

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



**Fishermen Helping Fishermen  
Come Home Safely!**

# Financial Summary

April 1, 2021- March 31, 2022

## Source of Funds:

WorkSafeBC Fishing Assessment Levy	\$400,000
DFO PICFI	\$94,000
Transport Canada Safe Navigation Program	\$188,375
Course and Materials	\$37,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$719,375</b>

## Use of Funds:

Prevention Programs	\$72,000
Transport Canada Safe Navigation Program	\$275,000
PICFI Program	\$94,000
Claims/Assessments	\$2,000
Administration	\$168,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$611,000</b>

## Staff

Ryan Ford – Program Manager

John Krgovich – Program Coordinator

Stephanie Nguyen – Program Assistant

Rhoda Huey – Bookkeeper/Administrator

## Safest Catch Advisors

Ralph Roberts

Harold Wulff


Paul Bevandick

## Consultant

Katie Lindsay

**MESSAGE FROM THE FISH SAFE TEAM**





The 2021/2022 year was a year of transitioning into the “new normal” that had resulted from the global pandemic. BC had started administrating the COVID-19 vaccinations to the high risk population at the beginning of the year and by June, the rest of the general public was finally eligible for immunization. Feelings of relief, optimism, and hopefulness were on the upward trend as regional “circuit-breakers” were becoming less, businesses started re-opening, and restrictions finally lifting. Life was slowly reverting back to how things were pre-pandemic.

However, while things were looking up on the global pandemic side of things, the fishing industry experienced another challenging year. The complete closure of the Salmon fisheries on the Pacific coast compounded with the Herring quota cuts during the year left many wondering what the future of fishing holds. Despite these challenges, Fish Safe pressed on delivering its core programs and courses by adjusting from the usual strategies to connect with the fleets. Fish Safe's three dedicated Safest Catch Safety Advisors remained active nevertheless and was able to conduct over 145 vessel visits throughout the province.

This report highlights two successful projects with Transport Canada and the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fishing Initiative (PICFI). The Safe Navigation project with Transport Canada provided 1,300 fishermen with practical information and tools designed to mitigate the risk of vessel collision on the Pacific coast. On the PICFI side of things, Fish Safe focussed on increasing its training for the First Nations in the community fishing sector. Fish Safe provided training to 291 participants in 11 different locations across BC.

Overall, commercial fishermen have demonstrated a strong commitment to safety by ensuring that they have the training required to protect themselves and their crew on the water. We remain confident that the activities and training offered by the Fish Safe team have and will continue to decrease the number of time-loss claims in the BC commercial fishing sector.

Lastly, after 9 years at Fish Safe, we had to say goodbye to our Program Manager, Ryan Ford. Although gone from the fishing industry, he still remains in the marine community taking on the role as Program Manager for the ECHO Program at the Port of Vancouver. We like to thank Ryan for his dedication and contributions at Fish Safe and wish him well in all his future endeavours.



## TRANSPORT CANADA: SAFE NAVIGATION PROJECT

In April 2021 Fish Safe started a new project funded by Transport Canada called “Preventing Collisions and Ensuring Safe Navigation within the Pacific Coast Small Vessel Fishing Fleet”. The purpose of this project was to provide the BC commercial fishing fleet with practical information and tools designed to mitigate the risk of vessel collision on the Pacific coast. With an ultimate objective of safety for fishermen and non-fishermen, the activities in this project also aimed to protect the health of the Pacific Ocean and its abundant sea life.

This project delivered a collection of comprehensive and complementary activities that encouraged compliance with regulations through education, awareness, and information. Through vessel visits and dock walks, Safety Advisors distributed a variety of brochures, guides, fishing day shapes, handheld flares, and log books to help the fleet learn about safety and navigation. The project originally planned to connect with much of the Salmon fleet in the summer months and the Herring fleet in the winter months. However, the broad closure of salmon fisheries up and down the coast and the Herring quota cut, reduced the number of salmon and herring vessels/fishermen, hence reducing the number of vessels and participants in this project.

As a result of the Herring quota cuts and Salmon closures, Fish Safe pivoted to create hundreds of weather proof ‘Leave- Behind Packages’ with the majority of the safe navigation recourses packaged neatly within. During the dock walks, Safety Advisors left these packages so that fishermen would eventually find the safe navigation materials once they return to their vessels. During the first half of the project, the majority of Leave-Behind Packages were distributed. The second half of the project included follow-up and discussions. These discussions were around Day Shapes, rules around safe navigation, and fatigue’s correlation to vessel collisions.

### Safe Navigation Project

April 2021 to March 2022

VESSEL VISIT ACTIVITY	Total
Vessel Visits	195
Fishermen / Participants	263
Vessel Visits in First Nation Communities	43

DOCKWALK ACTIVITY	Total
Wharf Locations	84
First Nation Wharf Locations	35
Vessels Impacted	980
Fishermen Impacted (estimated)	1,018

# Results of the Project

The activities included in "Preventing Collisions and Ensuring Safe Navigation within the Pacific Coast Small Vessel Fishing Fleet" successfully provided 980 commercial fishing vessels with practical information and tools designed to mitigate the risk of vessel collision on the Pacific coast. 1,018 fishermen now have an increased understanding of safety and navigation.

## Materials Distributed

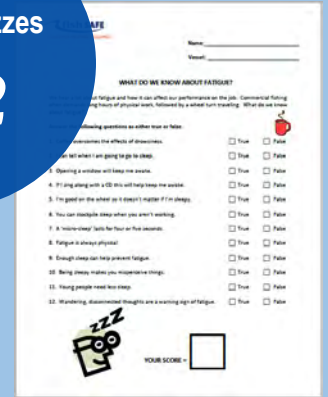


Port of Vancouver /  
Prince Rupert Guides  
**206**

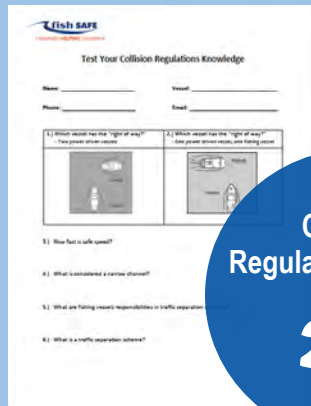


Working Safely on  
the Fraser River  
**83**

Fatigue Quizzes  
**252**



Wheelhouse  
Log Books  
**122**



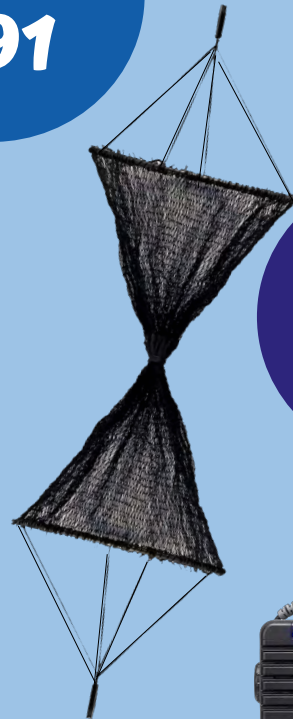
Collision  
Regulations Quizzes  
**291**



Handheld Flares  
(Package of 6)  
**185**



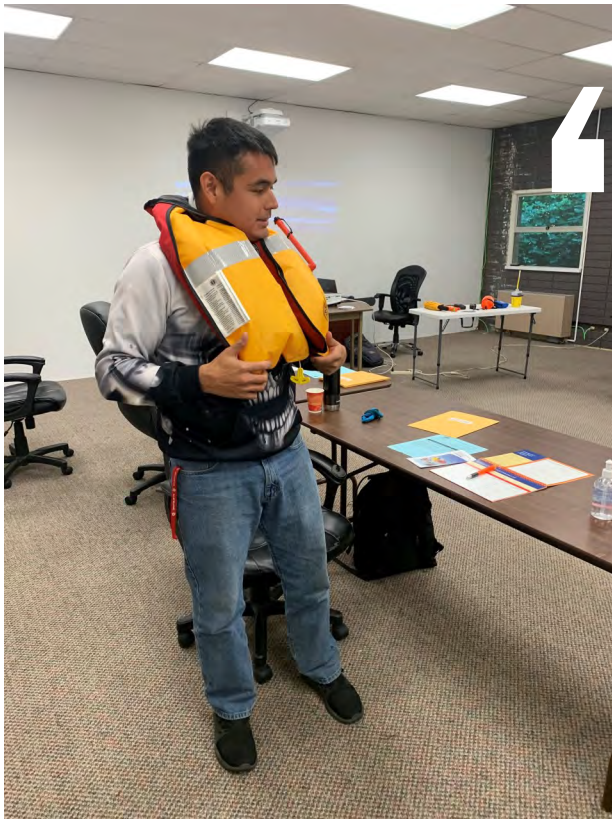
Leave-Behind Packages  
(with documents above)  
approximately  
**800**



Fishing  
Day Shapes  
**50**



AIS/GPS enabled  
VHF Radio  
CONTEST WINNERS  
**2**



*Thank you for providing such a positive and productive learning environment for last week's courses. The information needed to be able to have success in each of the courses was clear, concise, and well delivered. The ability to relate the need for this learning through stories of your real-life experiences was fantastic.*

## **PACIFIC INTEGRATED COMMERCIAL FISHING INITIATIVE (PICFI)**

This year marked the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that Fish Safe has participated in the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI) program! The PICFI program is a federal program managed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Launched in 2007 the program is designed to increase First Nations' access to the commercial fisheries in BC. For a decade, Fish Safe has focused on providing safety education to the Commercial Fishing Enterprises (CFE) through courses and workshops.

The CFEs have demonstrated a strong commitment to safety by ensuring community members have the training required to protect themselves. One participant from Tla-O-Qui-Aht First Nations said that "he never even thought about safety in all the years he fished until [the safety advisor] came on his boat last month and did the Safest Catch program." He said that "he wouldn't have the awareness that he does now without the program." It is encouraging to know that the participants are still finding great value in the courses from the PICFI program. It can feel impossible to quantify the impact we are having; however, hearing these comments, it is clear that the participants who took the courses had a different outlook on how they would prepare themselves in an emergency than they did before the courses.

Fish Safe is grateful for the opportunity to educate members of the CFEs and is proud to play a role in the increased First Nations involvement in commercial fisheries in BC.



*We look forward to our next training session here in Campbell River.*

**-Allan Rimell, General Manager of Aupe-Toq Fisheries.**



A snap-shot of fiscal 2021/ 2022 activity is provided here.

PICFI Courses / Workshop Activity	Fiscal 2022	Fiscal 2021	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2019
<b>1 Day Courses / Workshops</b> (SDV-BS, ROC-M, Safest Catch, Stability, Orange Decal and Knots & Lines workshop)	26	21	33	27
<b>4 Day Courses</b> (SVOP & Stability)	15	5	16	11
<b>Total Number of Participants</b>	291	127	268	258

Fish Safe visited various Commercial Fishing Enterprises throughout BC. Program delivery this year occurred in in the following locations: Port Alberni, Bella Bella, Port Renfrew, Alert Bay, Masset, Ladysmith, Saanich, Sidney, Campbell River, Quatsino, and Port Hardy.

There were still strict COVID-19 restrictions in place in early 2022. Community organizers had to pivot to find ideal locations for these courses to allow social distancing. For example, Salpak Fisheries in Port Renfrew commissioned an open-sided tent and large, flat-bed truck to facilitate an outdoor, open-air teaching venue. With this additional planning and determination, we managed to increase the number of participants and courses compared to previous years. The number of participants returned to pre-pandemic numbers.





## YEAR IN REVIEW

Course Summary	Fiscal 2022		Fiscal 2021		All Time	
	Courses	Participants	Courses	Participants	Courses	Participants
SVOP	2	14	5	24	84	775
ROC-M (Radio)	5	20	2	12	87	737
Stability	0	0	1	4	143	1189

Safest Catch Program Summary	Fiscal 2022	Fiscal 2021	All Time*
Vessel Visits	147***	64	1323
Participants	264	169	3534
Emergency Procedures Manuals	7	0**	216
Decals	8	11	289
Orange Decal - Vessels impacted	13	8	88
Orange Decal - Participants	24	12	111
TC Safe Navigation - Vessel Visits	73	-	73
TC Safe Navigation - Participants	81	-	81

Safest Catch Activity by Vessel Gear Type	Vessel Visits Fiscal 2022	Vessel Visits Fiscal 2021
Longline/Trap	39%	26%
Packing	2%	6%
Seine	8%	13%
Trawl	3%	8%
Gillnet/Troll	47%	41%
Dive	1%	6%

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

\*\*Funding for completing vessel emergency procedures manuals was not allocated in fiscal 2021

\*\*\*Vessel Visits include Safest Catch and TC Safe Navigation activities in visits in fiscal 2022





# SAFETY PERFORMANCE

Fish Safe's overarching mandate is to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities in an inherently risky industry. Data provided by the Transportation Safety Board (TSB) as well as WorkSafeBC (WSBC) are the primary source of statistics that assist Fish Safe in measuring its progress towards creating a sustainable safety culture.

## CLAIM STATISTICS FOR 2021 (only WorkSafeBC claims associated with wage loss are presented)

### Time-Loss Claims by Gear Type

Calendar Year	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Dive	10	8	8	9	5	9	8	10
Trap & Longline	33	23	22	32	22	22	32	26
Trawl	36	41	36	37	26	41	39	34
Gillnet/Troll	7	9	11	20	17	25	20	19
Seine	2	4	3	6	11	17	12	9
Packing (includes farm fish)	2	3	2	4	4	8	3	9
<b>Totals</b>	90	88	79	107	85	122	118	107
<b>Deaths</b>	2	2	1	1	1 <sup>***</sup>	1 <sup>**</sup>	3	2 <sup>*</sup>

\* 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.

### 10 Year Time-Loss Claims

Calendar Year	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Claims	90	88	82	108	85	122	114	107	119	114

### 10 Year Claims Costs (in thousands of dollars)

Calendar Year	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Claims	\$6390	\$5572	\$6440	\$4761	\$4763	\$5088	\$6249	\$5017	\$6735	\$6437

### WorkSafeBC Assessment Rates

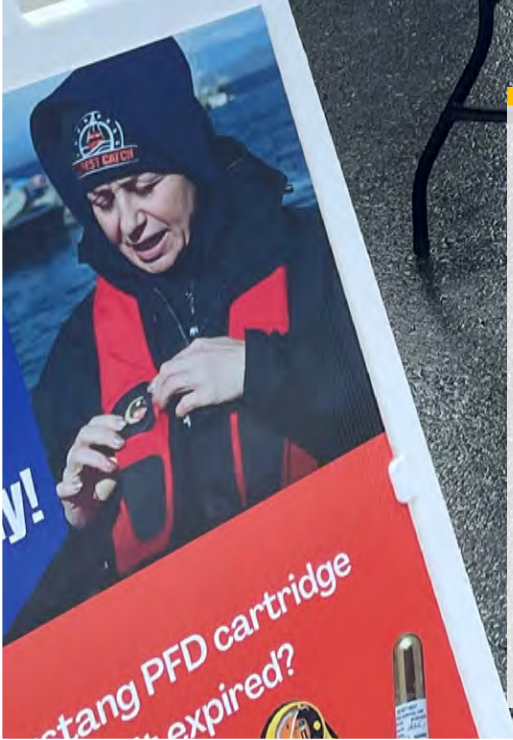
Calendar Year	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Assessment Rate	7.30	7.19	6.42	6.48	6.39	6.81	6.50	6.86

# HERRING OUTREACH



## PFD Cartridge Replacement

With the success of last year's PFD cartridge replacement during the roe herring season, it was an easy decision to resume the activity over to the 2022 herring outreach. The Harbour Authorities in Campbell River, Comox, Deep Bay, and French Creek were key this year as they helped spread the word and put up signage around the wharves prior to Fish Safe arriving. By doing so, it created a lot of buzz among the fishermen with some of them phoning or emailing to see what time Fish Safe will be at the wharves. Armed with a small recreational vehicle (RV), sandwich boards, rearm kits and other safety materials, we dispatched Safety Advisor, Harold Wulff, to Vancouver Island over the next 6 days.





This year, we extended our rearm kit inventory to include one other brand and not just rearm kits from Mustang. It is impossible to have every single rearm kit available, but we did notice from last year's outreach that there was a common non Mustang PFD that fishermen had. Having a small inventory of these proved to be a good decision as some of these PFDs were in desperate need of a replacement due to their canisters being heavily corroded.

Another new addition this year were materials handed out from the Safe Navigation Project. It was a good opportunity to refresh fishermen on the "rules of the road" after they got their PFDs checked. For those that completed a short quiz titled "Test Your Knowledge on the Collision Regulation" each participant received a free 6 pack of flares and an entry to win one of two grand prizes of an AIS/GPS enabled VHF marine radio. While some fishermen mindfully completed these quizzes quietly, others got into discussions or told close encounter stories with their fellow crew mates.

Over the course of 6 days, over 70 PFDs were checked, approximately 40 rearm kits were installed and 36 packages of flares were awarded. Whether it's conducting group drills or providing PFD cartridge replacements, these events held prior to the opening of the fishery has become a staple with the fleet with many now anticipating for our arrival—these are good indications of fishermen taking ownership of their safety!



Fish Safe gifted a fisherman with a new Mustang MD3157 Inflatable PFD, courtesy of WorkSafeBC. His current PFD was in poor shape and we couldn't just send him off without good working safety equipment. He was so appreciative, it almost brought him to tears—definitely a very worthwhile recipient.



## PFD WORK GROUP

Derived from the International Fishing Industry Safety and Health Conference ( IFISH )



The International Fishing Industry Safety and Health Conference (IFISH) is the only international conference dedicated to fishing, aquaculture, and seafood processing health and Safety. The formation of the PFD Work Group was the result of an IFISH 5 session in 2018 titled “Changing Commercial Fishing Personal Flotation Use Behaviour: What can we learn from the efforts to address the most important safety technology adoption challenge of our time?”

With so much diverse information and research on PFD use on a global scale, the group made up of over 50 health and safety professionals, researchers, industry experts, instructors, and workers meet quarterly through Zoom to discuss and share activities that have been occurring in their regions. Fish Safe became a member of this group in 2021. In June, Fish Safe was provided an opportunity to be a key speaker and shared with the group the activities we have undertaken to promote PFD use in BC. These activities included the “Show Me your PFD!” events, the Real Fishermen Wear PFDs Campaign, PFD Cartridge Replacement Outreach, and a video from WorkSafeBC that we often share during our Safest Catch vessel visits titled “Turning the Tides: PFDs in the Fishing Community”. The group commended the efforts accomplished by Fish Safe and our Safety Advisors.

If you or your organization is interested in becoming a member of this PFD Work Group, head on over to the website for more information, who to contact, and to see past meetings and presentations.

[PFD Work Group « IFISH \(ifishconference.ca\)](https://www.ifishconference.ca)





# PRINCE RUPERT

Fish Safe headed up north to Prince Rupert on 2 separate occasions this year. In mid-July, Safety Advisor Paul Bevandick spent 5 days focussing on the Safe Navigation Project and spreading awareness on collision avoidance. 134 Leave-Behind Packages were handed out over 4 wharves and several discussions were had with masters and skippers.

After receiving a few more inquiries and interest in the Safest Catch program, Fish Safe organized another visit at the end of January. This 10 day trip was a mix of activities—word had started circulating that Fish Safe was coming to town and the phone kept ringing with fishermen inquiring when we would be able to assist them with their drills, safety procedures manuals, or help them complete their Orange Decal application forms. If they needed help and Fish Safe was able to help, we were there! Safety Advisor, Ralph Roberts, was shipped off and in 10 busy days, managed to squeeze in 4 full day vessel visits, assist with 2 Orange Decal application forms, award 12 packages of flares to fishermen who completed the Safe Navigation quiz, conducted 5 dock walks, and helped 5 fishermen get their SDV-BS certification. Fish Safe is your one-stop resource for all things safety!

# 2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS

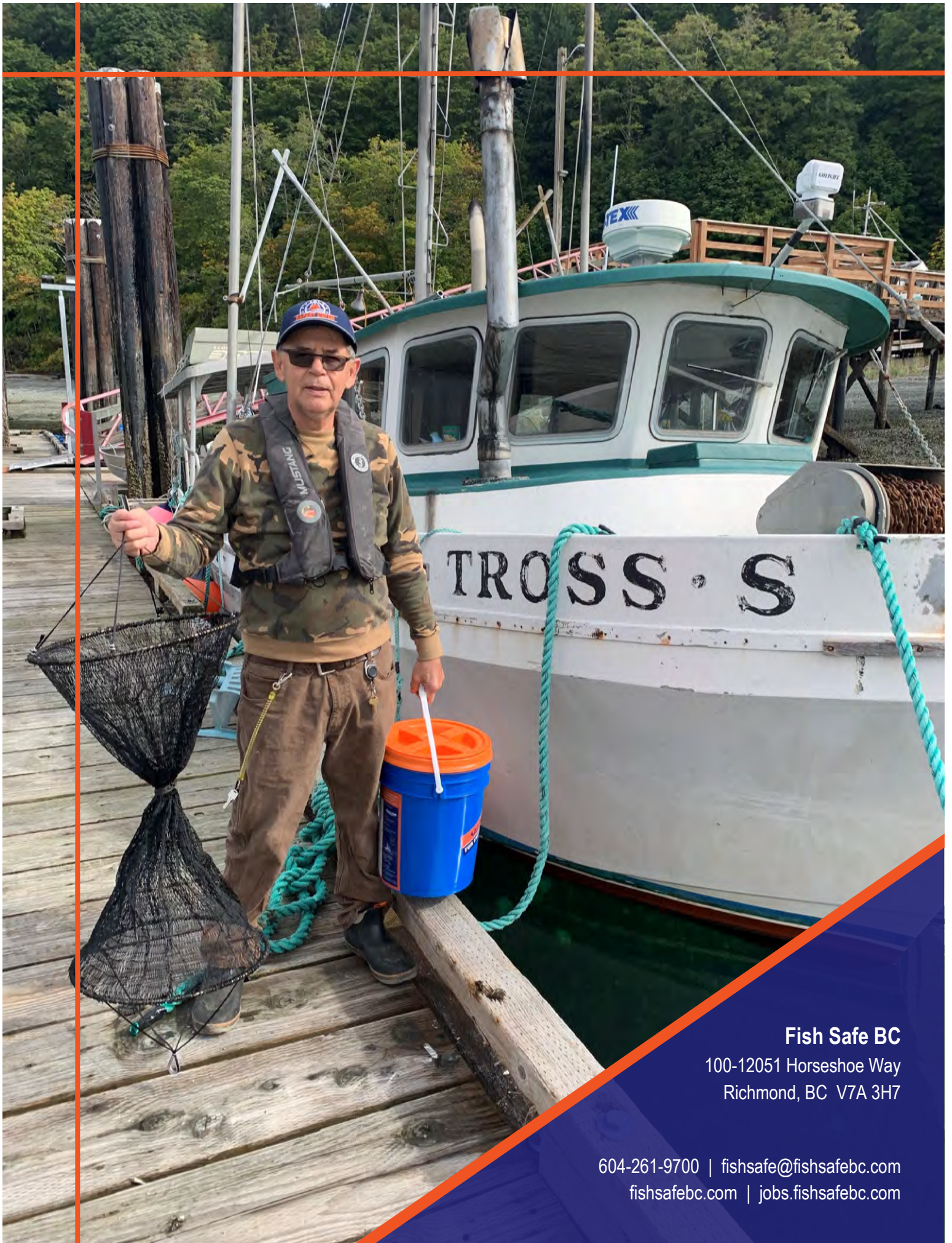




## Congratulations

to the following vessels who completed the Safest Catch Program this fiscal year!

- Last Chance**
- New Gamble**
- Zena D**
- Toni Luo**
- Laur-Inda-Lee**
- Lormax**
- Everglades**
- Lofoten II**



**Fish Safe BC**

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