vessels-not-more-15-gross-tonnage-ssb-no-14-2021>)

The link to enrol into the program online can be found here: <https://wwwapps.tc.gc.ca/Saf-Sec-Sur/4/SVCP-PCPB/eng/Home>

Next Fish Safe Advisory Committee Meeting Date

Ryan Ford will coordinate the next Advisory meeting likely in February 2022.