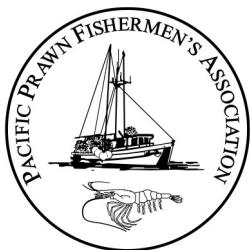


# PRAWN NEWSLETTER



From the PACIFIC PRAWN FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

October 2016

Issue 4

## 2016 PPFA AGM

Saturday November 5th, 11:30am—4:30pm

Nanaimo Best Western Dorchester

The 2016 Prawn Season faced a sizeable challenge ahead of opening day, with frozen exports to China being refused in advance due to an additive in the preservative widely used in the freezing process. The PPFA and B.C. Seafood Alliance worked quickly and directly with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and China's regulatory agencies to clarify and resolve the matter, while disruption and uncertainty for the frozen market was an unwelcome added stress at season start. The current resolve for this issue is detailed on page 3. Live prawns took the spotlight once again at the Prawn Fest in False Creek, this time around being the 10th Anniversary for the widely attended and hugely successful event. Page 4 showcases the Festival with photos of the day and its highlights.

Steven Richards and Emily Orr represented the PPFA at the much-anticipated B.C. Wild Seafood Reception in Victoria in April, where Minister of Agriculture Norm Letnick was the guest of honor. Sharing main stage were delectably prepared wild seafood hors d'oeuvres promoting the variety and sustainability of B.C.'s fishing industry. Photos of the Wild Seafood Reception accompany the article on page 2.



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### Membership Profile Maintenance

If you have recently moved, have a new phone number, email address, or have acquired an additional W license, please contact Emily to update your PPFA Membership Profile.

# PPFA at the B.C. WILD SEAFOOD RECEPTION

April 12th marked a sparkling occasion for the B.C seafood industry, as Liberal MLAs and the Honorable Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture, were treated to a magnificent display of the value of our fishing industries. Chris Sporer and Christina Burridge of the B.C. Seafood Alliance welcomed the attendees, which included representation of more than a dozen British Columbia wild seafood associations. The Pacific Prawn Fishermen's Association was represented by Steven Richards and Emily Orr, in the excellent company of reps from the B.C. Salmon Marketing Council, Pacific Halibut Management Association, Underwater Harvesters Association, Canadian Albacore Tuna, Wild Canadian Sablefish, Deep Sea Trawlers Association, and Seafood Producers Association of British Columbia to name a few.

Gathered at the Steamship Bar and Grill on Victoria's Inner Harbour, guests were treated to delectable offerings of hors d'oerves including Olive Oil Confit BC Sockeye Salmon with Sweet Caponata, Smoked BC Sablefish with Pickled Beets and Dill Pesto, and BC Halibut Fritters with Green Curry Aioli.

Chris Sporer and Christina Burridge shared a presentation highlighting the economic importance and value that B.C. commercial fisheries provide, delivering a clear message of strength and growth for our highly regarded place in the global seafood market.

As challenges to commercial fishing access arise and build momentum, networking across fishing industries becomes imperative. The Wild Seafood Reception proved to be an excellent opportunity for the PPFA to build upon relationships with representatives from the other attending Associations, as well as local Liberal MLAs who represent fishing communities. The Reception was a bright success for all who took part, with terrific gains for the B.C. Seafood Industry.



Minister Letnick, Christina Burridge, Emily Orr



Wild catch on display



Attendees of the B.C. Wild Seafood Reception



Christina Burridge of B.C. Seafood Alliance addresses the evening's guests

# Export of Frozen Prawns to China: Back on Track

China is currently the top destination for frozen B.C. spot prawns, with demand growing. Worth just under \$20 million last year in export value, the Chinese market for B.C. prawns has become a large piece of our fishery's economics.

For frozen export, prawns are dipped in a preservative prior to being frozen, which is a solution of sodium metabisulfite. Five weeks ahead of the 2016 prawn season, it was learned that China did not include metabisulfite in its current list of accepted additives. Very little information was available as to why the preservative was no longer listed as accepted, and it became clear in early stages that resolving the matter between Canada and China's respective administrations would not be possible in time for the commercial season start. In addition, this was not enough lead time to have an alternative preservative approved for 2016.

The PPFA, B.C. Seafood Alliance, and B.C. Seafood Producers worked quickly to engage CFIA Ottawa, Global Affairs Canada, and Agriculture Canada's Market Access Secretariat in seeking resolution for this issue. The shake-up was bad news for prediction of prawn prices, and left many freezer-boats puzzled about how to approach the fast-coming season.

Many frozen prawn producers carried on with the previously accepted preservative, anticipating that the ban on sodium metabisulfite was an administrative error, and as such would be resolved accordingly.

In mid-August, the PPFA was informed that China has agreed to allow sodium metabisulfite for import products. Official commitment from CFIA to issue the required Health Certificates for export inclusive of this preservative has not yet been given, however it is expected in the short term.



## Ahousaht Update

The trial is nearing completion. As intervenors, our final arguments have been completed. During the week of October 3, the Crown was presenting its closing arguments and it is expected that the trial should be complete sometime in mid October. It is also expected that it will take some months before the Judge will issue the written decision. Further updates will be provided when available.

**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.

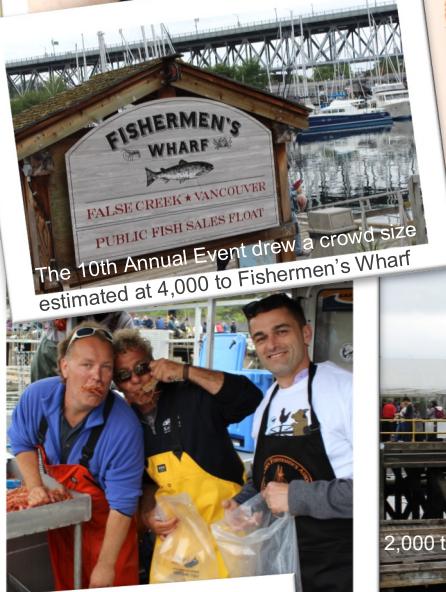
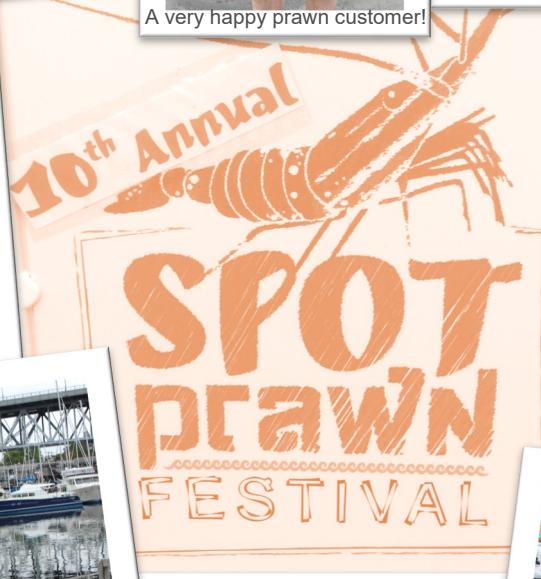
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### Attention JouBeh iTrac II VMS Owners

Joubeh Technologies is offering a one-time free USB upgrade to all current iTrac II owners. This upgrade is available only for 2016 and it is highly recommend that you take advantage of this offer to ensure that your VMS unit continues to function reliably at a high level of performance well into the future. To participate in this offer please send both your iTrac II wheelhouse and antennae boxes (with attached cables) along with your name, return address and contact phone number to J.O. Thomas and Associates at the address below as soon as possible so that your upgraded unit can be returned to you in plenty of time before next year's fishery.

**J. O. Thomas and Associates Ltd.**  
**Attn: IT Department**  
1370 Kootenay Street  
Vancouver, B. C.  
V5K 4R1

# False Creek Prawn Fest's 10th Anniversary



# Report of the September 29th PAB Meeting

The Prawn Advisory Board met for the Post-Season Review meeting in Nanaimo September 29th. The Draft Terms of Reference for the PAB was reviewed and discussed, while approval and adoption has not yet occurred.

C&P's Mya Cormie presented the 2016 Compliance Review, which touched broadly on the types of violations encountered, and the number of prawn-dedicated patrols deployed. 135 patrols included prawn fishery activity, whereas 117 were dedicated prawn-related patrols. 75 inspections of restaurants, retail locations and plants have occurred since January. It was reminded that timely information is useful and encouraged, while it is difficult to address reports of violations which occurred in the past. The new mid-shore patrol vessels have greatly expanded C&P's capacity to investigate and haul illegal fishing gear, and increased patrol effectiveness with speed and ease of range.



Doug Tallman of J.O. Thomas & Associates presented the 2016 Prawn Fishery Management Program Review, with provision of statistics related to spawner indexing, vessel and gear monitoring, hauls, logbooks, and vessel inspections. A total of 390 monitoring days were expended, 33% North of Cape Caution and 67% south of Cape Caution, resulting in 1,668 strings indexed. At-sea vessel and logbook inspections were carried out on 181 vessels in-season, covering 86% of the active fleet. 707,000 vessel position reports were received via VMS, which greatly assisted the direction of at-sea observers for spawner index sampling.

DFO's Ken Fong provided the 2016 Science/Stock Assessment review, which included closure summaries for both the Commercial and Recreational fisheries. *These closure summaries, as well as Commercial Landings Statistics and tables showing concentration of Recreational Fishing, are available by request; please contact Emily Orr by email to arrange for receipt of materials.*

A Risk Assessment Program was introduced by DFO's Laurie Convey, and briefly described with an accompanying hand-out. Fisheries were reviewed and prioritized for engagement in this program. Recreational and First Nations Prawn Fisheries were selected for Risk Assessment, with respect to catch monitoring, bycatch incidents, and impacts to targeted and non-targeted species. As the Commercial Fishery is stringently monitored and highly accountable for catch data, vessel and gear inspections, and effort controls, it was not deemed necessary for assessment.

 Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Pêches et Océans Canada

## 2016 Commercial Prawn Fishery

### Violations Encountered

- Registration/Licence (no FRC, fail to produce designation letter/vessel licence)
- VMS not transmitting
- Fish during closed Time/Area
- Species/Size Limit
- Reporting (logbooks)
- Illegal Buy/Sell/Possess
- Gear- Illegal/Used Illegally (# of traps, no rot cord)
- Fail to return incidental caught fish to water

### DFO—PPFA/PIC Bilateral Meeting

On October 6th, the PPFA and PIC met with DFO at the Southcoast Office in Nanaimo for examination of the operational status of the Commercial Prawn Fishery.

The discussion was focused on the management tools currently utilized, and how the application of the management program could be improved upon. The meeting was a productive and valuable opportunity for industry to work constructively with DFO on operational issues. The PPFA and PIC expect to engage more frequently with DFO in this bilateral format, as the PAB has a reduced capacity for this type of exchange.

## *Fish Safe Launches a New Incentive to Increase PFD Use*

Whether it's in BC or in Nova Scotia, a universal truth exists. Across Canada, loss of life while fishing affects loved ones left behind the very most.

It's a fact well illustrated by the friends and families of the Miss Ally crew lost in 2013 in Nova Scotia. If you haven't watched the brief video about the tragedy and the impact upon them, I encourage you to do so – here's the link (see the last video at the bottom of the web page):

<http://www.workplacesafetystrategy.ca/Home/Fishing-Safety>

Given the impact fishing accidents have upon families and communities, it naturally follows that families and friends play a major role influencing fishermen and the decisions they make about safety when working. Wives, children, husbands, parents – all can play a role encouraging their loved ones to work safely while out there fishing.

***"Wear your PFD dear." "Wear your PFD daddy – I love you."***

Such are the common refrains throughout BC as fishermen leave to fish. And for good reason. Our Transportation Safety Board (TSB) has beat that message like a drum for years because the facts don't lie - since 2004 the lack of a PFD usage has been present in 44% of fishing-related fatalities in British Columbia. Behind stability related incidents, man overboard incidents are the number one killer of commercial fishermen.

***"But there will always be fatalities at sea – it's the nature of the sea and fishing will always be dangerous. You can't change that."***

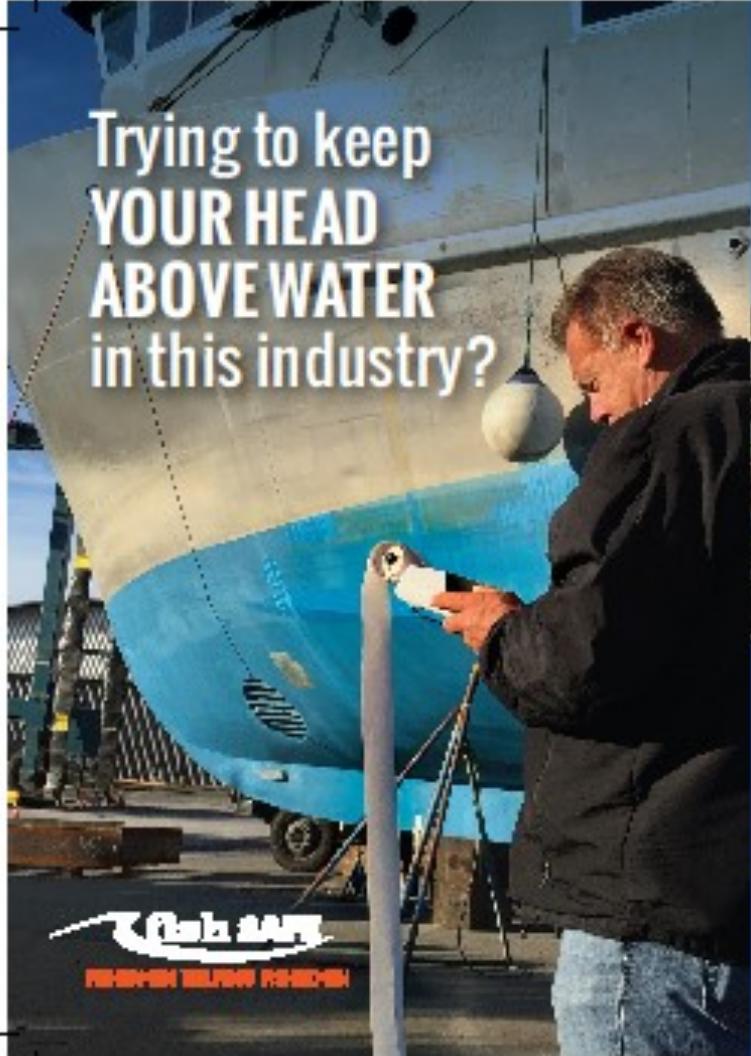
Such is the push back from fishermen at times. And it's true, danger while fishing will always be there. But devastating injuries and fatalities do not have to be.

Just ask fishermen in Alaska. Back in the 70's and 80's the Alaskan fishery would routinely lose an average of forty fishermen *each year*. Misery and outrage borne of loss demanded change – and change has come, for at the time of this writing there have been ZERO vessel related (i.e. sinking, capsizing, man overboard or fire) fishing fatalities in Alaska during the past two years. This is an accomplishment worthy of the highest recognition.

PFDs, as is the case with any piece of safety equipment, are no silver bullet. That's why Fish Safe for well over a decade has been the tip of the spear in BC providing commercial fishermen with practical *education* that gives fishermen the knowledge and tools to take ownership of their personal safety.

Safety education and safety equipment like PFDs are a winning combination and it's for this reason that beginning in October, Fish Safe will be providing BC commercial fishermen with a \$50 voucher for the purchase of a PFD when they participate in our free one-day Safest Catch workshop (see our ad below for details).

At the end of the day, the worst things about commercial fishing can be solved by the best things about commercial fishermen and their families. Determination, hard work and perseverance – these are the qualities that will sustain the momentum for creating a safer industry for all.



Trying to keep  
YOUR HEAD  
ABOVE WATER  
in this industry?

SO ARE WE...

SAVE  
**\$50**  
OFF A PFD\*



Making it commercial fishing has never been easy, but sacrificing safety while working should NEVER have to be part of the deal.

At Fish Safe, we believe practical safety education goes hand-in-hand with essential safety gear – like PFDs. After all, PFDs that you can now actually **work comfortably** in do exist! That's why, for a limited time, BC commercial fishermen will receive a \$50 voucher towards the purchase of a PFD when they complete our FREE 1 day Safeest Catch workshop.

It's a no-brainer!

\*Get the details and register today at [www.fishsafebc.com/my-PFD-voucher](http://www.fishsafebc.com/my-PFD-voucher)

## T.C. Introducing New Regulations Regarding Life Rafts

Transport Canada's new regulations for small fishing vessels include changes to life raft requirements, with a planned implementation of 2017.

Within the new regulations are carriage requirements including *life rafts* and other life-saving appliances.

**Sec. 3.29 (1), item 3,** pertains to vessels on a Near coastal voyage, class 2 (a voyage, other than a Sheltered Waters Voyage, during which the vessel is always within 25 nautical miles from shore), and vessels More than 12m (39.37 feet) - the regulation stipulates:

- (a) one or more life rafts, or a combination of life rafts and recovery boats, with a total capacity that is sufficient to carry the number of persons on board;
- (b) an EPIRB, unless the vessel is carrying on board an EPIRB required by the Ship Station (Radio) Regulations, 1999; and
- (c) if the water temperature is less than 15°C, an immersion suit or an anti-exposure work suit of an appropriate size for each person on board

## For Sale

CFV 'Niblet' —28.2'Lifetimer Aluminum Prawn Boat. 35'overall length w stern extension. Reliable and fuel efficient 4BD1 Isuzu diesel engine. Current cruising speed of 7 knots. Hull built for high speed; 'could be repowered. Aluminum roof extends over main deck. Cabin w 2 bunks, galley, and head. Sturdy and practical vessel custom built for prawn fishing.. **\$65,000**

**(250) 857-4608**

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-135 double ring prawn traps, 31" bottom, 316 stainless steel. Used one year. **\$10,800.**

-266 used prawn traps, 31' bottom, 316 stainless steel. **\$42 each.**

-New aluminum hydraulic prawn sorter. **\$5,800.**

-Mathers MicroCommander Electric Controls. 12 volt. Two sets of controls. Used. **\$1,500.**

-Walter Keel Cooler, 6' long, 4 pipes at 1.5" OD, 2" ID thru hulls. Used 1 year. **\$1,700.**

**(604) 223-0446**

# 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 November 5th 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

### Steven Richards

PPFA Executive Director

(604) 506-1721

ppfa@shaw.ca

### Emily Orr

PPFA Office Administrator

(250) 857-4606

offishal\_business@hotmail.com

## 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.



### PPFA Board of Directors

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