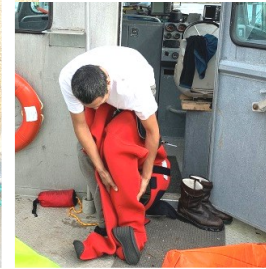




FISHERMEN **HELPING** FISHERMEN



# 2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER



The fiscal 2020 year (April 2019 to March 2020) proved to be a challenging one on many fronts for most fishermen in BC. One of the worst salmon seasons, if not the worst, in modern BC history was followed by news of an epidemic in China that by the end of March 2020 had become a global pandemic. At this time the seafood industry faces a future of profound uncertainty that may be without precedent.

Despite this fact, fishermen are no strangers to uncertainty and as this year came to a close many are looking to the year ahead with hope and cautious optimism – such is the very nature of the fishing industry.

Importantly, despite the economic uncertainty, fishermen continue to demonstrate their ownership of safety even during difficult times. Progress continues to be made in moving the safety culture from one of rules-based ‘compliance’ to one of true ‘commitment’, where every individual is devoted to their own safety and those around them.

Throughout the year Fish Safe worked hard to ensure fishermen were fully aware of Fish Safe’s program offerings and healthy uptake resulted. Although a total of ten courses had to be cancelled in the final month of March due to the mounting concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, a busy year of activity was achieved. Course participants continue to require Transport Canada certification such as the MED A3 and SVOP courses and proposed changes to both curriculums have incentivized some to complete these programs before changes take effect.

# Financial Summary

April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020

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## SOURCE OF FUNDS :

WorkSafeBC Fishing Assessment Levy	\$ 400,000
DFO PICFI	150,000
Courses and Materials	23,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>573,000</b>

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## USE OF FUNDS :

Prevention Programs	\$ 128,000
Meetings/Events/Workshops	3,000
PICFI Program	150,000
Claims/Assessments	2,000
Administration	278,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>561,000</b>

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Additionally, last year marked the introduction of a new Knots & Lines workshop, developed by Fish Safe to meet the needs within communities throughout BC. As this year's report highlights, this workshop has been well-received and helps to fill a skills gap that exists in many of our coastal communities. In addition to teaching some of the fundamental skills required for working on and around fishing vessels, this workshop is also sparking a level of interest in fishing itself that is difficult to generate in a traditional classroom environment.

As we approach the new year and the upcoming fisheries, we find some sectors of the seafood industry on pause, with uncertainty existing in every sector coast-wide. When things will get back to 'normal' is anyone's guess, but a state of normalcy will eventually return to our fisheries, and when it does, fishermen will begin to realize the opportunities their commitment to safety will afford.



Ryan Ford  
Program Manager, Fish Safe

## STAFF

Ryan Ford – Program Manager  
John Krgovich – Program Coordinator  
Stephanie Nguyen – Program Assistant  
Rhoda Huey – Bookkeeper / Program Assistant

## SAFEST CATCH ADVISORS

Ralph Roberts  
Harold Wulff  
Paul Bevandick  
Cheryl Lawson

# WORKSHOPS

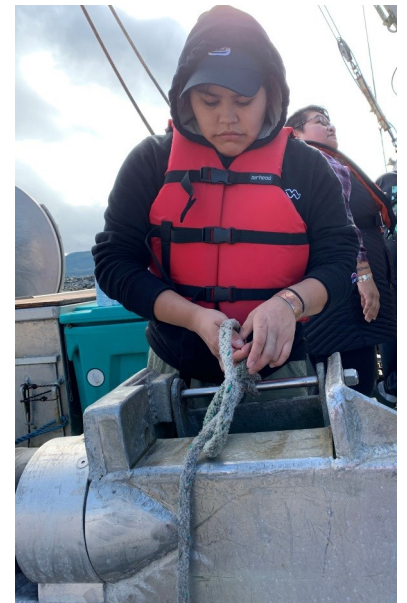
## New Knots & Lines Workshop

Certification courses are of great value in meeting the more immediate needs of fishermen for Transport Canada-recognized training that ensures compliance as well as a level of emergency preparedness and competency. For years however, the need for basic fishing skills training has been identified by many living in remote coastal communities.

For generations, a natural transfer of fishing knowledge and skills occurred between families in almost all communities, yet today, that natural dynamic is at risk. Understandably, having access to a resource like fish as well as having the necessary safety training mean little if the skills required to fish are lacking and basic skills for crewmen have been lost.

With this in mind Fish Safe looked at the skills needed and particularly the safety aspects of those skills and found that there was much to learn for new people entering the fishing industry. With a long list of skills needing to be addressed we looked to the towing industry, in particular Seaspan to see how they approached this issue. While their industry isn't fishing it is an industry which has some similarity in skills and the need to train new recruits so we thought, why try to recreate the wheel and why not see what others in a similar situation are doing?

To this end, Fish Safe met with one of Seaspan's chief trainers and contacted others within the organization to learn about their two week training course which is very well conceived and could be very relevant to new fishing recruits. In reality, the likelihood of being able to deliver a two week training workshop for fishermen was unrealistic and so we decided it best to start small with a limited scope workshop.



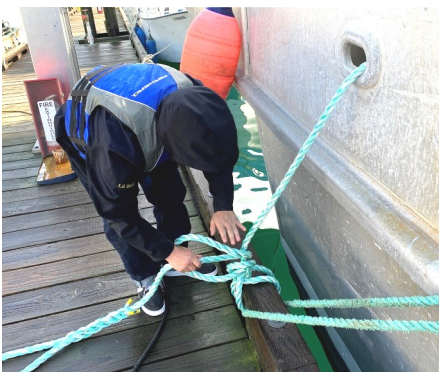
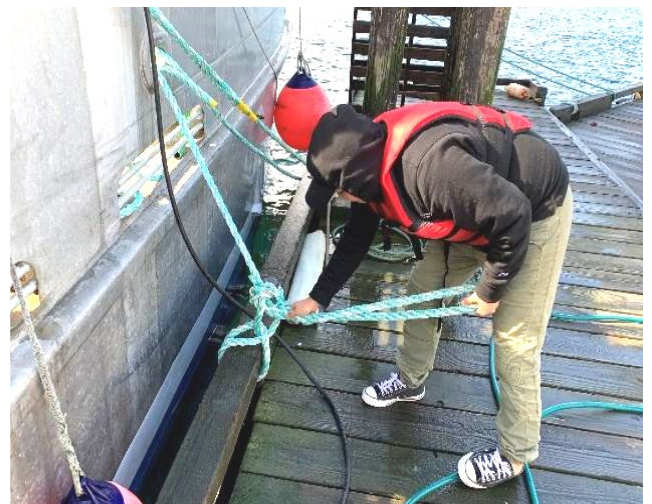
This one day Knots & Lines workshop was first piloted in August 2019 with a group of young participants from the Tsawwassen First Nations and was followed by delivery in the communities of Alert Bay, Quatsino and Opitsaht.

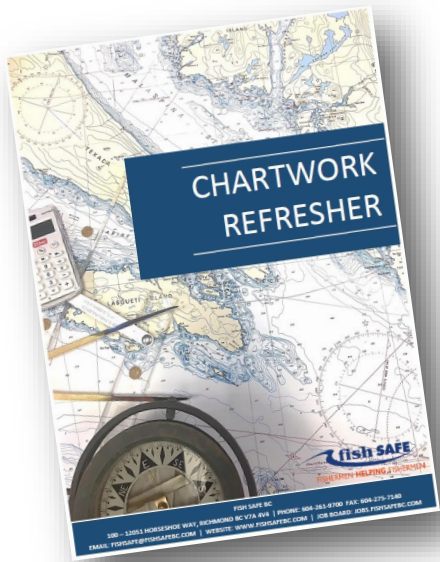
Although a humble beginning, the value of the workshop has been evident as it not only introduces participants to the fundamentals of knot tying in a classroom setting, but also incorporates essential training in a more realistic setting at the wharf. Using vessels volunteered within the community, participants come to see first-hand the challenges encountered when trying to safely tie up a boat at the wharf.

This is typically the highlight of the day and our facilitators report that you can feel the energy level soar as participants come alongside the wharf with anticipation of jumping down and securing a vessel. Comments overheard during this exercise are many as participants quickly find out that tying a clove hitch around a chair in a classroom is much different than tying that same clove hitch around a ring with a weighted balloon on the end and requiring it to be positioned in the right place so it protects a vessel.

The Knots & Lines workshop has also been designed to incorporate fundamental safety training about the need and use of PFDs, vital information about the breaking strengths of various lines and ropes as well as the need to keep a fishing vessel ship-shape and free of tripping hazards.

All-in-all, the Knots & Lines workshop has been a welcome addition to Fish Safe's portfolio of program offerings. The practical mix of fishing skills training along with life-saving safety training is proving an effective means of bridging the gap from classroom based activities to the fundamentals of working on and around an actual fishing vessel. In many cases young participants are now able to better envision life on a fishing vessel and both the challenges and rewards such work has to offer.





## Chartwork Refresher Workshop

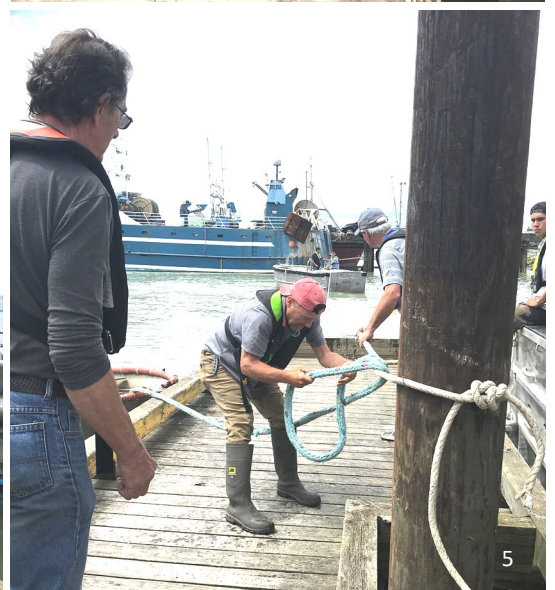
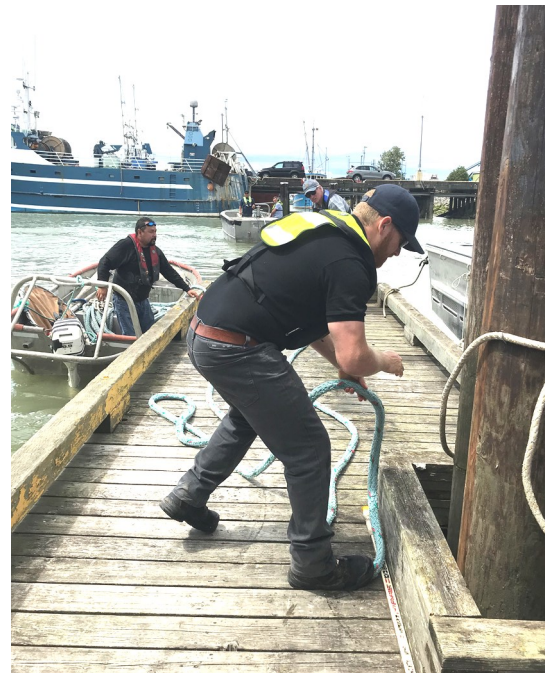
In January 2020, Fish Safe was invited to facilitate training for a group in Alert Bay. Along with providing the group with the regular courses that Fish Safe offers, this group had requested if there was a possibility to organize a refresher workshop on chartwork for a group who had several years experience on the water but just needed a review to brush up on some of their skillsets. Fish Safe took on this request and using parts of the Small Vessel Operator Proficiency (SVOP) curriculum, created a one-day workshop. The workshop hosted 15 participants with Safety Advisor, Harold Wulff, at the helm. The workshop was hugely successful and received positive feedback as most participants had forgotten what they had learned years prior and were highly appreciative that Fish Safe stepped in to assist.

## Beachline Safety Workshop

Fish Safe held another successful Beachline Safety Workshop in Steveston at the end of June. Safety Advisor, Ralph Roberts, facilitated the workshop with the help of Safety Advisor, Paul Bevandick, Mark Lindsell of Redden Net, and fellow fisherman Don Sananin. With 12 participants (our biggest turnout yet!), the extra help came in handy.

Mark shared his expertise with lines and ropes at the start of the day. Mark explained how to look after and store lines and how to spot fatigue and breaking down of lines. Some splicing demonstrations were also performed which tied nicely into the next activity of practicing different types of knots in the net loft until the afternoon.

The highlight of this workshop is always in the afternoon when the group heads to the wharf for hands-on training and practice on a skiff. It is during this time that participants get the feel of tying and releasing the knots in a less controlled environment. With a coach nearby, the participants are able to receive safety tips such as foot and hand placements, that they otherwise wouldn't be able to obtain from stationary training.





## ▶▶▶ HERRING DRILLS DAYS



In early March 2020, Fish Safe sent Safety Advisor, Harold Wulff, to the wharves of Deep Bay, French Creek, and Comox just before the anticipated start of the herring season. The goal of Fish Safe’s Herring Drills Days is to keep safety top of mind as fishermen head out to fish by setting up safety drills such as man overboard, abandon ship, and immersion suit drills, and working with fishermen on their overall emergency preparedness. Over the course of 3 days, Harold was able to interact with over 60 fishermen.

Discussions and creations of muster lists were completed on the first day with 25 people in attendance. The day ended with an immersion suit drill which saw a new Fish Safe donning record of 15 seconds—a very impressive feat! French Creek was the next stop and using the FV Pacific Discovery as a platform, the group conducted more drills and shared stories of their experience of safety on the waters. The last day saw Harold join another group of fishermen in Comox alongside the FV Mystic Era. Bruce Logan from WorkSafeBC was present and sat in during the discussions.

These face-to-face interactions with fishermen from a fishermen are so important and with each passing year, have become a welcomed activity with the fleet. This is the essence of Fish Safe’s motto of ***“fishermen helping fishermen”***.



## FISH SAFE *DIVE FISHERY* *SAFETY BEST PRACTICES*

Working in the underwater dive harvest industry provides opportunities to workers that can be uniquely rewarding for many. However, along with the rewards, workers face risks equally unique and challenging.

The tragic death of a young worker in 2018 in the sea urchin fishery serves to underscore this fact.

For this reason, in 2019 Fish Safe helped lead a collaborative effort by fishermen and members of the Underwater Harvesters Association (UHA), Pacific Urchin Harvesters Association (PUHA) and Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association (PSCHA) in the creation of a *Dive Fishery Safety Best Practices*. On October 30<sup>th</sup>, this publication became available for download on Fish Safe's website here: <https://www.fishsafebc.com/best-practices>

These Best Practices are designed to complement the existing WorkSafeBC regulations for employers and workers by providing practical insights from experienced, life-long dive harvesters and educators that cover the full range of dive harvest activity including **vessel preparation, pre-dive planning, dive operations, emergencies and documentation.**

Whether an individual works in a SCUBA or a surface-supply environment, or both, there can be challenges bridging the gap between what is taught in order to obtain mandatory dive certification and what actually occurs in a dive harvest environment. The intent of these Best Practices is to help bridge that gap while providing valuable reminders for divers and tenders alike, regardless of tenure in the industry.

Finally, although the release of these Best Practices marks an important milestone, the process of maintaining and updating the document is only beginning. In the months and years to come Fish Safe will continue to work with industry, regulators and educators in improving upon this important tool to help ensure its relevancy and practical value in helping all underwater harvesters come home safely.





# FISCAL 2020 MEETINGS, EVENTS & CONFERENCES

Fish Safe's engagement with fishermen and other important industry stakeholders is key to building awareness around our programs, events and courses. This collaboration occurred throughout the year, as follows:

- Presentation at **Pacific Prawn Fishermen's Association** AGM (Nanaimo - April)
- Attendance at Transport Canada's **Canadian Marine Advisory Committee** (CMAC) conference (Ottawa - April)
- Presentation at **Canadian Groundfish Research and Conservation Society** AGM (Tsawwassen - May)
- Facilitation of Best Practices for the Dive Fishery, sponsored by the **Underwater Harvester's Association** and **Pacific Urchin Harvesters Association** (Nanaimo – June)
- Presentation at **Pacific Urchin Harvesters Association** AGM (Nanaimo – August)
- Hosted **Fish Safe Advisory Committee** meeting (Richmond – September)
- Attendance at DFO's **Pacific Integrated Commercial Fishing Initiative** forum (hosted by the Musqueam Indian Band (Vancouver – October)
- Presentation at the **Herring Industry Advisory Board** pre-season planning meeting (Vancouver – October)
- Attendance at Transport Canada's **Canadian Marine Advisory Committee** (CMAC) conference (Ottawa - November)
- Presentation at the **BC Young Fishermen's Gathering** (Nanaimo – January)
- Hosted **Fish Safe Advisory Committee** meeting (Richmond – March)
- Presentation at the **BC Tuna Fishermen's Association** (Nanaimo – March)



# YEAR IN REVIEW

## COURSE SUMMARY

	FISCAL 2020		FISCAL 2019		ALL TIME	
	COURSES	PARTICIPANTS	COURSES	PARTICIPANTS	COURSES	PARTICIPANTS
STABILITY	1	9	2	10	142	1185
SVOP	5	47	13	110	77	737
ROC-M (RADIO)	11	60	13	103	80	705

## SAFEST CATCH PROGRAM SUMMARY

	FISCAL 2020	FISCAL 2019	ALL TIME*
VESSEL VISITS	57	86	1,114
PARTICIPANTS	134	277	3,104
EMERGENCY PROCEDURES MANUALS	7	28	209
DECALS	7	19	270
ORANGE DECAL - VESSELS IMPACTED	27	40	67
ORANGE DECAL - PARTICIPANTS	30	45	75

\* The Safest Catch program was launched in the 2009/2010 fiscal year

# 2019 STATISTICS

## TIME-LOSS CLAIMS BY GEAR TYPE

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
DIVE	4	8	5	9	9	10
TRAP & LONGLINE	22	32	22	22	31	26
TRAWL	36	37	26	41	39	34
GILLNET/TROLL	11	20	17	25	20	19
SEINE	3	6	11	17	12	9
PACKING	3	4	4	8	7	9
TOTALS	<b>79</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>107</b>
DEATHS	1	1	1***	1**	3	2*

\* A total of 4 work-related deaths occurred in 2014. 2 deaths have been attributed to asbestos exposure and are not reflected in the table above.

\*\* One work-related death was recorded by WorkSafeBC in 2016 but applies to a 2015 incident.

\*\*\* A total of 2 work-related deaths occurred in 2017. 1 death has been attributed to asbestos exposure and is not reflected in the table above.

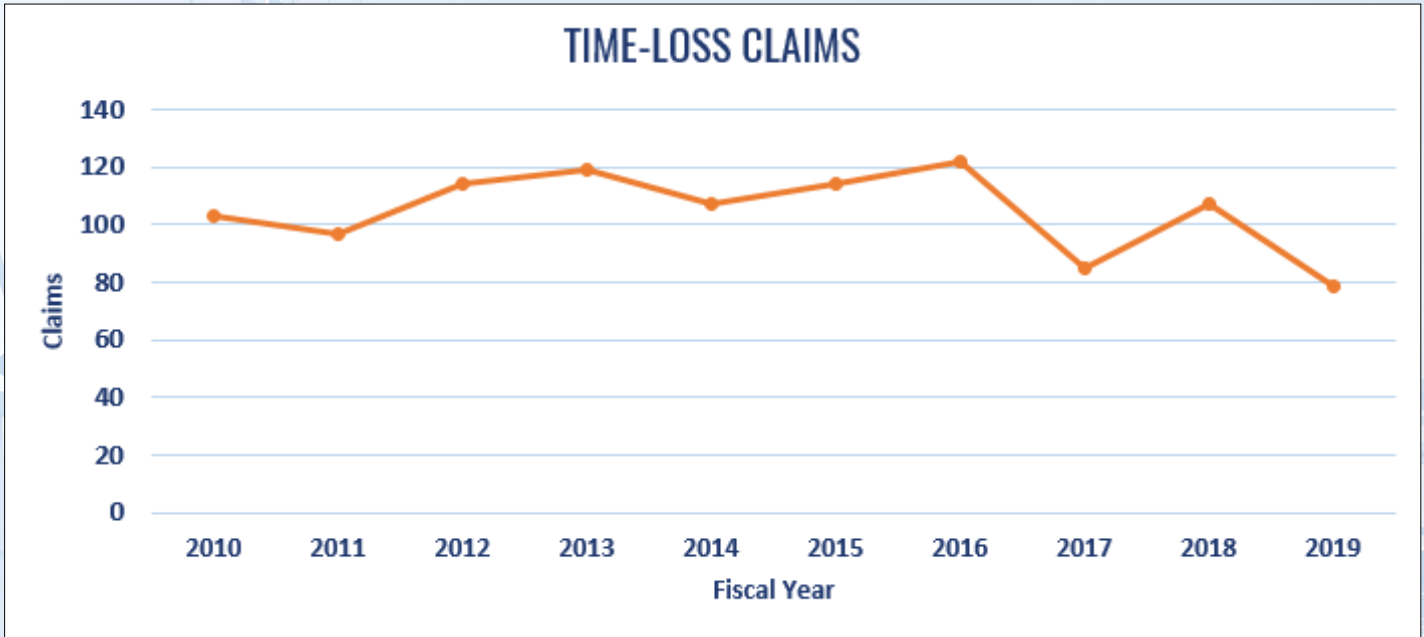
## WORKSAFEBC ASSESSMENT RATES

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
ASSESSMENT RATE	*6.42	6.48	6.39	6.81	6.50

\*2020: 6.42% (or \$6.42 per \$100) of assessable payroll

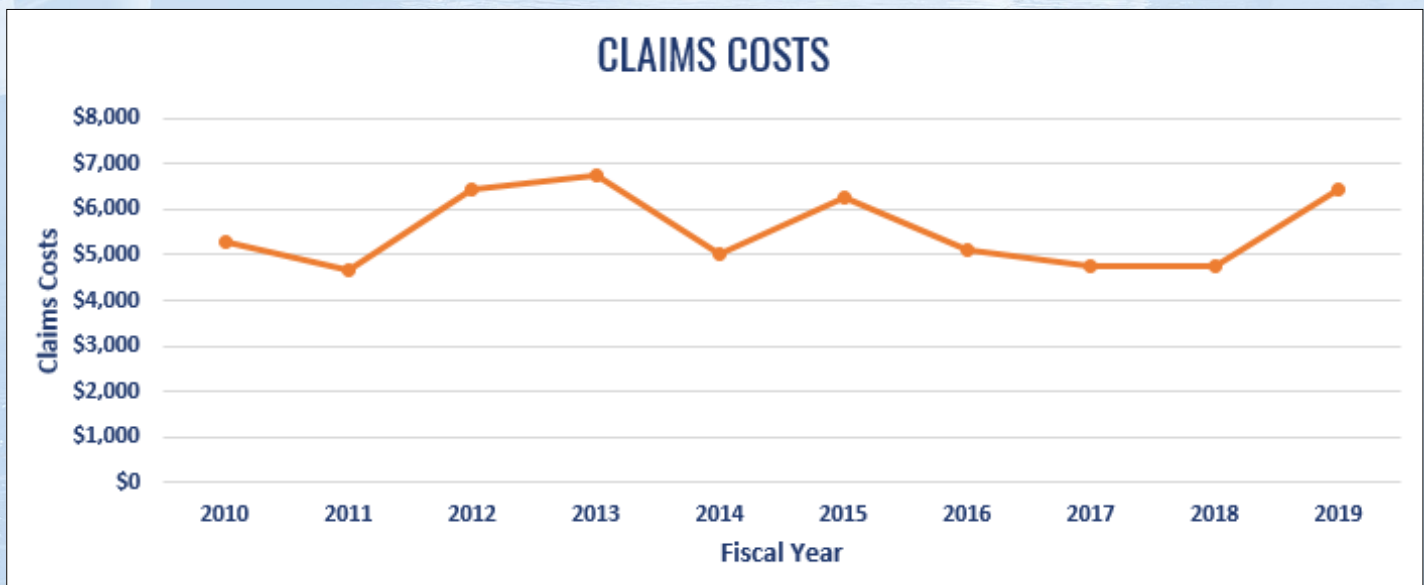
# CLAIMS DATA

## 10 YEAR TIME-LOSS CLAIMS



Fiscal Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Claims	103	97	114	119	107	114	122	85	107	79

## 10 YEAR CLAIMS COSTS (IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)



Fiscal Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Claims Costs	\$5282	\$4674	\$6438	\$6736	\$5015	\$6250	\$5089	\$4762	\$4760	\$6438

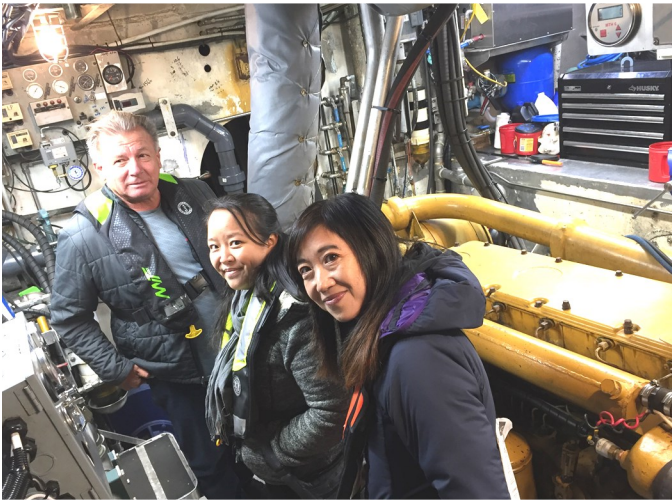
# FISH SAFE WEBSITE

([WWW.FISHSAFEBC.COM](http://WWW.FISHSAFEBC.COM)) ACTIVITY  
FISCAL 2020 (APRIL 1, 2019 – MARCH 31, 2020)



# 2019/2020 FISH SAFE HIGHLIGHTS







FISHERMEN **HELPING** FISHERMEN

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