





MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

The 2018/19 year was a time of transition for Fish Safe following a busy three-year period that saw expanded delivery of our Safest Catch program in BC as well as pilot locations on the East coast. Successful completion of this project provided valuable time for our team to reflect upon the successes of the past and to focus on the challenges and opportunities for the future.

Increasing engagement with fishermen and the broader industry was one such opportunity seized upon last year in a big way. As this year's report shows, even though Fish Safe expanded its efforts to help fishermen become compliant with regulations via the Orange Decal program, our efforts to instill a strong sense of personal accountability that surpass the minimum required by regulation remains a primary educational objective.

When it comes to safety, maintaining positive momentum depends upon a host of factors, foremost of which involves personal accountability. This ownership of safety has always underpinned Fish Safe's teaching objectives and now more than ever, a personal commitment to safety, to one's self as well as one's crew, has never been more important. As prescriptive regulations over the fishing industry continue to grow the temptation for fishermen to think that someone else has somehow figured out the safety formula for them personally, truly exists.

That false sense of security – the cancerous complacency so many refer to in fishing when it comes to safety, is an ongoing, individual battle. Long hours, little time, scarce resources, difficulty finding qualified workers – all of these factors conspire to make the job of getting out on the water, fishing, and returning safely all the harder these days.

On both coasts, in 2018, the danger of complacency was on full display with the Transportation Safety Board recording an above-average national death-toll of 17 fatalities on board commercially registered fishing vessels — all of this occurring scarcely a year after the coming into force of Transport Canada's overarching Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations.

On the East coast, as the stories were reported, the reality of capsizings close to shore and in close vicinity to other vessels illustrated the fact that many are out on the water fishing, often in poor weather, frequently without wearing PFDs, possibly still believing that bad things only happen to the other guy.

Although the story in BC was somewhat different, with WorkSafeBC recording 1 work-related fatality in the dive harvest sector, the battle against feelings of complacency is unending. Although, as this year's report shows, Fish Safe has expanded its efforts to help fishermen become compliant with regulations via the Orange Decal program, our efforts to instill a strong sense of personal accountability that surpass the minimum requirements of regulations remains our number one objective.

And so it is, as the economic and political landscape for BC's commercial fishermen continues to change, Fish Safe too will change and work to adapt the way in which we work to ensure the relevancy and efficacy of each program and tool we deliver. At the end of the day, Fish Safe is accountable to the fisherman, and in looking back on the year that was, I truly believe it was an invaluable year that is now positioning us for the innovation and fisherman-focused changes yet to come.

I hope you enjoy this report.

Ryan Ford,

Program Manager, Fish Safe



Few regulatory changes have had as much impact on commercial fishermen as Transport Canada's Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations which came into force in the summer of 2017.

Although all fishing vessels up to 150 gross tonnes and 24.4 meters are affected, the vast majority of BC's fleet are composed of vessels 15 gross tonnes or under. In fact, more than 80% of the fleet falls into this category and for the many fishermen fishing on these vessels the new regulations created new challenges including knowing what regulations apply to them and how to comply.

The situation is similar across Canada and so in 2018 Transport Canada expanded its existing Small Vessel Compliance Program (SVCP) to the fishing sector, specifically fishing vessels up to 15 gross tonnes.

Designed as a voluntary program, the SVCP-F is essentially a series of checklists that guides a vessel operator through a step-by-step process of measuring one's vessel and operating environment against Transport Canada's regulations. Despite the simplicity of the program's structure, the 'devil's in the details' as they say, and complexity exists in understanding meaning and application in a number of areas.

This is where Fish Safe comes in and beginning in early 2019 the decision was made to begin to give fishermen help obtaining the 'orange decal' via our existing Safest Catch program. Whereas the Safest Catch has traditionally helped fishermen meet WorkSafeBC requirements, for which a Safest Catch 'blue decal' is awarded, the introduction of the 'orange decal' program provides fishermen with a pathway to national compliance – the best of both worlds!

Although Transport Canada ultimately reviews and awards the SVCP-F orange decal, fishermen are already expressing appreciation for Fish Safe's assistance in the process. Additionally, natural synergies obviously exist between the two programs and participating in one program easily leads to completion of the other. For instance, meeting the requirements of the orange decal program means conducting and logging emergency drills, a task the Safest Catch and our fisherman Safety Advisors are perfectly positioned to help accomplish.

Already off to a great start, the orange decal is proving to be an area of interest for many fishermen, many of whom already possess the Safest Catch decal and it's Fish Safe's goal to continue to provide assistance to fishermen for the foreseeable future in obtaining their orange decal as well.



FRASER RIVER GILLNET SOCKEYE SALMON OPENING

With as many as 14 million sockeye predicted to return to the Fraser River in the summer of 2018 Fish Safe knew that there was strong potential for openings and increased fishing vessel traffic on the river.

As the Fraser River continues to see ever-increasing large boat activity including tugs, barges, car carriers and other big ships, the risk of vessel collision also increases. Although the Fraser River sockeye follow a somewhat predictable 4 year migration, the timing of openings are dependent upon daily DFO stock assessments that require fishermen to be prepared to fish on relatively short notice.

Despite the timing uncertainty, Fish Safe was mobilized in advance to help the fleet of several hundred gillnets prepare to fish safely and outreach increased as the openings were announced in early August. A primary goal was to visit the many wharves along the Fraser from Steveston to Bruce's Market to speak to fishermen and where needed, provide the industry-created best practices brochure Working Safely on the Fraser River.

This tool, which was created prior to the last major sockeye opening in 2014, has been instrumental in helping fishermen visualize the river's topography, ranges and various choke points. Additionally, it helps to highlight that large boat versus small fishing vessel interaction is a major challenge on the Fraser and so the reminder to fishermen that 'just because you can see them, doesn't mean they can see you!' is especially timely.

Ultimately, the openings proceeded without major incident although several close-calls involving vessel and net interactions were observed, demonstrating the need for ongoing vigilance and closer communication between the fishing industry and the broader marine industry using the Fraser River — a need Fish Safe will be working to continue to meet in the coming years.



Finally, Captain John Horton and the volunteers onboard the Canadian Lifeboat Institution's vessel the Delta Lifeboat are owed a big word of thanks by all who were working on the Fraser in August. As vessel traffic increased during the sockeye openings their vessel was on the grounds helping to assess dangerous situations before they became emergencies and to render assistance to fishing vessels that required a helping hand. Many thanks once again to John and his crew!



THE VIDEO IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:

https://www.fishsafebc.com/general



VIDEO PRODUCTION – SUSTAINING FISHERMEN IN SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

The global seafood industry, including commercial fish buyers and consumers, are deeply interested in receiving a sustainable, quality product. And in BC, commercial fishermen share these very same values.

But as important as the sustainability of the seafood product is, what can be done to ensure the sustainability and safety of fishermen working to secure this catch within one of the riskiest occupations?

This is the question the new Fish Safe video production, Sustaining Fishermen in Sustainable Fisheries, strove to answer. While highlighting the role of sustainable fisheries in BC in general, the video was designed to showcase the efforts of BC's wild fish harvest industry in supporting the safety of its workers via Fish Safe.

Shot over 3 days on the water near French Creek during the 2018 roe herring opening and at the wharf in Campbell River with a group of young, safety-minded fishermen, the video captures the efforts of BC fishermen, especially the up and coming, younger generation of commercial fisherman, to deliver a sustainably-sourced product while working to ensure a safe return home.

With fishing in their blood and optimism in their souls, relatively young fishermen like Mike Roh and Katelynn Gillette working on board the Alpine Star and husband and wife team Zeke and Angy Pellegrin on board the Genesta, volunteered their time and the time of their crew to help make this video.

In the video, each of them express their heart-felt thoughts about working to make it in a challenging industry while doing so safely. Expressions about why they got into fishing and what they love about it are included as are demonstrations of how each crew works to implement many of the teaching tools Fish Safe has provided into their individual fishing operations. Truly, ownership of safety and sustainable fishing practices is demonstrated throughout this video!

Although a departure somewhat from previous videos Fish Safe has produced, the video has been an effective addition to our outreach and awareness activities at trade show events and at gatherings like the annual Young Fishermen's Gathering where an audience equally interested in seafood quality, the future of fishing and safety exists.





SENATE REPORT

Commercial fishing safety in Canada continues to be an area of national concern and for this reason became a major topic area for the Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans as they studied the status of Canada's current maritime search and rescue environment.

Recognizing Fish Safe's work in the area of prevention across Canada, the Senate invited Fish Safe to a hearing early in 2018 to provide testimony focusing on the commercial fishing sector. The Senate benefitted by hearing from John Krgovich, Fish Safe's Program Coordinator and a career BC commercial fisherman himself, who provided a wealth of knowledge and historical context to the various topic areas.

The Senate's work culminated in the release of a comprehensive report in November 2018, When Every Minute Counts – Maritime Search and Rescue.

The full report can be found online here: http://info.sencanada.ca/maritime-SAR

Of interest were the following Senate recommendations:

- That Transport Canada amend its regulations to extend the mandatory use of emergency position-indicating radio beacons (or EPIRBs) to vessels in all fishing fleets. A timeline of two years should be given to the fishing industry to achieve mandatory EPIRB carriage.
- That Transport Canada develop and disseminate user-friendly information regarding vessel stability to reduce unsafe practices in the commercial fishing industry.
- That Fisheries and Oceans Canada ensure that its regulations and practices give priority to fish harvester safety.
- That, through the Canadian Marine Advisory Council (CMAC), Transport Canada,
 Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Canadian Coast Guard work with fishery safety organizations and fish harvesters to develop a national action plan on safety in the commercial fishing industry.

It was a privilege to be part of the Senate's fact-finding process and Fish Safe appreciates the future opportunities afforded by each of the committee's recommendations.

"The committee agrees that investing time and funds into outreach for commercial fish harvesters...is time and money well spent if it helps avoid maritime SAR incidents."

- When Every Minute Counts: Maritime Search and Rescue





IFISH 5

Have you ever wondered just how complicated the issue of commercial fishing safety is and how diverse the research and opinions are on the topic? If so, the 2018 IFISH 5 conference would have been for you!

The conference was held June 10-13 in St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador and brought together an eclectic group of safety and health professionals, instructors, workers and industry experts. Fish Safe attended too and benefited by learning about the work being carried on globally in the area of commercial fishing safety. Much of what was presented was designed for implementation and as a result has provided Fish Safe with actionable areas of interest for the future.

Just some of the thought-provoking topics included the following:

- Fisheries management policies and impacts on safety
- Hazardous noise exposure methods for reducing the risk
- Using app-based technologies for training and audit to increase awareness and accountability
- Establishing standards for observer safety
- Weather and fishing safety dangerous wave height warning systems
- Prevention of chronic injury and illness
- Overboard falls, PFDs and most/least effective intervention strategies

If any of these topics interest you, you're encouraged to visit the dedicated IFISH 5 website at www.ifishconference.ca. Many of the presenters have uploaded their presentations and the organizers have provided an easy means for navigating the results of the conference.





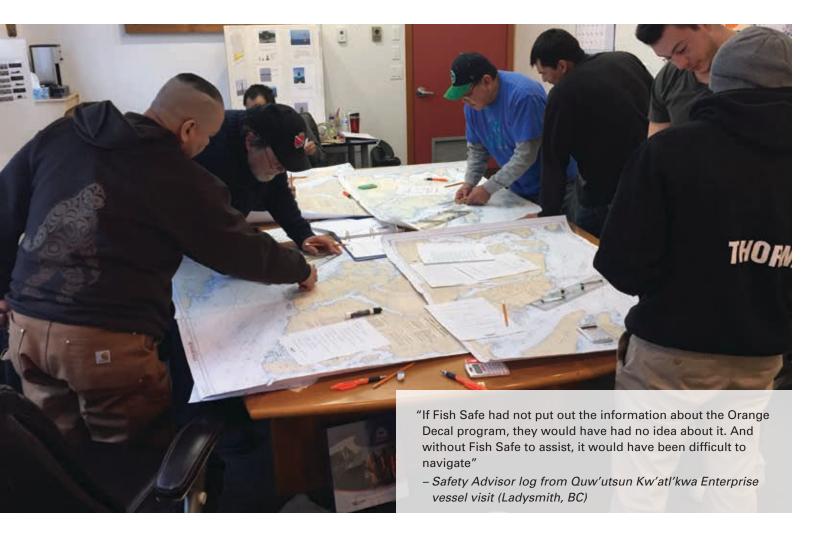
PACIFIC INTEGRATED COMMERCIAL FISHING INITIATIVE (PICFI)

For eight consecutive years, Fish Safe has been proud to be a partner in the PICFI program, an initiative run by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) designed to increase commercial fishing capacity within BC First Nation's communities.

We began the year with a special focus on expanding PICFI participant awareness of Transport Canada and WorkSafeBC safety regulations, commercial fishing safety best practices and how Fish Safe works with communities to meet these needs.

To this end Fish Safe actively participated and presented at DFO sponsored sessions organized throughout BC in Vancouver, Kamloops, Nanaimo, Campbell River, Alert Bay and Prince Rupert. These sessions afforded the opportunity for us to present at such sessions and to network with community organizers which in turn lead to increased program delivery in a number of the represented communities.

The relevance of our work continues to hit home as PICFI community organizers become more and more aware of marine enforcement initiatives that are increasing throughout BC. The presence of Transport Canada and WorkSafeBC prevention officers as well as the RCMP at the wharf and on the water has heightened the need for fishermen to ensure their compliance with existing regulations for both crew and vessel alike.



Helping to meet this need was the introduction of the Transport Canada 'Orange Decal' program, whereby vessel owners and operators could get assistance via Safest Catch vessel visits to complete Transport Canada's Small Vessel Compliance Program-Fishing. (See more details about the Orange Decal program on p.3)

This combination of increased outreach, observations of increasing on-the-water enforcement and, Fish Safe's introduction of the Orange decal program helped produce the following results:

	MED A3/ Safest Catch	MED A3/ Safest Catch participants	Stability Course	Stability Course parts	SVOP Course	SVOP Course parts	ROC-M Course	ROC-M parts
2018-19	10	63	2	10	9	78	6	51
All time (2012-19)	90	539	27	219	48	411	50	381



EVENTS

BC Seafood Expo

In recent years the BC Seafood Expo has become a preeminent West Coast event showcasing all things seafood and so it was a natural fit for Fish Safe to get involved in 2018. Held over 3 days June 10-12th in Comox and Courtenay on Vancouver Island, the 2018 Expo was part of a broader festival that enjoyed its largest attendance in its 12 year history.

As one might expect, sustainability was a major theme shared and promoted by the many seafood exhibitors to the diverse group of attendees that included domestic and international seafood buyers, Chefs, restaurant owners and the like.

Similarly, Fish Safe used the occasion to showcase how industry has created and funded Fish Safe to help ensure the sustainability of fishermen. After all, what's the point of harvesting a sustainable, world-class catch if all involved in landing that catch can't do so safely and in a manner that ensures all return home safely?

More and more, consumers are judicially selecting their foods based upon who the harvester is and whether or not he or she is truly committed to ethical practices – practices that include the safety of workers. For this reason Fish Safe worked with vessel owner Randy Reifel and skipper Dennis Dobrilla to bring the seine vessel Pacific Discovery to Comox to participate in 'Dock Days' to give visitors a peek behind the scenes and to learn first-hand how BC fish harvesters work to deliver a sustainable product safely.

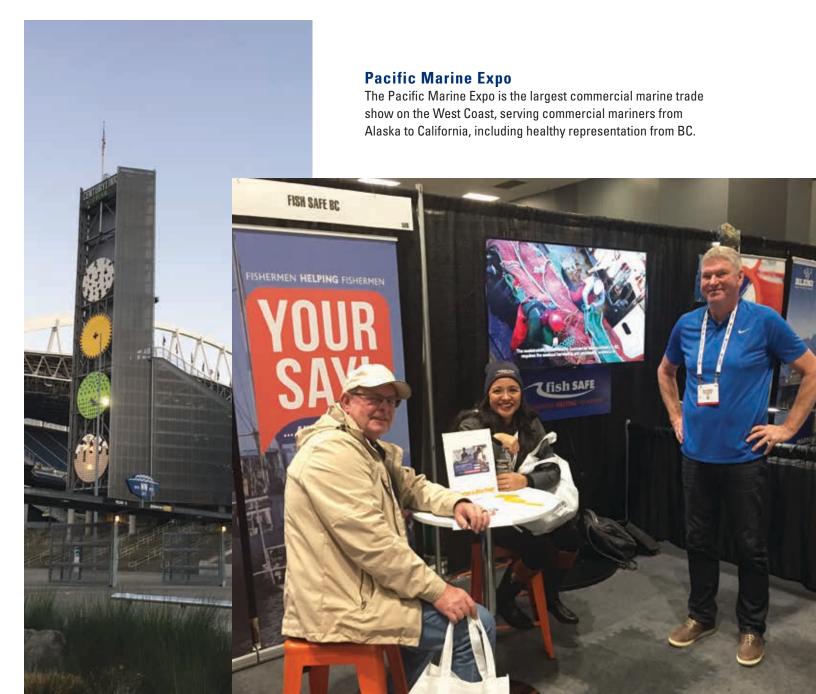
Close to 70 individuals visited the Pacific Discovery and were treated to a guided tour of the vessel which included commentary by skipper Dennis and long-time Pacific Discovery deckhand and Fish Safe Safety Advisor Cheryl Lawson, about their history fishing the coast as career fishermen and how they practice safety when fishing.

On board the vessel, and later in the convention exhibitor venue, attendees also learned how Fish Safe supports the BC wild fish harvester by means of our unique portfolio of educational safety tools. A highlight of this activity included the sharing



of Fish Safe's new video Sustaining Fishermen in Sustainable Fisheries which attracted a steady flow of delegates to the Fish Safe booth throughout the exhibition.

Ultimately, the hard work of bringing the Pacific Discovery to Comox and exhibiting in Courtenay proved worthwhile as increased awareness around Fish Safe's core activities and objectives was achieved at a world-class venue and in front of a diverse audience fully invested in the success of the BC seafood industry.

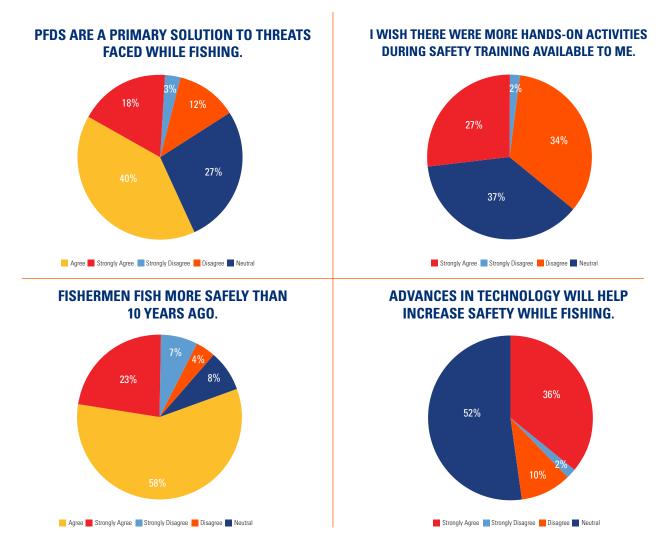


44% of the 10,000 or so attendees identify themselves as being commercial fishermen and so this Seattle based trade show provides an ideal opportunity to interface with Fish Safe's primary audience. And with "safety and survival" information and products being a Top Ten area of interest to expo visitors, the venue is ideally suited for Fish Safe to talk all things safety.

For 2018, a decision was made to have a booth and to focus on having conversations with fishermen to try and understand the various views on where the culture of fishing safety currently stands.

Under the banner of "Your Boat, Your Say", and in exchange for a free Fish Safe toque, for three days Fish Safe's program manager and coordinator enjoyed meeting fishermen who were willing to talk safety and to fill out Fish Safe's 3-minute survey.

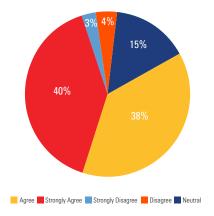
Close to a hundred individuals completed the survey and provided responses to a wide range of topics, some of which have been consolidated here:



Of special interest to Fish Safe are emerging safety risks, or at least the perception of new or increasing risks, and so a question was asked about drug and alcohol use while fishing.

In this particular area, the nature of the responses were the most polarizing with 80% agreeing and 40% indicating they 'strongly agree' as follows:

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL USE IS A SIGNIFICANT FISHING SAFETY ISSUE.



On both coasts in Canada, the perceived increase in cocaine use and other hard drugs to cope with long hours and heavy debt loads is of concern to many and, given its ability to impact safety outcomes, to Fish Safe as well.

Whether it be in this area or the others surveyed, the Pacific Marine Expo proved to be a rich source of feedback for Fish Safe and the future direction of our programs and prevention initiatives.

YEAR IN REVIEW

COURSE SUMMARY	FISCAL 2019		FIS	CAL 2018	ALL TIME		
	COURSES	PARTICIPANTS	COURSES	PARTICIPANTS	COURSES	PARTICIPANTS	
STABILITY	2	10	1	3	141	1176	
SVOP	13	110	10	75	72	690	
ROC-M (RADIO)	13	103	19	92	69	645	

SAFEST CATCH				
PROGRAM SUMMARY	FISCAL 2019	FISCAL 2018	ALL TIME*	
VESSEL VISITS	86	163	1,057	
PARTICIPANTS	277	358	2,970	
EMERGENCY PROCEDURES MANUALS	28	27	202	
DECALS	19	18	263	
ORANGE DECAL - VESSELS IMPACTED	40		40	
ORANGE DECAL - PARTICIPANTS	45		45	

 $[\]mbox{\ensuremath{^{\ast}}}$ The Safest Catch program was launched in the 2009/2010 fiscal year

SAFEST CATCH ACTIVITY BY VESSEL GEAR TYPE

VESSEL GEAR TYPE	SAFEST CATCH VESSEL VISITS
Longline/Trap	23%
Packing	25%
Seine	13%
Trawl	3%
Gillnet/Troll	36%

CLAIMS STATISTICS FOR 2018

(only WorkSafeBC claims associated with wage loss are presented)

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
DIVE	8	5	9	9	10	7
TRAP & LONGLINE	13	110	10	75	72	690
TRAWL	37	26	41	39	34	30
GILLNET/ TROLL	20	17	25	20	19	17
SEINE	6	11	17	12	9	13
PACKING (INCLUDES FARM FISH)	4	4	8	7	9	2
TOTALS	107	85	122	118	107	107
FATALITIES	1	1***	1**	3	2*	1

^{*} 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.

WORKSAFEBC CLAIMS COSTS (IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
DIVE	348	574	574	878	277	421	1,480	279
GILLNET/ TROLL	608	671	726	691	740	844	634	840
PACKING	115	130	323	347	127	361	280	154
SEINE	751	888	392	389	593	935	610	709
TRAWL	780	849	1,446	2,244	1,130	1,402	821	723
Longline/trap	1,015	984	938	922	1,131	1,498	1,593	1,258
TOTALS	3,617	4,069	4,399	5,471	3,998	5,461	5,418	3,963

WORKSAFEBC ASSESSMENT RATES

YEAR	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
ASSESSMENT RATE	6.48	6.39	6.81	6.50	6.86

(Represents rates assessed upon the first buyers of fish in BC on behalf of commercial fish harvesters per \$100 of assessable payroll.)

^{**} 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.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

WorkSafeBC Fishing Assessment Levy \$400,000

DFO PICFI 100,000

Course and Materials 33,000

TOTAL 533,000

USE OF FUNDS:

Prevention Programs \$196,000

Meetings/Events/Workshops 2,000

PICFI Program 106,000

Claims/Assessments 2,000

Administration 298,000

TOTAL 604,000

STAFF

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

SAFEST CATCH ADVISORS

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

Cheryl Lawson

EDUCATION CONSULTANT

Barbara Howe





FISH SAFE OFFICE

'If it aint broke, why fix it?' goes the old adage, and when it comes to where Fish Safe calls home the saying appears to hold as true as ever.

Although hard to believe, last year marked the final year on Fish Safe's original six-year lease at our location in south Richmond. With that milestone achieved, a decision had to be made – should we stay or should we go?

Considering that question required an analysis of a host of factors, including the needs of fishermen, other industry stakeholders and of course, our team of valuable staff.

Other considerations included the reality of increased costs as commercial vacancies continue to fall in many regions of the Lower Mainland.

Ultimately, the overall utility of our existing location which provides valuable classroom space, ample free parking for students and a favorable location for many fishermen — we are only 15 minutes from Steveston! - provided compelling reasons to stay. Additionally, Fish Safe is a hub of busy administrative activity as our office administrators Stephanie Nguyen and Rhoda Huey work tirelessly to prepare course and program materials and in this regard, our current location has been fine-tuned over the years to deliver maximum efficiency.

So, for the next five years, Fish Safe is pleased to say that 12051 Horseshoe Way, Unit 100 remains home sweet home. If you haven't done so already, why don't you stop by for a cup of coffee and we'll show you what we're up to - we'd love to see you!









VISIT OUR JOB BOARD! Jobs.fishsafebc.com

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