



## Fish Safe Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

**Meeting:** Fish Safe Advisory Committee  
**Date:** February 16, 2021 (10:00am – 11:45am)  
**Location:** Zoom  
To watch the full Zoom Meeting, click here:  
<https://fishsafebc.box.com/s/hccbs9ldk51ovmgd1blnf3om9ov9fm9p>

### In Attendance (16):

Brian Cook – Canadian Lifeboat Institution	John Roach – Fisherman
Bruce Logan – WorkSafeBC	John Wilson – Transport Canada
Denise Gillespie – Oban Ventures	Mike Atkins – PPFA
George Roddan – Transport Canada	Renee Mann – Mariner Seafoods
Glenn Budden – Transportation Safety Board	Ron Doumont – Fisherman
Grant Dovey – UHA	Ryan Ford – Fish Safe
John Horton – Canadian Lifeboat Institution	Stephanie Nguyen – Fish Safe
John Krgovich – Fish Safe	Tim Pryde – WorkSafeBC

### 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 and John Krgovich, Program Coordinator

Ryan Ford provided an update at Fish Safe. The presentation deck can be found here:  
<https://fishsafebc.box.com/s/jz349s9jp6mrl36g6kefpltqd8jfv0qs>

Ryan reviewed the 2020 Fishing Claims Data.

- Industry experienced 82 time loss claims, similar to last year which was 80
- There have been 2 fatalities accepted by WorkSafeBC (2 on board the Arctic Fox II); 3 recorded by Transportation Safety Board (1 on board Ocean Explorer)
- Claims cost - \$5,576,000
- Assessable Payroll (est.) - \$127,000,000
- Fishing Time-loss Claims has continued to show a downward trend



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- Fishing Claims Rate
  - Traditional payroll measures don't exist in fishing like other industries, however, we can use stable measures like FRCs to get a handle on an injury rate
  - Using this measure, we can see that we have a flat trend line for time loss claims per 100 commercial fishing licenses.
- Fishing Fatality Rate
  - When we apply the FRC measure against the number of deaths in the industry (per 10,000 FRCs), we can see a downward trend. While that is a good sign, we'd like to see the rate decline even more so.
- WorkSafeBC Assessment Rate
  - 2021 Assessment rate is 7.19% (increased from 6.42% in 2020)
  - Claims Cost Paid saw a big spike in 2019 which affected the rate in 2020

John Krgovich provided an update on Fish Safe activity.

- Fish Safe is still continuing its programs and courses under COVID-19 protocols – wearing masks, keeping outdoors or in large areas
- Herring Outreach
  - The pandemic has lessen our ability to create an event for drills like in previous years, however we still wanted to keep our presence on the wharves.
  - Our mobile herring outreach will see us move around the wharves in a van which will serve as a pop up safety booth.
  - The main focus will be to ensure that all fishermen inspect their safety gear prior to heading out. At the booth we will have Mustang replacement cartridges that will be provided for free if a fishermen's PFD cartridge has been used or has expired. We will also have other safety resources available such as videos on how to replace the PFD cartridges, beeswax, Safety Quik booklets, muster lists, best practices, COVID-19 protocols, etc.
  - Harbour Authorities have been contacted and have secured us a spot so Fish Safe can be visible.
- MOB Device
  - Fish Safe tested an Alert Man Over Board Device. This is a "Do it Yourself" system that consists of a transmitter and receiver unit and sold by Emerald Marine Washington State for \$1800 CAD.
  - The transmitter unit is installed on the vessel and the receiver is installed on your person or a PFD. When the receiver is submerged in water, it sends a transmission to the vessel.
  - The unit can be wired with an engine kill switch and can be interfaced with most chart plotting programs.
  - Installation was easy and test went well. Each time the receiver was in the water, the transmitter sounded an alarm and its strobe light flashed.
  - No real downside to the device as the unit tested well and a lot of the criticisms can be overcome.



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- However, one issue was finding a place on the PFD where the receiver can be secured so that it would send a signal and wouldn't become a catch hazard. It would need to be located high on the chest or shoulder so it would have a line of sight to the transmitter. This wasn't a concern with inflatable PFDs as there is an adapter that goes on the inflator tube.
- Another downside is that it is cost prohibitive for small boat fishermen
- Boat Beacon App
  - The Boat Beacon App was tested back in November which is a potential collision avoidance tool. When it is downloaded and registered with an MMSI number, your phone becomes an AIS system. This enables other boaters to see you on their marine tracking system and apps. Cost for this app is \$20, but other enhanced features can bring it to \$50.
  - The Boat Beacon App can share its AIS feed with other apps and provide the ship's bearing, range and closest point of approach in addition to all the other standard AIS information.
  - We were able to monitor our travel with the app and worked well on other traffic systems. When we were on a potential collision course, the app sounds a ship's horn as an alert
  - Some glitches were found during the testing
    - Although the app says it uses up to the second AIS feeds, it was slow updating of the positions and lagged
    - There were irregularities of actual locations, track locations, and directions
    - Also seemed to be affected by other electronics on the vessel
    - Drains the phone battery quickly so the phone would need to be plugged in
    - App cannot distinguish between a ship at sea underway and a vessel tied to the wharf even though the vessel was on the other side of a break water.
    - Will continue to use AIS tracking (even on land) until you remember to turn the app completely off
  - Although the app is useful we found that there were too many glitches to make it a worthwhile alternative to installing an AIS system. But can be beneficial to fishermen who want to be seen by larger vessels without incurring the cost of an AIS system.
  - A comment was made by a member of the group that the app would also be highly dependent on cell phone service and cell service on the water would be intermittent.

Ryan showed the group a video of the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution) In-Water PFD Event - an event held throughout the UK and Ireland in since 2017. The RNLI found that while many fishermen had PFDs on board, most did not wear them while working so the In-Water PFD event was created to find what level of effort was needed to affect behaviour change.

- To watch the video, click here:  
<https://fishsafebc.box.com/s/cfnpm04tohv0zqdc024fra8f3gr9f05u>
- The fishermen in the video went on to become "PFD Ambassadors" in their home ports.
- When it is safe to do so, Fish Safe may start to look at replicating this event, perhaps in local community pools.
- The RNLI also sent Fish Safe a MOB Reboarding Device bag. The bag is attached to the side of the boat and a rope ladder is tucked inside and would release easily when needed.



## **WorkSafeBC Update – Bruce Logan, Occupational Safety Officer**

Bruce Logan provided an update on WorkSafeBC.

- 2021-2023 Marine Roll Out
  - Rolls Outs are WorkSafeBC's strategy or "marching orders" for what aspects of fishing vessel safety that will be prioritized. Many of the fishing hazards come from 3 classification units (gear types)
    - Troll
    - Longline/trap
    - Gillnet
  - WorkSafeBC will be out on the wharves looking for:
    - Emergency Preparedness
    - Coldwater Immersion
    - Stability
    - Orientation for workers
    - Safe Work Procedures
    - Emergency Drills / Procedures
    - Slips, Trips and Falls
    - Alarm Systems
    - Docksides
  - WorkSafeBC has been updating the "Gearing Up for Safety" workbook as many things are outdated or no longer relevant.
- Last year, WorkSafeBC was not permitted to do any job site inspections but are now able to do so as most workplaces had COVID-19 written procedures and policies in place.
  - Everyone now should have a written COVID-19 safety plan
  - Daily health checks should be conducted
  - Some inspections will still be remote
  - WorkSafeBC and Fish Safe have templates on their website that can be downloaded

## **Transportation Safety Board Update – Glenn Budden, Regional Senior Investigator, Fishing Vessels**

Glenn Budden provided an update on Transportation Safety Board. The presentation deck can be found here: <https://fishsafebc.box.com/s/0n83kiqi1c0vjsrih0dw9z7xyao8lgwx>

- Ongoing investigations
  - Atlantic Region
    - Sarah Anne – 4 fatalities, no EPIRB on board, no one was wearing PFDs, vessel went missing
    - Chief William Saulis – 6 fatalities, recovered 1 body, boat has been located
    - Atlantic Sapphire – due for release in March.



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- BC Region
  - Arctic Fox II – 2 fatalities
- Recently released reports
  - Unnamed Vessel – halibut fishing, Sally’s Cove, NL
    - Highlights the importance of PFD use, EPIRBs, and cell phone limitations
    - New regulations now require vessels less than 8m in length operating outside sheltered waters to carry a waterproof, portable, handheld VHF radio with DSC capability if there is no EPIRB.
  - Newfoundland Lynx, trawler, St. Anthony NL
    - Highlights the importance of varied and realistic fire drills, working emergency equipment, familiarization of equipment and assigned emergency duties.
  - Unregistered Vessel – oyster barge, Mackenna Point, NS
    - Highlights the importance of knowing regulations and safety guidance information that applies to your vessel; regularly checking lifesaving equipment including PFDs and follow manufacturer guidance for maintenance and inspections; being aware of the effects of impairment by drugs
- National Update – Commercial fishing safety remains on the Watchlist for the 11<sup>th</sup> year
  - In 2019, 11 fatalities across all regions. 1 fatality in BC
  - In 2020, 16 fatalities across all regions. 3 fatalities in BC
  - 2011-2020 BC averages 2.5 fishing related fatalities a year
  - 2011-2020 National averages 10.8 fishing related fatalities a year
- A member of the group asked for further clarification regarding the changing of PFD cartridges and what the TSB report found with the Unregistered Vessel in Mackenna Point, NS.
  - Glenn replied that after looking in the manufacturer’s guide for maintenance and inspection, you are supposed to manually blow it up and ensure that it retains the air for 24 hours. Sometimes the seal around the canister isn’t installed correctly.
  - Bruce Logan made a comment that during last year’s herring season, they found that many PFD cartridges were expired even though the green dot was showing. There is a regulation in place that requires you to log the maintenance of PFDs, particularly auto and manual inflatables.

## **Transport Canada Update**

The Pacific Regional CMAC will take place on **Thursday, March 4, 2021**. (via Microsoft Teams)

The National CMAC meeting will take place from **Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.



### **Canadian Lifeboat Institution Update – John Horton**

John Horton would like to remind everyone that the Canadian Lifeboat Institution will be on the grounds during the herring season. If you need assistance, they will be available 24 hours. You can call them directly or via radio on channel 16 and 78.

### **Next Fish Safe Advisory Committee Meeting Date**

Ryan Ford will coordinate the next Advisory meeting likely in September 2021.