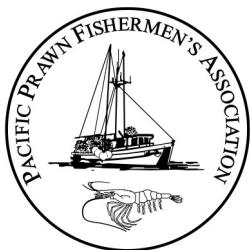


PRAWN NEWSLETTER



From the PACIFIC PRAWN FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

April 2016

Issue 3

2016 Season Start 12 noon—Thursday May 12th

Another exciting prawn season is on the horizon. Inside this issue of the PPFA Newsletter, you'll find reminders and instructions for license requirements, an overview of changes to the IFMP, and updates on critical issues such as the Ahousaht Case and Sponge Reef Closure Areas.

In April the PPFA will be represented at the B.C. Government Caucus Reception in Victoria, and in May the False Creek Prawn Festival is celebrating its 10th anniversary, with a spectacular weekend planned for the occasion. The new PPFA website is up and running, with frequent updates for news releases, employment connections, and fishery information.

We hope that this issue of the PPFA Prawn Newsletter provides the information you need to be well-informed ahead of the commercial season. Contact a Board Director, Caucus Rep, or one of your administrative team for additional information or assistance.

'We wish you a safe and bountiful 2016 prawn season!'

NEW REGULATIONS WITHIN THE 2016 IFMP

- Nine Glass Sponge Reefs are CLOSED to commercial, recreational, and FSC bottom-contact fishing.
- Holding cages hung on separate buoys must be marked with the word "**CAGE**", in addition to **vessel name** and **VRN**.
- Solid-sided traps are not permitted.
- For each VMS unit installation, replacement, transfer, or resumption, a completed DFO National Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Form (www.nfl.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/folios/00380/docs/vms_form_ssn-eng.pdf) must be submitted not less than two business days before commencing fishing operations.



Prawn Vessels tied at port.

In This Issue

- Changes to the IFMP
- PPFA to attend BC Government Caucus Reception
- Ahousaht court proceedings
- New PPFA Website
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- Sponge Reef Closures
- Rockfish Conservation Areas
- Respecting the Rules
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- Classifieds
- Board, Caucus & Admin Contact Info

Newsletter Distribution

The Pre-Season PPFA Newsletter is sent to all license holders, in combination with the Pre-Season Mail-out. Newsletters issued at other times during the year are sent to PPFA members only. 'Not a member yet? ~ Contact your administrative team to join.'

New Website for the PPFA

'Join us online at www.ppfa.ca for industry resources, news, links to press releases, classifieds, and more... The PPFA website defines what the Association is and how it works for the commercial prawn fleet, as well as offers license holders a way to stay informed and on top of the issues facing our fishery. News and information is updated frequently, and the resources section will continue to expand.'

The website is new and growing in content and scope...if you have suggestions for how this site could serve our membership and the general public, please contact your administrative team.

Update On... The Ahousaht Case

The Court granted the PPFA (and others) intervenor status in the trial in November of 2015. Subsequently, considerable effort has been expended in the preparations of key documents and our lay witness, Mr. Bob Alford. All of the affidavits were challenged by the plaintiff's counsel as being not consistent with the judge's directions and some minor deletions were made. Most recently, in March, Mr. Alford was cross-examined by the Plaintiff's counsel. A schedule for closing argument is yet to be worked out but PPFA will have the opportunity to advance both written and oral argument. Once the trial is complete, it is expected that the Judge may take a year, or longer to issue a decision. No decisions have been made with respect to any issue within the scope of the trial. Further information can be obtained from the PPFA office.



Missing from Previous Newsletter!

Our apologies to Chef Ryan Bissell...While the caption acknowledging his enormous role in the False Creek Prawn Fest printed in the last Newsletter's showcase of the event, the portrait did not. 'Better late than never!'

As Director of the Chef's Table Society and Chairman of the Spot Prawn Festival, Ryan will be front and centre for the production of this year's False Creek Spot Prawn Fest. The Festival celebrates its 10th Anniversary this May, with exciting plans for the biggest and best Fest yet!

-Sunday May 15th is Prawn Fest!-

..REMINDERS...

- ⇒ NOLS deadline for stacking: April 28th
- ⇒ You must haul out prior to fishing. Vessel masters are reminded of the requirement to haul out prior to commencement of fishing. Vessel masters will not be required to haul every 4 weeks thereafter or to change area.
- ⇒ LogBooks are due back 28 days after the end of each month in which fishing occurs.
- ⇒ Is your VRN visible to aerial patrols? C&P reminds vessel masters to ensure that gear or stowage does not interfere with visibility of your rooftop VRN display.

Prawn Advisory Board

The Sub-Committee which was struck to draft a new Terms of Reference for the Prawn Advisory Board met by conference call and in-person several times over the Winter. The document was meticulously written, edited, debated, and resolved by the Sub-committee, consisting of reps from PPFA, SFAB, First Nations, and DFO. The Draft Terms of Reference has subsequently been provided to DFO for review, input and implementation.

NEXT PRAWN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING:

Observers are welcomed and encouraged at PAB meetings. Often the commercial fleet is under-represented in the observer section of the room. Your presence is noticed, important, and appreciated.

September 2016 (Date, time and location tba)

Wild BC Seafood Reception for BC Government Caucus

Director John Jenkins and Executive Director Steven Richards will attend this April 12th event in Victoria on behalf of the PPFA and PIC. The PPFA and several other fisheries are hosting this event at which the Honourable Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture will say a few words of introduction as Chef Ned Bell of the Four Seasons, Vancouver, prepares some tasty wild seafood hors d'oeuvres. This format will provide a sociable and unique opportunity to meet BC MLAs and discuss matters of importance to our industry.

Licensing Information

- An email with the Application for re-allocation of trap limits for 2016 will be sent to the email address on record to all licence holders. Deadline date for acceptance of applications will be specified at that time. It is anticipated that the email will be sent out the in the first week of April.
- Condition of the previous year's licence, such as submission and approval of logbooks must be met. To check for 2015 Shellfish clearance contact the Shelfish Data Unit **(250) 756-7306**
- Licence Holders will need User ID and Password to access their NOLS account. If you have forgotten your User ID, client support is available via toll free telephone **1-877-535-7307** (ask for the Pacific

Region), or e-mail fishing-peche@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

- For 2016, application for transfer of a trap allocation must be submitted using the National Online Licensing System **by April 28, 2016**, without exception. Applications submitted after April 28, 2016 will not be accepted.
- It is expected that 2016 Prawn by Trap Licence issuance will commence the first week of May. Upon commencement of licence issuance licence renewal fee will be uploaded to the licence holders NOLS account. A Fishery Notice will be posted as well.
- Please visit the Pacific Region Licensing website and subscribe to fishery notices for updates on the National Online Licensing System and licensing services: <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/licence-permis/index-eng.html>.

10th Anniversary of the False Creek Spot Prawn Festival

As a proud annual sponsor of the Chef's Table Spot Prawn Fest, the PPFA is looking forward to another fantastic event this May. In celebration of the Festival's 10th Anniversary, this year's Prawn Fest is set to be the biggest event yet. A Gala Dinner is to be held on Friday May 13th, with the Festival's main event on Sunday the 15th. Chef Robert Clarke, owner of 'the Fish Counter' and founder of the spot prawn festival, is the Co-chair of the Spot Prawn Festival this year.

The PPFA will have a strong visual presence at both the Gala Dinner and the Sunday Festival, promoting the sustainability and eco-conscious nature of our fishery. Tickets for Sunday's prawn boil lunch go on sale on or about April 1st; 'check the Chef's Table Society website for Festival news and info. www.chefstablesociety.com

For information about how to start a Prawn Fest in your community, contact the PPFA Admin Office...

ppfa@shaw.ca



Sue Alexander at the 2015 Prawn Fest



Prawns for sale at False Creek Fishermen's Wharf

Update On... Glass Sponge Reef Protection Areas

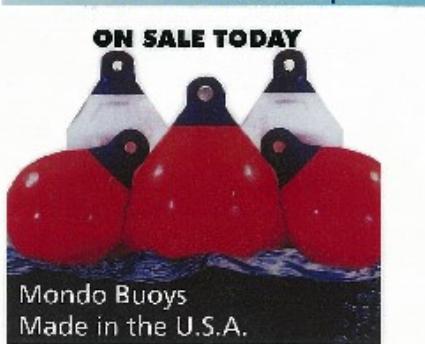
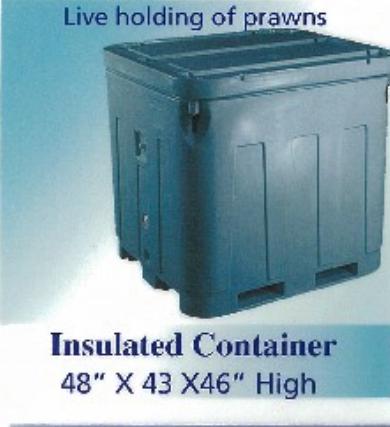
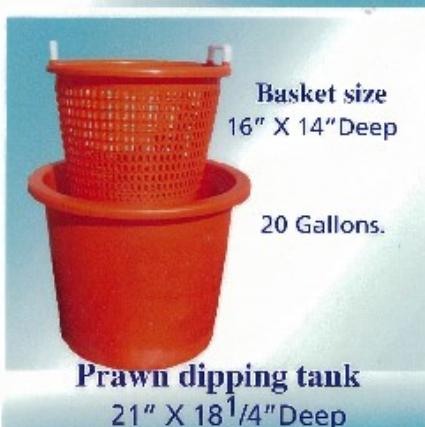
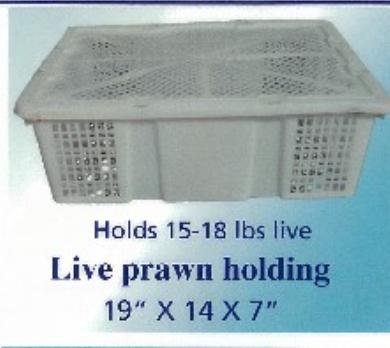
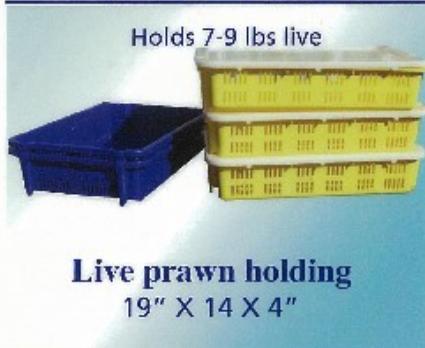
During the 2015 fishing season, nine sponge reef protection areas were elevated from voluntary avoidance, to complete closure to bottom-contact fisheries. These nine areas remain officially closed to bottom-contact commercial and recreational fisheries. This includes glass sponge reefs off Parksville (Subareas 14-2 and 14-3), Entrance Island (Subarea 17-11), Passage Island (Subareas 28-2 and 29-3) and Defence Islands (Subarea 28-4) in Howe Sound, Galiano and the outer Gulf Islands (Subareas 18-1 and 29-4), Foreslope Hills (Subarea 29-3), and Achilles (Subarea 14-6), McCall (Subarea 29-2) and Halibut (Subarea 29-2) Banks (Sections 3.3 and 8.8).

PPFA had advocated industry's position that closures should not be announced during the commercial fishing season, that closed areas have reasonable buffer zones, and that closures should be applicable to all sectors.

The sponge reef protection areas have subsequently been clarified as no bottom-contact fishing zones for FSC fishing efforts, effective April 1st of this year. As per the 2016 IFMP, buffer zones have been reduced to 150m (2015 buffer zones were 200m).

Four sponge reef ecosystems in Hecate Strait (in Subareas 105-2, 106-1, 106-2, 107-1, and 107-2) and Queen Charlotte Sound (in Area 110) are being considered for establishment of a Marine Protected Area under the Oceans Act. Designation may be anticipated in 2016 and changes may be announced in-season. (Section 3.3.30).

PRAWN PRODUCTS



TRI-CORE PLASTICS CONTAINERS LTD- 1-800 214-3542
In stock at Richmond B.C. <http://www.plasticfishcontainers.com>

RESPECTING THE RULES....

The PPFA and its members must demonstrate professionalism in all that we do. Double-hauling, retention of undersize prawns, inaccurate logbook entries, and dummy buoys compromise the strength of our fishery. Non-compliance with license regulations jeopardizes our credibility in terms of our advocacy efforts.

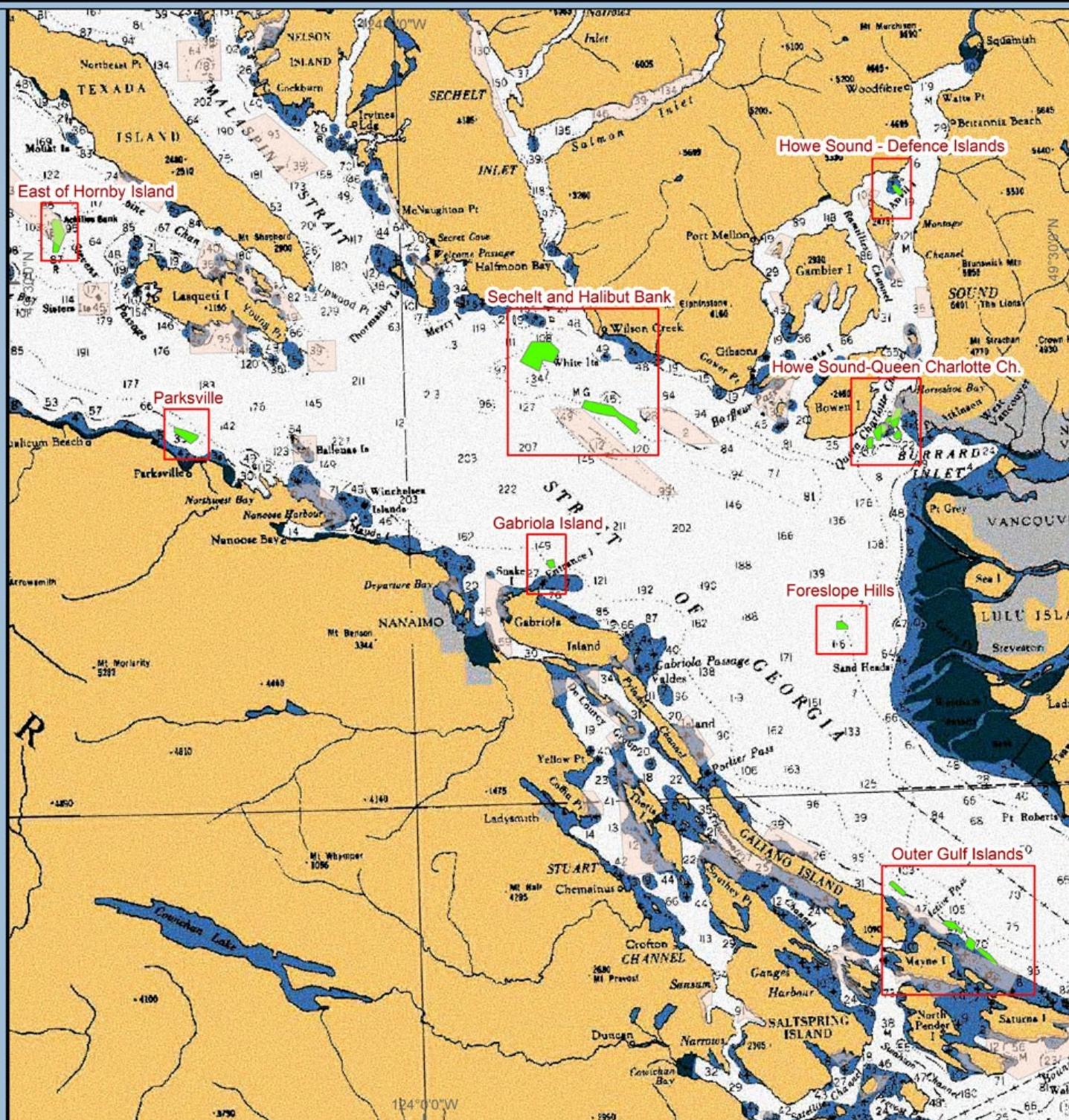
The danger is that these 'shortcuts' come back to haunt us. Such may be the case with Sponge Reefs and RCAs. If we do not accurately record where we fish or log accurate bycatch information, it is difficult to argue persuasively against closures and restrictions. The use of technology such as VMS and eLOG will reduce certain inaccuracies but it is nevertheless an important issue that needs to be placed squarely in front of our membership.

Several calls and emails have been received recently from prawn fishers to the PPFA regarding widespread and perhaps growing use of dummy buoys. The PPFA board felt it necessary to deal head-on with the issue, requesting of DFO to expand restrictions and enforcement for use and marking of buoys.

Our organization is confronted by a multitude of external threats. Additional quantities of time, effort and expense is required to address the matters of *internal* compliance.

~A viable and successful fishery depends on the individual fisherman's respect for the rules.

Strait Of Georgia Sponge Reef Closures



Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pêches et Océans Canada



SOG SPONGE REEF CLOSURES

ROCKFISH CONSERVATION AREAS

0 5 10 20 Kilometers

Source Information:
Sponge Reefs - DFO Fisheries Management, Pacific Region
Basemap - DFO - CHS

Map projection - BC Albers
Production date - June, 2015

Disclaimer:

For visual reference only and not to be used for navigation or legal closure boundaries. For official closure boundaries please refer to Pacific Region Fishery Notice or Website: http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/protection/sponge_reef-recif_eponge-eng.html

-Classifieds-

32' W license \$910,000 (financing may be available.)
(604) 483-1330

41' 2" W license \$1,133,00 with option to purchase vessel.
Will consider trade for small W license & cash or halibut quota.
(604) 483-1330

37' 4" W license \$1,040,000 with option to purchase vessel.
(604) 414-0246

7.8 L 320 hp Ford Marine Engine by Industrial Engines Ltd., Vancouver
1:5/1, 506-1A Twin Disc Transmission with trolling valve,
new spare raw water heat exchangers and other parts,
2 station MMC controls, 7K obo
(604) 414-8693

-135 double ring prawn traps, 31" bottom, 316 stainless steel.
Used one year. **\$10,800**
-New aluminum prawn sorter. **\$5,800.**
-Mathers MicroCommander Electric Controls. 12 volt. Two sets of
controls. Used. **\$1,500**
(604) 223-0446

200 stainless steel prawn traps 28", 30", 32" Used.
Variable type and wear. **\$30-\$50/ea** (250) 857-4606

—*Classified ad placement is free to PPFA Members*—
Contact Emily to list (250) 857-4606

Update on... Rockfish Conservation Areas

RCAs remain accessible to commercial prawn harvesting at this time. While it is not clear whether RCAs are being considered for closure to commercial, recreational and FSC access in the future, PPFA continues to pro-actively develop strategies to avoid and or minimize potential impacts to the commercial industry.

REMINDER for Communal
Commercial Licences to
Designate All Crew

Communal commercial licence holders, vessel masters and crew are reminded that every person working on a vessel that is fishing under authority of a Communal Commercial License must be designated by the First Nation that holds the licence. The designation must be made in writing and include the person's name and reference the Communal Commercial License. First Nations licence holders interested in obtaining an example template to use to designate their fish harvesters may contact a DFO Resource Manager. (see *Contacts in Section 14 of the IFMP for Prawn & Shrimp by Trap*).

1-800-465-4336

**Observe, Record,
and Report**

C&P officers rely on accurate and current information with which to pursue cases of fishery violations. Calls to the O.R.R. line result in lead information being sent immediately via BlackBerry to all officers in the area of report. Information regarding excess of daily limit, fishing in closed areas, illegal fishing gear, damage to fish habitat, and pollution are examples of offences to report.

Information regarding illegal sales of prawns, and retention of illegal prawns, should be reported via the O.R.R. Line.

CAMPBELL RIVER'S
STINKBAIT
&
LURE DIP

YOU'RE GONNA NEED A BIGGER BOAT!

CRSTINKS.ca

DIRECTIONS FOR USE: FRESH BAIT - DIP OR DOUSE BAIT
PRAWNING - ADD TO PELLETS THE NIGHT BEFORE
LURES - SALT OR FRESH WATER - DIP OR DOUSE LURE

Manufactured in Campbell River, BC, Canada

For all Inquires and Comments please email: INQUIRIES@CRSTINKS.CA

Wear Your PFD Challenge!

2016 Prawn Fishery

Fish Safe Advisors have been working hard with fishermen to wear their PFDs –this effort led to a huge increase of herring fishermen wearing their PFDs in 2016.



Herring Fishermen and Fish Safe are now challenging Prawn Fishermen to wear their PFDs too.

Wear your PFD Challenge – how to participate:

Submit a photo of you and/or your crew wearing PFDs during the upcoming 2016 Prawn season to enter to win your choice of a Fish Safe Ditch Kit (*seen in picture to the right during the 2016 Herring season*), or a \$100.00 visa gift card!

*Extra prize will be added for every 4 entries we receive. Draw at season's end.

You can send us the picture by email to fishsafe@fishsafebc.com, or send a Facebook message to the [Fish Safe BC page](#).



Safest Catch Program

The Safest Catch prepares you for emergencies that could arise while working at sea. You work with one of our fishermen Safest Catch Advisors to make a plan for an emergency, put that plan in to action, and have the option to make a procedures manual. The Safest Catch Advisor will bring along examples of PFDs that you can wear while working on deck. Bonus: It can also give you a Transport Canada Marine Emergency Duties A3 (MED A3) certificate, for free.

Stability

Vessel stability continues to be an issue. Knowing your vessel's stability limits and understanding where the stability threats are, and the effect they can have on your vessel, are essential to a fisherman's knowledge. The Fish Safe Stability Education Course is a four day course designed to help fishermen understand their vessel's stability limits.

Two vessels have capsized with fatalities in the last two years. Each vessel had a single crew member survive. The survivor in both cases was wearing a floatation device – one managed to swim to shore, the other made it to a life raft. Please, wear your PFD – it could save your life.

If you have any questions about PFDs, training or any other safety related questions please call Fish Safe @ 604-261-9700, or head over to our website www.fishsafebc.com.

Harold Wulff, Safest Catch Advisor
Fish Safe BC



Upcoming Courses:

Stability Course (4 Day): Richmond – April 12th-15th, 2016

Safe on the Wheel Course (4 Day with SVOP cert): Richmond – April 5th-8th, 2016

ROC-M Course (1 Day) Richmond – April 19th, 2016

Safest Catch Vessel Visit on your boat – call in to book and we will pick a day with you.

How to register for a course:

- 1) Through our website: www.fishsafebc.com
- 2) Call in to our office: (604) 261-9700

The PPFA wants to hear from you!

**Contact a Board Member, Caucus Representative,
or your administrative staff**

Your insights, questions, and concerns are important to the people who are tasked with protecting and improving your fishery. Make sure to connect with a director, representative, or administrative officer with your point of view. We are here to answer your questions, and to be the collective voice of your industry.

2016 Is An Election Year for PPFA Board Directors

Consistent with the PPFA bylaws, a new board of directors will be elected at the 2016 AGM. If you'd like to be a part of the PPFA board, consider putting your name in.

...Contact your PPFA Admin Staff for further information...

Contact Us

Stew Richards

PPFA Executive Director

(604) 506-1721

ppfa@shaw.ca

PRAWN INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OBJECTIVES

- 1. TO INCREASE LONG-TERM STABILITY AND SECURITY OF ACCESS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING OPPORTUNITY TO THE B.C. PRAWN RESOURCE**
- 2. TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS FAIR AND EQUITABLE ACCESS AND RULES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE COMMERCIAL PRAWN FISHERY**
- 3. TO COMMUNICATE AND WORK WITH GOVERNMENT AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN A PROFESSIONAL AND RESPECTFUL AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, A COOPERATIVE MANNER FOR THE SHORT AND LONG TERM BENEFIT OF THE PRAWN RESOURCE AND COMMERCIAL PRAWN FISHERY.**
- 4. TO SUPPORT IMPORTANT MONITORING, MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS**
- 5. TO ENSURE EQUITABLE, EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE USE OF HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR IMPORTANT RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS SHARED BY COMMERCIAL PRAWN LICENCE HOLDERS**
- 6. TO MINIMIZE THE COST OF IMPORTANT RESEARCH AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND ENSURE THEY AND THE COSTS OF CONSERVATION ARE EQUITABLY SHARED BY ALL COMMERCIAL PRAWN LICENCE HOLDERS, AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, ALL USER GROUPS.**
- 7. TO DEFEND THE COMMERCIAL PRAWN FISHERY AGAINST UNWARRENTED ATTACKS FROM OTHER INTERESTS**
- 8. TO DEMONSTRATE TO GOVERNMENT, OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, CONSUMERS AND THE PUBLIC THE RESPONSIBLE NATURE IN WHICH THE PRAWN FISHERY IS MANAGED AND FISHED**
- 9. TO PLACE INDUSTRY IN A POSITION TO RESPOND TO GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES (E.G., PROTECTED AREA STRATEGIES)**
- 10. TO PROVIDE AND SPEND THE NECESSARY FUNDS WITHIN BUDGET TO CARRY OUT THE COMANAGEMENT DUTIES REQUIRED BY THE PPFA ON BEHALF OF THE FLEET TO OPERATE A SUCCESSFUL COMMERCIAL FISHING SOCIETY DEDICATED TO THE LIVELIHOODS OF COMMERCIAL PRAWN LICENCE HOLDERS**
- 11. TO INCREASE COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS WITHIN THE INDUSTRY OF ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES AND PRAWN ISSUES**
- 12. TO PROMOTE AND INCREASE MEMBERSHIP IN PPFA**
- 13. TO PROMOTE VESSEL SAFETY AND SAFE FISHING PRACTICES**



Prawn Advisory Board

(PAB) Representatives

North Island Prawn Association

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thomasalvinorr@hotmail.com

Coastal Prawn Group

Brent Adams (250) 923-1026
bdfishing2009@hotmail.com