

on the water



The Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board Newsletter

September 2016

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Message From the Executive Director



Mark Dolomount has been Executive Director of the PFHCB since 2005. Mark and the other PFHCB staff members are always available to respond to your questions or concerns.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the PFHCB, I'd like to introduce the first edition our new electronic newsletter, *On The Water*. This new electronic format replaces our previous "hard copy" newsletter, which was discontinued a number of years ago mainly due to the high costs of printing, publication and distribution by mail.

In today's world of growing electronic communications and information transfer, the PFHCB is planning to take full advantage of the internet and email to distribute relevant information to certified fish harvesters. This electronic newsletter is part of a larger ongoing effort by the PFHCB to communicate more regularly and effectively with certified professional fish harvesters throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

Since its inception in 1997, the PFHCB has been recognizing and certifying professional fish harvesters, maintaining a professional fish harvester registration system, setting qualifying standards for new entrants to the fishery, assisting fish harvesters who wish to upgrade their certification level,

and promoting fish harvesting as a professional occupation. Over the years, the PFHCB has expanded its services to include the delivery of Marine Emergency Duties (MED A3), Marine Basic First Aid, Humane Harvesting workshops for commercial sealers, and a Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) program. In addition to these core services, the PFHCB has been involved in numerous other initiatives aimed at promoting and supporting the professional development of commercial fish harvesters.

On The Water is intended to keep you up to date on these current activities and initiatives of the PFHCB, and to notify you of new programs, services and fisheries-related information. We hope you will find this newsletter to be relevant and informative, but also interesting and (at times) entertaining.

If you have comments regarding any of the articles in this edition, or require additional information, please drop us a line or give us a call. Your input is always welcome and appreciated!

Mark Dolomount,
Executive Director

Transport Canada Certification Requirements – Are you Compliant?

In July 2007 Transport Canada brought in new Marine Personnel Regulations that include Master and Mate certification requirements for ALL fishing vessels in Canada, regardless of length or tonnage. While the new regulations require some existing fish harvesters to complete training (Fishing Masters, Small Vessel Operator Proficiency, etc.), many experienced fish harvesters are eligible for exemptions to these training/certification requirements.

These new requirements have been phased-in over several years. Since November 7, 2012, all fishing vessels greater than 12m or 15GT are required to have a certified Master, and in most cases a certified Mate. For these larger vessels, the certification requirement for Master and Mate would normally be a Fishing Master certificate, but there are other options such as Certificates of Service or a Certificate of Competency as Watchkeeping Mate of a Fishing Vessel <24m.

If you are an owner/operator or crew member on a fishing vessel that is greater than 12m or 15GT, and you require more information on the Master or Mate requirements for your vessel, please contact the Transport Canada Marine Safety Office nearest you.

Deadlines for Vessels 12 meters or less (or less than 15GT). Transport Canada regulations state that by November 7, 2015, all fishing vessels greater than 6m in length require a certified Master, and in some cases a certified Mate. For these size vessels operating inside 25 nautical miles (NM), the Transport Canada certification requirement is a Small Vessel Operator Proficiency (SVOP) certificate. As of November 7, 2016, the Small Vessel Operator Proficiency (SVOP) requirement will be extended to ALL fishing vessels, including the vessels 6m or less in length.

It is also worth noting that if a vessel 12 meters or less (or less than 15GT) is fishing outside 25NM, the certification requirement for Master and Mate (if a Mate is needed) is a Fishing Master certificate or a Certificate of Competency as Watchkeeping Mate of a Fishing Vessel <24m.



Transport
Canada

Transports
Canada

Canada



Exemptions are still available – Act fast!

Fish harvesters with experience on vessels 12m or less in length (or less than 15GT) may be eligible for exemptions under the Transport Canada regulations. Any fish harvester who has performed Master or Mate/Watchkeeping duties on this size of vessel for a minimum of 7 fishing seasons (prior to July 2007), can apply for a Declaration of Seven Fishing Seasons, and be exempt from the Small Vessel Operator Proficiency (SVOP) requirement.

Furthermore, if a vessel 12 meters or less in length (or less than 15GT) is making voyages outside 25NM, fish harvesters with seven years experience, as described above, can apply to have their Declaration of Seven Fishing Seasons extended to 50NM from shore.

If Unsure – Ask!

If you are unsure about how these new Transport Canada Marine Personnel Regulations affect you, the crewing of your vessel, or how to apply for an exemption under the regulations, you should contact the Transport Canada Marine Safety office nearest you. Transport Canada offices can provide you with the paperwork to apply for a Certificate of Service (for Vessels greater than 12m or 15GT or greater) or a Declaration of Seven Fishing Seasons (for vessels 12 meters or less in length or less than 15GT).

If you require additional assistance, feel free to contact the PFHCB office at 722-8170.

Fishing for photos

If you have a commercial fishing-related photograph, we'd like to see it! The PFHCB is always searching for good quality fishing photos to use in our newsletters, webpage, and other publications.

What kind of photos are we looking for? Fish harvesters at work – setting gear, hauling gear, repairing equipment, offloading catch or anything fishing related! These types of photos are not easy to find, especially of fish harvesters on the water working onboard their vessels.

So take your camera or iPhone on your next trip! Send us your photos, and we'll submit your name in a draw for a PFHCB sweatshirt or jacket.

Photos can be sent by email to pfh@pfhcb.com. Please send them in as high quality/resolution as possible.



Rodney Pike of Hr. Mille holds a "stake cod" he landed in Fortune Bay earlier this season. It weighed in at nearly 100 lbs!

Marine Show 2016 November 18th & 19th

The North Atlantic Fish & Workboat Show 2016 will be held on November 18th and 19th at Mile One Centre, St. John's. This all-encompassing commercial marine event is for those who make their living on the water – it features boats, engines, electronics, supplies, safety gear, fish processing and services for commercial harvesters and other workboats.

Drop by the PFHCB booth and say hello - staff will be on hand throughout the two days to answer your questions, and we'll have plenty of "giveaways". We will have a supply of free show passes at our office, or you can contact us at pfh@pfhcb.com for access to free on-line registration. Otherwise, admission is \$20 at the door.



NL-FHSA
FISH HARVESTING
SAFETY ASSOCIATION

YOU ARE INVITED...

NL-FHSA 2nd Safety Symposium and AGM

Thursday, October 13th, 2016

Gander Hotel

100 Trans Canada Highway, Gander

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration is free.

Workshops:

Understanding Risk, Liability and Responsibilities in a Dangerous Industry

Activating SAR Response

Transport Canada Certification Requirements – Deadlines are Approaching

Are you compliant?

Exemptions are still available – act fast!

Transport Canada will be in attendance to issue 'Certificates of Service' and 'Declarations of Seven Fishing Seasons' to qualifying harvesters.

To register call the NL-FHSA at (709)722-8177

or email info@nlfhsa.com

P.O Box 8277, 368 Hamilton Avenue, St. John's, NL A1B 3N4
tel: (709)722-8177 • fax: (709) 722-8201

www.nlfhsa.com

Important Notice for Commercial Sealers

Mandatory Workshops Continue in September-October

Humane Harvesting (9:00am at all locations)

In 2014, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) announced that Humane Harvesting training on the three-step process will be mandatory for all commercial Seal Licence holders. Commercial sealers who do not complete this mandatory Humane Harvesting training, and renew their commercial Seal Licence by November 30, 2016, will not be eligible to renew their commercial Seal licence.

If you have already attended the Humane Harvesting workshop, please renew your commercial seal licence before the November 30th deadline.

The Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board, in partnership with DFO, will be delivering Humane Harvesting workshops throughout the province from September 26th to October 6th - see schedule below.

Quality/Health/Handling (11:00am at all locations)

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA) has a memorandum of understanding with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to ensure a quality assurance and training program acceptable to CFIA for export certification of seal meat and oil products. Additionally, seal processors

in Newfoundland and Labrador have confirmed that they will only purchase seal products from commercial sealers who have completed training in both Humane Harvesting and Quality/Health/Handling.

Commercial sealers who have not yet attended a Quality/Health/Handling workshop delivered by DFA are encouraged to attend one of the upcoming workshops. See schedule below.

WEEK 1 - September 26-30, 2016

Mon. Sept. 26th	Hawkes Bay	Torrent River Inn
Tues. Sept. 27th	Baie Verte	Baie Vista Inn
Wed. Sept. 28th	Gander	Albatross Hotel
Thurs. Sept. 29th	Virgin Arm	Lion's Club
Thurs. Sept. 29th	Mary's Harbour	River Lodge Hotel
Fri. Sept. 30th	St. John's	Ramada Inn

Week 2 - October 3-6, 2016

Mon. Oct. 3rd	St. Anthony	Lions Club
Tues. Oct. 4th	Deer Lake	Deer Lake Motel
Wed. Oct. 5th	Grand Falls	Mount Peyton Hotel
Thurs. Oct. 6th	Clarenville	Clarenville Inn
Thurs. Oct. 6th	Goose Bay	Hotel North Two

* **Pre-registration in not required.** Sessions are "walk-in" and open to all commercial sealers.

Fish facts

- Snow crab is one of more than 4,500 different species of crabs. Approximately 1.5 million tonnes of (various) crabs are caught by humans annually. The most consumed species of crab in the world is the Japanese Blue Crab.
- Have you ever noticed the white lateral line on a cod fish which stretches from the gill slit to the base of the tail? It's actually a very important part of the cod's anatomy, detecting motion, vibration and pressure of the surrounding water.
- Lobsters may not be able to feel pain, but they can certainly cause some serious pain. Researchers have proven that the largest claw of an adult lobster, the "crusher claw", can exert pressure of up to 100 pounds per square inch! Careful!!
- Could it be true?? Eating shrimp may reduce your risk of developing cancer. Shrimps contain selenium, an antioxidant mineral that activates enzymes to fight the growth of cancer-causing molecules.
- Sharks are the only fish that have eyelids.

Fishing Master IV – Opportunities for All

**Are you looking to become a Level I or Level II professional fish harvester?
Do you have the required education credits?**

Completion of a Fishing Master Class IV (FMIV) would provide you with 80 credits toward PFHCB certification upgrading. It will also give you a valuable internationally recognized nautical certification that meets Transport Canada Master and Mate certification.

The Marine Institute (MI) of Memorial University has made the FMIV program more accessible, flexible and affordable for fish harvesters. In addition to the traditional “in-class delivery” (through community-based delivery or at main campus in St. John’s), MI is now offering the FMIV program online. Harvesters can access courses anywhere, anytime; learn at their own pace, and access instructor support while preparing to challenge their Transport Canada exams. Online delivery starts in October, but applications are accepted on a continuous enrolment basis.

Community-based delivery is offered in communities throughout the province when registration numbers warrant it. Courses are now scheduled for the following areas commencing in January 2017:

- Bay of Islands
- Burin Peninsula
- Conception Bay North
- Fogo Island
- Northern Peninsula



MARINE INSTITUTE

The cost for the FMIV program is \$690 plus books (approximately \$275). Harvesters may be eligible for funding through the Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour, and for continuation of EI benefits while enrolled in the FMIV program.

Courses included in the FMIV program are Chartwork & Pilotage, Navigation Safety, Ship Construction and Stability, General Seamanship, MED A1, Restricted Operator’s Certificate – Maritime Commercial (ROC-MC), Marine Advanced First Aid and Simulated Electronic Navigation.

For more information on FMIV (Community Based or Online), including registration details, [click here](#), or contact MI at (709) 778-0623 or email cbcd@mi.mun.ca.

If you would like more information on your current PFHCB certification level, or upgrading requirements, please contact our office at (709) 722-8170 or by email pfh@pfhcb.com.

We hope you enjoyed reading this copy of “On the Water”. Please feel free to touch base with us about any of the articles, or if you have any suggestions for future articles. And don’t forget to send us your photos. Remember, this is your newsletter!

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