



## Fish Safe Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

**Meeting:** Fish Safe Advisory Committee  
**Date:** September 29, 2020 (10:00am – 11:30am)  
**Location:** Zoom  
To watch the full Zoom conference recording, click here:  
<https://fishsafefbc.box.com/s/mw0x6hirlxnnolaym7fti7t7sgzxtlhd>

### In Attendance (24):

Andria Charette – DFO	Michael Frost – Canadian Fishing Company
Andy Allen – Transport Canada	Pat Olsen - WorkSafeBC
Barbara Mueller – DFO	Patrick McCarthy – Maus Aerosol Firefighting
Brian Cook – Canadian Lifeboat Institution	Renee Mann – Mariner Seafoods
Cody King – WorkSafeBC	Rhoda Huey – Fish Safe
Denise Gillespie – Oban Ventures	Ron Doumont – Fisherman
Florence Van Graven – Gwabalish Fisheries	Ryan Ford – Fish Safe
Glenn Budden – Transportation Safety Board	Sam Paling
Alex Stuart – Planet Halo Security	Stephanie Nguyen – Fish Safe
Jessie Kunce – WorkSafeBC	Tim Pryde - WorkSafeBC
John Krgovich – Fish Safe	Tom Amirault – Nesika Insurance
Lee Varseveld – Pacific Coast Fisherman’s Mutual Marine	Tom Pawlowski - WorkSafeBC

### Introduction

**Chair:** Ryan Ford, Program Manager at Fish Safe.

Ryan Ford welcomed everyone to Fish Safe’s very first 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://fishsafefbc.box.com/s/oe57u1dgudoiop713a1vqhlpyoq0ervb>

March 2020

- Fish Safe was preparing for the upcoming busy months – crab and prawn season, Knots & Lines workshop, deployment of iAuditor, and PICFI activity.
- Pandemic was announced and many of us were working from home. Fish Safe’s focus transitioned to COVID-19



#### April/May 2020

- Seafood harvesting and processing was considered an essential service and as part of Canada's essential food supply infrastructure and that meant implementing local guidelines and protocols
- Fish Safe created a dedicated COVID-19 landing page on the website to provide safety information and sent out numerous communications to the Advisory Committee and to fishermen
- COVID-10 materials were also translated to Vietnamese and Chinese

#### June 2020

- The onus was on the industry to create industry specific and fishery specific protocols for operating
- By June 15<sup>th</sup>, provincially reviewed (Province of BC and WorkSafeBC) protocols were in place – broad representation of fishermen working with Fish Safe and with UFAWU-Unifor.
  - A big area of focus is on remote communities and ensuring that adequate measures were in place to protect them
- Various fisheries and gear types worked hard to create fishery-specific protocols – Deep Sea Trawl, Pacific Prawn Fishermen's Association, Underwater Harvester's Association, Pacific Halibut Management Association, BC Tuna fisherman's Association.

#### July-September 2020

- Internally, Fish Safe had to develop our own protocols to ensure that we could operate safely at the wharf, classroom training, on vessel visits, etc. By the end of June, we were active in almost all our programs including PICFI
- Increased Safest Catch Outreach
  - We relied on word of mouth and our existing relationships with fishermen. Now we are increasing our marketing and outreach in order to reach the other fishermen we have yet to connect with.
  - Our team has been creating a direct mailing campaign that uses the TC online registry of vessel owners as well as a buyer's list who pay WSBC assessments on behalf of fishermen.

#### September-October 2020

- Vessel owners will be contacted via a direct mail campaign in both English and Vietnamese that reminds them of the Fish Safe benefits that they are entitled to by being a commercial fishermen
- The second part of our campaign is a mix of email and direct mail communication with roughly 200 WorkSafeBC registered buyers. We hope that through their relationships with fishermen they will share the information with them and encourage fishermen to take advantage of the Fish Safe benefits.

John Krgovich continued the Fish Safe update.

- In March/April all of our regular and PICFI courses were cancelled
- Gave Fish Safe time to evaluate and refresh our programs and put COVID-19 protocols and procedures in place to ensure safety.



**fish SAFE**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- Classroom sizes were reduced, masks worn, sanitization stations created, no sharing of materials, group assignments and activities limited
- A discussion was had for preparing courses for online presentation but it was difficult to create because of the hands-on components.
- Through the Safest Catch, Fish Safe helped fishermen develop their vessel specific COVID-19 protocols. The prawn fishery had just started so there was a flurry of activity to provide COVID-19 materials as well as helping with pre-season drills and safety orientation.
- Continued Safest Catch Outreach
  - In addition to the direct mail campaign, Fish Safe has been doing more Dockwalks – have always been the most effective way to attract fisherman
  - Focused on the fishermen who haven't worked with Fish Safe before.
    - On the first dock walk in Victoria, Fish Safe approached the Arctic Fox II – we have never worked with them before and had a chance to talk to the skipper
    - Also talked with the owners of the Arctic Fox II, was invited aboard and discussed safety in general
  - Have done dock walks on East Coast Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast, and Prince Rupert
  - Will be heading to West Coast Vancouver Island soon
- Knots and Lines workshop that was cancelled in Comox in March was rescheduled for September. Another workshop to be announced soon
- PICFI – huge impact by this group as many courses were cancelled in March/April and remote communities were locked down.
  - Once travel restrictions were lifted, we worked with the CFEs to provide safe training
  - Fish Safe travelled to Williams Lake to provide the SVOP training so they could be employed with the contractors working on the Big Bar landslide in the Fraser River.
- Will continue to run our programs under the COVID-19 guidelines

## **WorkSafeBC Update – Cody King, Occupational Safety Officer**

Cody King, Occupational Safety Officer, provided an update at WorkSafeBC. The presentation deck can be found here: <https://fishsafefbc.box.com/s/97zaf0ndq5qs0d56uw5a0cq2v1m7ypej>

### 2018-2020 Marine Industry Initiative

- Uses a risk based, 2-tier inspectional approach for commercial fishing Classification Units.
- Priority focus will be at-sea inspections on highest risk CU within fishing – gillnet, longline/trap, trawl, seine, dive
  - Gillnet fishery is moving from secondary focus to primary focus – significant number of claims from this sector are Serious Injury (45% of claims fall into Serious Injury category)
- Inspectional priorities include PFDs, lifejackets and immersion suits; vessel preparation and emergency procedures; stability, training, instruction and supervision; hazardous equipment.
- As of August 31<sup>st</sup>, there were 126 At Sea Inspections and 349 Dockside Inspections.



#### COVID-19 Update

- All offices have been closed since March and almost 3000 employees working from home and set up remotely.
- Still providing essential services to workers and employers – these include conducting workplace inspections and consultations to help workplaces remain healthy and safe.
- Reviewing employer’s COVID-19 safety plans during marine inspections
- Will begin to focus more on the workplace health and safety issues that were identified as priorities before the pandemic – these priorities are outlined in the High Risk Strategies and Industry Initiatives
- Taking a “risk-based/back to basics” approach in inspections – effective in helping employers manage their COVID-19 risks
  - Commercial Fishing Back to Basics include: Internal Responsibility Systems; Occupational Health and Safety Programs; First Aid; Workplace Inspections; Incident Investigations; Emergency Preparedness and Response; Instruction, Training and Supervision; PPE; Vessel Preparation, Seaworthiness and Stability.

#### WorkSafeBC Marine Survey

- A survey was sent out last week with the help of Fish Safe
- A “pulse check” for WorkSafeBC – checking in with stakeholders, clients, government bodies involved with the commercial fishing industry. Seeing where we are at and what risks might be emerging.
- Currently setting up 2020-2023 strategy and the survey helps with what is happening in the industry and making sure WorkSafeBC is aligned.

#### Marine Bulletins 2020

- Check out <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/industries/fishing-marine>
- Good resources for Quick Reference Guides, Stability information, etc.

### **Transport Canada Update – Andy Allen**

A member of the group asked a question for Transport Canada regarding any new updates with the Marine Personnel Regulations, CMAC and being updated with changing regulations.

Andy Allen responded that there will be a virtual CMAC this year and more information will be distributed later on. Information about the upcoming virtual CMAC can be found on Fish Safe’s website [HERE](#). With regards to the MPRs, the expectation was that they will be published this fall but will be delayed. No new drafts have been distributed yet.



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

Glenn Budden, Regional Senior Investigator, provided an update for the Transportation Safety Board. The presentation deck can be found here:

<https://fishsafebc.box.com/s/9iypnr7irmk9bnvcd3xjzliiuryh395>

### **National Update**

- The board is assessing if commercial fishing will stay on the 2020 Watchlist. The Watchlist will be announced in November.
- Currently 6 ongoing investigations – 3 from NL, 2 from NS, and 1 from BC
- 2 reports have recently been released (from other regions)
  - March 2020, Charlene A – highlights the importance of masters, authorized representatives and crew to be informed of regulatory changes and guidance documents that apply.
  - June 2020, Unnamed Vessel – highlights the importance of PFD use, carriage of an EPRIB, and owner’s roles and responsibilities, and taking ownership of safety.
- In 2019 there were 11 fatalities across all regions. In 2020, there have been 9 fatalities, including 3 in BC.

### **Regional Update**

- March 2017, Miss Cory – Class 3 Investigation
- April 2018 – Western Commander – Class 4 Investigation
- June 2018 – C22761BC – Data Collection Only
- Oct 2019 – Divercity – WorkSafeBC investigating
- Sept 2019 – Sharron Lynn – WorkSafeBC investigating
- March 2020 – Ocean Explorer – Marine Safety Information Letter and WorkSafeBC investigating
  - Highlights the importance of wearing PFDs
  - 3 people on board reported a crew member fell overboard. No one saw the crew member fall overboard. Crew member was not wearing a PFD.
  - 10 NM of Cape St. James
  - CCG SAR team spotted the crew member and the vessel recovered the body
- August 2020 – Arctic Fox II – Class 3 Investigation (Ongoing)
  - 3 people on board reported taking on water
  - 80 NM off Vancouver Island, the crew abandoned the vessel
  - USGC and CCG initiated SAR operations
  - 3 crew abandoned the vessel wearing partially donned immersion suits.
  - 1 survivor was located in the liferaft and 2 bodies were recovered
  - 2 greenhorn deckhands were on board including the master
  - Investigation is ongoing



A member of the group asked if there were any requirements for minimum training for fishing. Glenn replied that there is a requirement for new fishermen to take their Marine Emergency Duties training. However, there is an exemption that fishers do not have to take it until they are on a boat for 6 months.

WorkSafeBC clarified that there are clear regulations for training crew before they begin working:

*3.23 Young or new worker orientation and training*

*(1) An employer must ensure that before a young or new worker begins work in a workplace, the young or new worker is given health and safety orientation and training specific to that young or new worker's workplace.*

Another member of the group asked if there were other means to broadcast the investigation reports in other formats – more specifically by means of video productions such as the Canadian program called “Disasters at Sea” which has featured other case study reports. Many fisherman will not read a lengthy 30-40 page report.

Glenn replied that there is a whole communications team in Ottawa that are looking into other formats like a podcast, blog, etc. Likely a possibility and TSB is looking at alternative methods.

## **MAUS Fire Suppression Technology & Electrical Fire Protection Equipment – Alex Stewart, President Planet Halo Security**

Alex Stuart, President at Planet Halo Security, provided a presentation on MAUS Fire Suppression Technology and Electrical Fire Protection Equipment. To view the different product offerings and videos on how they work, visit the following links:

### **Maus Fire Website**

[www.mausfire.com](http://www.mausfire.com)

<https://mausfire.com/maus-fire-video>

### **Maus Demo “Maus Klein” Portable Fire Suppression**

<https://youtu.be/60f2YthFiCk>

### **Maus Stixx “Electrical Panels”**

<https://youtu.be/ZkBbL2smkhM>

### **Maus for Boats “EGO”**

<https://youtu.be/IDHAdnWcZ2c>

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

Ryan Ford will coordinate the next Advisory Meeting likely in February 2021.