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The Fisherman

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VANCOUVER, B.C.

\$1



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fisherman
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Gillnets, crabbers protest DFO monitoring demands for North Coast fisheries

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Members of the Area A Crab Association and their families rally outside the offices of DFO in Prince Rupert June 28, demanding that the department re-open the fishery after suddenly closing it without scientific explanation. Story pg. 3.

PHOTO-GRAHAM EDWARDS

**More work is top
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**UFAWU-CAW names
new president**

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FISHERMAN PHOTO-SEAN GRIFFIN

Newly-appointed UFAWU-CAW safety director Heather Mearns speaks June 1 to the annual fleet blessing at False Creek Fishermen's Wharf, where organizers urged supporters to keep pressing government to re-open the Kitsilano Coast Guard base.

Kim Olsen marks change in leadership of UFAWU

There will be new voices speaking for the UFAWU-CAW this year as a new generation begins moving into active leadership in the union.

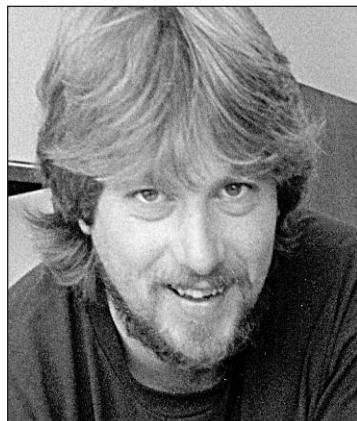
The UFAWU-CAW general executive board announced earlier this year that it had appointed gillnetter Kim Olsen to take up the post of president following the summer salmon season.

Outgoing president Irv Figg said that he had informed the GEB last year that he intended to retire in 2013 and wanted the executive board to begin the search for a new top officer. After considering candidates, the board voted at its February meeting to appoint Olsen, who is himself a GEB member, representing the gillnet fleet.

The UFAWU-CAW constitution provides for appointment of leadership until the union holds its next convention, expected some time in 2014.

Figg said he was "pleased that Kim Olsen who is someone that has a history of activism and experience both within the union and the industry, will be taking over the leadership."

Olsen, a northern gill netter from a fishing family, is well known among both union mem-



OLSEN

bers and the fishing fleet, having represented fishermen on advisory and harvest committees and advocated for Canadian fishing rights during Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiations.

Figg will continue in his position until September when Olsen will formally take over as president, working out of the union hall in New Westminster as well as his home in Shawinigan Lake.

Olsen said he was "looking forward to the challenge of working as president."

"I'm hoping to do what I can to bring people together and get some unity among the fishing area groups so we can get some more opportunities to fish," he said.

The key to the future for the fishing industry is "getting more access to fish and developing

enhancement and preservation programs that will enable us to maintain the fishing industry."

Working with Olsen as part of the new generation of leadership will be Heather Mearns, who was named to the position of UFAWU-CAW safety director in March.

Mearns, who is also from a fishing family, gillnetted and trolled with her father, the late Allan Mearns, for most of her life before moving into other work.

She started work as safety director in March, and has begun working with fishermen's and plant safety committees as well as the fishing industry's safety initiative, FishSafe, and other advisory committees. She takes over from

Darrell Enger, who stepped down from the post last year.

Prince Rupert will also have a new staff member — for the summer —

as the northern office hired Riley Caputo as an organizer. Caputo, a member of the Gitxaala First Nation, whose uncle, Joe Lovesar, is a long time UFAWU member, will assist in organizing during salmon season.

More work set as top priority for bargaining

There may be numerous issues to go on the bargaining table as the UFAWU-CAW and Canadian Fish Company head back into negotiations this month but there is one demand that union members want right at the top of the agenda: more work.

Consolidation of the industry and movement of equipment out of plants has meant that employment, especially in the north, has narrowed down to a few weeks during salmon cannery season, particularly on pinks. The lack of work has forced many to leave the industry to look for work and is leaving plants and communities without skilled workers.

"We may be able to negotiate a fair collective agreement based on the traditional exchange of proposals, but it's not in the long term interests of workers in the plant if there's no work," said UFAWU-CAW president Irv Figg. "And without more work spread out over the year, the company itself is in danger of losing key employees who are critical to what production there is in the plant."

UFAWU-CAW northern representative Joy Thorkelson said that shoreworkers in the north, where Canadian Fish runs its only cannery in B.C., have identified the expansion of work opportunities as the primary demand in the bargaining.

"Three membership meetings have emphasized that — they're very serious about it," she said.

Thorkelson said the union and the company held the first bargaining session June 11-13 and union negotiators identified a number of areas where work

opportunities exist, including utilizing the freezing equipment from the former Ocean's plant to process other species and pick up the roe herring popping on Kitkatla herring that previously was done in the CFC plant in Prince Rupert.

In fact, the Canadian Fish takeover of the Ocean Fisheries plant and equipment in Prince Rupert has resulted in a net loss of winter work for shoreworkers, including 30 jobs lost in the Ocean's freezer alone. However, the work still needs to be done — it's just being done somewhere else.

"We could do labelling up here — we used to do 400,000 cases a year — and we could take Ocean's freezing equipment and put it into (the CFC plant in) Seal Cove," she said. "If you can move equipment out, you can also move it back in again."

Both union officers emphasized that if the company doesn't create a longer work year, it risks losing its skilled work force entirely, as many older workers at the top of seniority lists move into retirement.

"And it's not just the union — the community of Prince Rupert doesn't want to lose the cannery," she added. "Our members are really fighting to keep the cannery open."

Negotiators were expected to get back to the bargaining table July 10 in Prince Rupert.

The collective agreement covering workers in the Canadian Fish home plant in Vancouver as well as the Oceanside cannery and Seal Cove fresh fish operation in Prince Rupert expired April 15.

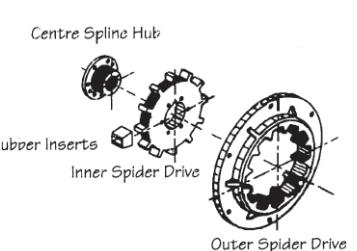
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Fishermen protest DFO restrictions

Sudden changes in catch monitoring programs force closures, costs to fishermen

Sudden changes by DFO in catch monitoring programs for northern crabbers and salmon gillnetters have sparked outrage among fishermen on the north coast, prompting many to wonder whether Ottawa is trying to devalue fisheries as it pushes for construction of the Northern Gateway pipeline.

Area A Crab Association members demonstrated outside the office of DFO in Prince Rupert June 28, demanding that the department rescind its decision to close the crab fishery July 5, based on an undisclosed analysis of crab population data.

"This dubious decision has destroyed twenty years of work building a cooperative relationship with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and is going to be economically crippling to our rural communities for no justifiable scientific reason," said crab fisherman Paul Edwards, president of the Area A Crab Association.

Just 11 days earlier, on June 17, Area C salmon gillnetters voted grudgingly to accept a controversial new catch monitoring program in the face of warnings from DFO that fisheries openings would be delayed without the

acceptance vote. However, fishermen were able to wrest some concessions from DFO on the program originally proposed that could have cost them a fifth of the landed value of their catch.

The new monitoring provisions, including a \$300 logbook produced by Archipelago Marine, were announced suddenly just weeks before the first Nass River opening, surprising both fisherman and Area C harvest committee members who had been working with the department since last December on an alternative monitoring program.

DFO provided no explanation as to why the program changes were suddenly made and what purpose the logbook in particular would serve in providing additional monitoring data to DFO.

"Fishermen were furious at DFO for cancelling the program that we had been working on for four years that would have provided better information and in a more timely way," said UFAWU-CAW northern representative Joy Thorkelson, a member of the harvest committee.

"We don't why DFO is doing this — except to satisfy DFO officials in Ottawa," she said.

Under the monitoring program previously under discussion

with DFO, fishermen would not have required a special logbook. Instead, fishing companies would have entered bycatch and other related information along with the fish slip data into their systems and then uploaded that information to DFO. The program would also have included at-sea observers during each week of the fishery as well as monitoring of catch deliveries to both packers and plants to ensure they coincide.

But DFO unilaterally dropped the proposal — even though the department is already using fish slip data, gathered after the end of the season.

"It doesn't make sense," Thorkelson said. "DFO already uses the fish slip data after the season. Why is information that comes from the fish slip in-season just as good — or even better?"

However, fishermen were able to get changes to the at-sea observer and catch monitoring components.

Instead of observer coverage throughout the season, observers will only work after July 25. There will be no monitors on packers but plant monitors will be used throughout the season to observe offloads from packers at the designated shore-based landing sites. The objective is to have observers

and monitors cover 20 per cent of the sets on the water and 20 per cent of the total landings.

Thorkelson estimated that DFO's original plan, as announced, would have taken about 22 per cent off fishermen's landed value. That has been reduced to about nine per cent. Fishermen will see a deduction of five cents per sockeye and two cents per chum from their fish slips. That will go into a fund to pay observer costs.

What makes it hard to swallow is that north coast gillnetters are the only gillnetters on the coast to require to have an at-sea observer program. Although new monitoring changes also went into effect in the Barkley Sound gillnet fishery this year, they do not include at-sea observers.

For Area A crabbers, the changes have an even more drastic impact since 50 per cent of crab are typically caught in the months of July and August. Again, DFO provided no scientific reason for the sudden announcement.

President Paul Edwards said in



DAN EDWARDS

a statement that the association members spend \$300,000 a year in co-managing the resource with DFO, including electronic monitoring and assessment surveys to determine the percentage of soft-shell crabs — the measure used for determining whether to close the fishery, since the crabs are at their most vulnerable when moulting.

This year, as in the past, the association had a scientific charter conducting the assessment. It found crab were not moulting and recommended to DFO that the fishery remain open. But DFO moved to shut it down June 21. DFO regional shellfish manager Jeff Johansen said there "were not enough data collected," although the department did not release any details of its analysis of the data that were collected.

Dan Edwards, executive director of the Area A Crab Association, said DFO's refusal to provide reasons for its decision makes it harder to take.

"As fishermen, we are incredibly proud of the strict monitoring and rigorous science we have designed and funded for the sustainability of our fishery," he said. "This controversial decision has broken our faith in DFO and poisoned years of positive cooperation."

Reject pipeline plan, union tells panel

The Joint Review Panel (JRP) reviewing Enbridge's Northern Gateway should reject the company's pipeline because it is not in the public interest, the UFAWU-CAW declared in its final argument to the JRP May 31.

The project would provide economic benefits only to the oil producers — bypassing others in the energy sector, including refineries — and would pose a potentially catastrophic risk to fisheries and fishing communities, the union said in its final argument document.

Prepared by UFAWU-CAW northern representative Joy Thorkelson, who was an active participant in the hearings, the argument was presented as the JRP moved in to the final phase of its two-year hearing process. Panel members concluded their last hearing in Terrace June 24 and will now begin drafting a report to government, which is scheduled to be completed December 31.

In her 60-page document, Thorkelson cited evidence presented in economic reports commissioned by Enbridge to point out that the oil price increases that the Enbridge pipeline would generate would be a short-term benefit, lasting for only 2-3 years. They would be based on a temporary oil shortage created by the



PHOTO-PAT MOSS

More than 500 people demonstrated June 16 in Terrace and again June 17 outside the hotel where the Joint Review Panel hearings were held, urging the JRP to reject Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipeline proposal. The JRP wound up its hearings June 24.

shipments to Asia.

"After reading the reports and testimony, the Union believes that the benefits from the pipeline stop, once the increase in production from Canadian sources ... equals the amount of oil taken out of the North American market by Enbridge. The price benefit that Enbridge had for all Canadian production would be over," she noted.

Evidence presented by economists who produced reports for Enbridge made it clear that even

without a pipeline, producers wouldn't reduce production in the oil sands. At the same time, however, the price structure created by the pipeline would make it less economic to build refineries and value-added petro-industries in Canada, thus shortchanging the country on employment benefits.

Underlining that point, she pointed to evidence from the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers and the Alberta Federation, both of which intervened in the hearings. "The CEP

and the AFL argue that the Enbridge pipeline project will only benefit oil production companies, and other parts of the oil industry, specifically the more heavily labour intensive sectors, will not benefit."

Against those questionable benefits, she emphasized, the JRP has to measure the substantial risks to coastal fisheries and the freshwater and marine environment.

Thorkelson pointed out that much of the Enbridge evidence on

fisheries and the impact on fish of a pipeline or marine spill lacks accurate detail or has not taken the specific conditions of the British Columbia coast into account. For example, only Area 5 and 6 salmon harvests were considered in analyzing potential economic losses from a spill and the projected costs of environmental damage were based on the payouts to accepted insurance claims in past spills — payouts that are often limited by international convention. She emphasized that the potential risks and the environmental costs are far higher than Enbridge has projected.

In conclusion, she stated: "The United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union argues that the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project ... is a poor use of Canadian resources. The union argues that the export in this fashion of unprocessed Canadian oil resources puts other Canadian resources, especially the fisheries resource, at risk....The UFAWU-CAW argues that the risk to the environment is too high as the consequences of an oil spill will be damaging and harmful to terrestrial, aquatic and marine organisms and to the BC biosphere."

"The UFAWU-CAW urges the JRP to find that this project should be rejected as, on balance, it is not in the public interest...."

fish & ships

Bad as Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipeline proposal is, the company's public relations seem to be even worse, especially when it comes to considering projected pipeline routes as part of its own corporate entitlement.

The latest PR blunder came last month with an Enbridge fax — delivered after hours, no less — to the **Gitga'at First**



UFAWU-CAW Benefit Fund director Gary Prisner (l) and CAW Local 114 rep Gord McGrath keep grills going in the garage for Protein for People barbecue June 20.

Nation council office in Hartley Bay, announcing that an Enbridge team would be conducting a spill response survey on Gitga'at territory the following week. The fax, which even failed to provide proper contact information, didn't request permission to conduct the survey — it simply announced

that it would be taking place.

To make matters worse, the Enbridge communication mistakenly included a letter from **Conrad Lewis**, chief councillor of the Gitxaala First Nation. Lewis, a long time UFAWU member who was recently elected to the Gitxaala post, is not part of the Gitga'at First Nation at all.

When the survey team showed up — significantly, during the community traditional food harvesting camp — they were told they were not welcome on Gitga'at territory and asked to leave.

"It's hard to imagine a company screwing up its relationships with First Nations more than Enbridge has," **Marven Robinson**, a Gitga'at councillor said following the incident.

Arnold Clifton, Chief

Councillor of the Gitga'at First Nations added: "This is disrespectful to the Gitga'at First Nation, the review process, and the people of British Columbia, who oppose oil tankers in our coastal waters."

After a June downpour hit on barbecue day, the **Protein for**

People volunteers had to set up the grills in the parking garage — all the time hoping not to set off the sprinkler system — but the annual event still filled the CAW hall with supporters of the program that continues to put union-caught processed pink salmon into B.C. food banks.

This year, the PFP campaign, which raises money through United Way workplace donations directed to Protein for People, brought in an impressive \$139,000 to make the purchases for food banks.

The "softening-up" of public opinion on the Enbridge that

Luanne Roth talks about in her column on page 5, has indeed begun. The **Western Canada Marine Response Corporation**, the industry-sponsored spill response group created after the Exxon Valdez spill, has said that it's ready to handle any oil spills. So based on Enbridge's stated estimate that there is only an 18 per cent risk of an oil spill, we should be covered, right?

Not by a long shot, says a new study produced by Dr. **Thomas Gunton**, Director of Resource and Environmental Planning at Simon Fraser University and co-author **Sean Broadbent**.

Their study, published May 2 concluded that the probability of a marine tanker spill is between 95.3 per cent and 99.9 per cent over the operating life of the project. Their estimate was based on the U.S. Oil Spill Risk Analysis, the standard model used by the U.S. but not by Enbridge.

Could the marine response team handle the almost-inevitable spill? The risks are far too great even to consider the possibility.

Helen O'Shaughnessy remembered

The auditorium of the Maritime Labour Centre echoed to the songs Union Maid, Solidarity Forever and Canning Salmon as more than 400 people gathered in memory of Helen O'Shaughnessy Feb. 8, highlighting in music the esteem in which the long-time UFAWU shoreworkers' organizer and leader was held.

Helen passed away in Vancouver General Hospital January 25, just months after welcoming her first great grandchild, Lila Rose, into the world. She was 88.

B.C. Federation of Labour president Jim Sinclair who worked with Helen on the UFAWU staff, as well as Council of Senior Citizens president Art Kube and Helen's daughter Karen were among those paying tribute to a woman who was as much an inspiration to her large extended family as she was to her fellow union members.

Born in Hungary May 24, 1924, she came to Canada with her family in 1930 and grew up in the Okanagan before leaving home at 16 to come to the coast, where she found work in the shipyards and in the fish plant at Port Albion in the war years. She later married and had three children, Karen, Dennis and Michael.

She later came back to the fishing industry during the big Adams River sockeye run in 1958, beginning work at the warehouse at B.C. Packers' Imperial plant in Steveston. Within a few years, she was an active shop steward in the plant, working alongside another renowned UFAWU activist, Eva Vaselenak and sparking conversations on the plant floor about the issue that would be the focus of the union's bargaining agenda in just a few years: equal pay for work of equal value.

Inspired by UFAWU



Flanked by union members Irv Figg (l), Todd White, Conrad Lewis, Grace Stevens and Garth Mirau, Helen O'Shaughnessy (centre) accepts the union's highest honour of lifetime membership at a ceremony during the the UFAWU-CAW convention in 2006.

organizer Mickey Beagle, Helen championed the idea of equal pay, in grievances and even job action at the plant level, and continued to raise the issue when she came on staff as a shoreworkers organizer in 1971. Just two years later, in 1973, a united membership took it to the picket line and won an

historic agreement that closed the wage gap on most of the categories for men and women over the life of the two-year collective agreement.

Helen worked for the UFAWU until 1990, earning the respect of her own generation as well as a new generation of shoreworkers then coming into

the industry.

When she retired from union staff in 1990, UFAWU president Jack Nichol paid tribute to her work in getting the union behind the equal pay campaign: "She made me see the wisdom of fighting for the women in this industry," he said. "And while our contracts are by no means perfect, they are a hell of a lot better than what they were before she came on the scene."

Helen was also a long time participant in the province's peace movement and a civic activist, running for parks board under the Committee of Progressive Electors banner. Following her retirement, she headed up the UFAWU Seniors Club and represented them on the Council of Senior Citizen's Organizations (COSCO).

In 2006, during the union's convention, the UFAWU-CAW honoured Helen with lifetime membership, the union's highest honour.

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UNIFOR: unions chart a new course

After more than a year of discussion and meetings with some 5,000 members of both unions across the country, the CAW and CEP formally announced the name of the new union in May. Ken Lewenza and Dave Coles outline the new course it will set.

By Ken Lewenza and Dave Coles

May 30 will be a date to remember. It was the day thousands tuned in — some in person, many online — to find out the long-awaited name of our new union. The word “Unifor” appeared on screen mid-way through a spectacular public event in Toronto. The new name appeared alongside a bold new logo — a shield housing a stylized letter “U” in the middle, reflecting the coming together of two unions. You could hear 200 participants in the room gasp, and then break into an uproar of applause. The most anticipated union renewal project in Canadian labour history finally had a name and an identity. Unifor: the new Canadian union.

In the days following the launch, many have asked: Why Unifor? I like it, but I don’t get it. Some have said they think it’s a refreshing change, something new. Others feel we’ve missed the mark — and that’s okay too.

There’s no question, Unifor, has got people talking. Not just our members, but the public at large. And that’s a good thing. Major television, radio and print

- UNIFOR: A NEW CANADIAN UNION DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF WORKING PEOPLE IN EVERY SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY AND IN EVERY COMMUNITY IN CANADA.
- UNIFOR: A FORCE FOR SAFER WORK PLACES, SECURE EMPLOYMENT, WAGES AND BENEFITS THAT PROVIDE A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING, AND DIGNITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT IN THE WORKPLACE.
- UNIFOR: A UNION FOR WORKERS, THE UNEMPLOYED, THE SELF-EMPLOYED, WOMEN, YOUTH AND STUDENTS, DIVERSE COMMUNITIES AND NEW CANADIANS — A UNION FOR EVERYONE.

news outlets across Canada and around the world carried the story. Online polls sprouted up, asking people to cast their votes about the name. Alternative media outlets reported on it extensively too. Marketing experts attempted to dissect it. And social media sites lit up with conversation (“Unifor” was actually a top trending topic on Twitter across

Canada).

Unifor is a unique name. It’s attention-grabbing. Part of its appeal, as we’ve seen since the launch, is that it’s hard to ignore. And it’s intentionally ambiguous. We want it to mean different and personal things to our increasingly diverse membership.

Unifor will be a union

them — by well-resourced opponents. Unions have always brought forward new, progressive ideas for a better society yet we have been tarnished as constantly fighting “against” the decisions of others. Unifor will push “for” positive and progressive ideas, and not get stuck fighting “against” bad ones. Our goal is to help set the progressive agenda.

As a national Canadian union it was essential that our name be bilingual. In French the name combines the words ‘unis’ (united) and ‘fort’ (strong). Unifor reflects, in both languages, the core values that our new union stands for: unity and solidarity, strength and determination, and a modern, forward-looking perspective. Our new name is dynamic and versatile. It has possible applications as diverse as our membership. It reflects the hard work our union will do to improve the lives of all Canadians. Unifor is strong,

principled, and inclusive. New membership approaches will redefine who can be a union member and radically change the trade union landscape.

A strong union protects and defends its members and stands for safer workplaces, secure employment, wages and benefits. This was a message we heard loud and clear from both members and the general public, young and old. The shield logo reflects this sense of protection and strength.

The colours — a bold red

and blue — were chosen to make Unifor stand out and have instant recognition. The fiery red conveys our passion and commitment to our members. We will be unmistakable.

All that said it is difficult to part with the past. Our unions each have a long, proud history — one defined as much by our struggles as our successes. We will carry those memories with us, in our minds and in our hearts, as we bear down and face the challenging road ahead.

We wouldn’t be honest if we said we weren’t afraid of change. There’s something unsettling with the unknown. But if we don’t change, the movement dies and working people suffer. Canada becomes a more unequal, more unfair and less inclusive society. We would have betrayed those that have come before us.

Change is what the CAW did in 1985, when it broke from its U.S.-based parent to form a daring new organization. Change is what united Canadian communications, energy and paper workers together as a diverse and potent new union in 1993. Our willingness to change saved our unions. These changes made for a better Canada.

Let’s never forget our history, but let’s embrace change. It’s served our union well in the past. We’re certain that it will serve us well in the future, through Unifor.

Ken Lewenza is the National President of the Canadian Auto Workers and Dave Coles is the National President of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada.

Debate will heat up over pipeline risk

It’s amazing how Alberta and B.C. see things differently. The proposed Enbridge tarsands pipeline project would see a lot of huge tankers — some 50 very large crude carriers (300,000 deadweight tons each), 120 Suezmax ships (200,000 DWT) and 50 Aframaxes (120,000 DWT) — run out past Haida Gwaii every year. Here in B.C., our chests tighten in fear at that thought, with visions of rocky reefs and thick bitumen, but Albertans in the oil fields are reaching for their calculators with visions of revenue per barrel.

The charter rate for all these tanker classes has dropped this summer, to an all time low. Too many were built, creating a glut in the world and their owners are now forced to accept charters that barely cover fuel. Alberta oil executives feel a smile rising to their lips as they work this into

their profit margin. Meanwhile in B.C. we are thinking about the expensive maintenance that ships require, the corrosive nature of bitumen — and what sort of cost cutting measures might be taken by desperate ship owners whose operating margins are being squeezed.

The Joint Review Panel (JRP) reviewing the Enbridge Northern Gateway proposal has now heard both sides. The hearings to assess the risks and benefits have just wrapped up and the panel is drafting its final report, which is due December 31. Panel members are also considering the list of conditions that may be attached to the Enbridge proposal — conditions such as having a billion dollars on hand for spills and a better cleanup plan. The JRP could decide that, even with conditions, the risk will be too great, and recommend that the project be rejected. But



Pipelines
Luanne Roth

regardless of what the JRP recommends, it will be the federal government that makes the decision.

Public opinion matters to the government. With a federal election coming up in 2015, seats in B.C. are important. Polls show people feel strongly about this issue and even 40 percent of BC

Conservative voters are opposed to the pipeline.

In the second half of 2013, we are going to see efforts to soften that opposition. Some in B.C. might be reassured by a billion-dollar reserve for cleanup, though \$10 billion is more realistic for expenditures. These tankers would carry between 100 and 300 million litres each. The 1989 Alaska spill by the Exxon Valdez was only 40 million litres and the final payout was over \$6 billion in today’s dollars. BP expects its recent 800 million-litre spill into the Gulf of Mexico to cost \$40 billion. These figures don’t include all financial losses or the non-monetary values.

“Our Coast is Not for Sale” is a common poster in BC where 61 per cent of residents are opposed. Polls also tell us that the more people know about the issue the more they oppose it.

There are still a lot of facts for people to consider:

• Do double hulls stop big spills? They’ll work if a small boat hits a tanker, but if the tanker touches B.C.’s rocky shore or a reef, logic tells us the double hull wouldn’t stop a spill. A moving tanker weighing hundreds of millions of kilograms would tear its hull like tinfoil before it slowed down and stopped.

• Most people in B.C. are surprised to hear that the Exxon Valdez spill stretched a distance which is almost as long as the B.C. coast (750 km, compared to the B.C. coastline’s 1,000 km).

• Few people know that roughly 200 million kg of wild capture seafood comes out of BC waters each year. That fact might even influence a few Albertans.

Luanne Roth is the North Coast energy campaigner for the T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation. She replaces Jennifer Rice who was elected as the NDP MLA for North Coast in the May 14 election.

Advisor brings experience with him

Harold Wulff passes on his training and safety knowledge in Fish Safe program

Harold Wulff is well known in the gillnet fleet. As the president of the Canoe Pass Co-op he makes every effort to keep his peers up to date on the latest information around their fishery. After retiring his position at BC Ferries, he became a Fish Safe Advisor, stepping into the role with gusto. Since then, he has brought the Safest Catch program to 50 vessels in seven different communities, from Prince Rupert to Steveston. We interviewed Harold aboard his new gillnetter, **Prime Time III** (he's a optimistic guy) while on anchor during a gillnet opening in Barkley Sound.

FS: Why did you want to be a Fish Safe Advisor?

HW: Because I wanted to help my fellow fishermen and I believe in safety and believe in training. Fish SAFE is the lead in fishing safety and seemed like the best avenue to do that.

FS: You have lots of marine and fire training under your belt? Does that help you in this new role?

HW: Absolutely. After taking my Fishing Master 4 Certificate and all my Marine Emergency Duties including advanced fire-



Safety
John Krgovich

fighting, I got hooked on safety and saw the value in training. At B.C. Ferries I took further training. The more I learned the more I wanted to learn more. Hold on, saw a jumper off the bow. Some fish on the beach....

FS: Tell me about your recent conversation with Norman Noringseth about the fire on his father's boat, the **Viking Sun**?

HW: Norman related to me about a fire on his dad's boat. Inge was leaving Sommerville Harbour when an electrical fire broke out in the engine room. The smoke was so intense that he deployed his liferaft that was on his hayrack.

along with his survival suit that he had moved there after our recent vessel visit.

He got the fire out by turning off the power source and emptying a 10 lb. ABC fire extinguisher into the electrical cabinet. By then, another boat had noticed the smoke and steamed over to help. The important thing is that Inge is OK and the boat is now in the shipyard.

This is the second fisherman that if I have worked with that has had a serious fire shortly after a vessel visit. The survival gear placement training, I believe, in both cases paid off in spades.

This latest event showed me once again how very important our work is to the safety of our fishermen.

FS: How do you feel about that?

HW: Feel really good. When I went on the boat his survival suit was stored in the fo'c'sle and not accessible. We discussed the location and he had decided prior to going fishing that this and his other safety equipment would be better accessible on the hayrack.

After he moved his stuff I saw him instructing other fishermen on the dock about how to main-



FISH SAFE PHOTO-JOHN KRGOVICH

Fish Safe advisory Harold Wulff checks out the placement of the liferaft during a vessel visit to the Delta Harvester.

tain their suits and where to keep them. His taking ownership of his safety and sharing knowledge is what a lot of fishermen do — they pass it along. Lots of stories told to me I share with other fishermen as a teaching tool.

FS: How many calls do you think that you handle a day in regard to your role as Fish Safe advisor?

HW: At least six a day. Some are combined with fishing stuff but the guys have lots of questions once they know they have a safe place to ask them.

FS: How has being an active fisherman helped you in this role?

HW: That's the key to the whole thing. To have a non-fisherman try and do what we do would be impossible. You need to relate and understand how boats operate and know the issues.

FS: In this last year as a Fish Safe Advisor have you noticed a change in fisherman's attitudes towards safety?

HW: I think there is a change. I think Fish Safe has made a positive change in the industry, being a part of this makes me feel good. Everyone seems to be more safety conscious.

FS: I understand that as part of the Safest Catch program you've recently received approval from Transport Canada as a MED A3 instructor. How was that process?

HW: It was a stressful day going through the audit. The Transport Canada inspectors are good guys but it was still a little nerve-wracking. I enjoyed that day at the end of it. It was a sense of accomplishment for me.

FS: And now that Fish Safe

Advisors are also approved to deliver the Radio Operators Course-Marine, what are you looking forward to most about that opportunity?

HW: I like helping and I enjoy helping fishermen to learn. If we can show them that taking a course is beneficial and relevant, they might want to do as I did and sign up for more training. I'm all about the training.

FS: What would you like to tell those that have not yet taken advantage of Fish Safe Programs?

HW: I would encourage any fishermen to take training and work with us. We are not some outside agency; we are fishermen just helping fishermen. There is no down side and it's a lot of fun, lots of stories. We all learn a lot from each other.

FS: What is the most satisfying part of the job?

HW: During the delivery of the Safest Catch program, I would say the emergency drills, it all comes together, it's the most fun and the fishermen get to see first-hand where they might need to make changes. When I worked with Lennie Brezden on the **K Robbie** before he left to go fishing, he was bolting a re-boarding ladder on to the stern and handles on the side of the wheelhouse. That was the result of conversations we had during the vessel visit. Lennie said he should have done it years ago.

The oddest thing is you don't really know at the time if they are getting something out of it and then you see them making the changes on their vessel, moving equipment. It's very satisfying.



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Gulf herring boosts Canfisco work



Good Gulf roe herring catches, with some of the biggest fish seen in a decade, helped keep Canfisco home plant shoreworkers working this year, with grading still going on well into June. Both the seine and the gillnet fleets took their full allowable harvest, pulling in 6,650 and 6,350 tons respectively. Photos, clockwise from top left: Gail Lundgren feeds roe sacs into the plant's sizing machine; Joginder Bains works the grading line; Kimberley Greene carries baskets of roe to the grading line; Ian Wong fills the finished bucket with brine for export to Japan.

FISHERMAN PHOTOS-SEAN GRIFFIN

The people on this list have unclaimed funds in their account at the Shoreworkers Pension Plan.

If you are in touch with any of these people, please ask them to contact the Pension Plan at 604-519-3636

BC Packers, Canadian Fish & JS McMillans, Ocean, Omega — Prince Rupert & Masset

Ricelyn Abanilla, Prince Rupert
Stanley Aksidan, Prince Rupert
Gerald Amos, Ucluelet
Wanda Amos, Masset
Craig Armitage, Cambridge
Harjit Bajwa, Vancouver
Desmond Barton, Prince George
Casey Brown, Prince Rupert
Ernest Brown, Prince Rupert
Ryan Brown, Prince George
Monica Crist, Masset
Anita Evans, Prince Rupert
David Feldhaus, Prince Rupert
Jagdish Gill, Surrey
Susan Gladstone, Prince Rupert
Eric Hansell, Prince Rupert
Ernest Hyzims, Prince George
Parminder Janjua, Prince Rupert
Dwayne Konchuch, Masset
Tony Kraats, Prince Rupert
Alex Lincoln, Prince Rupert
Bryan Rusk, Prince Rupert
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Audrey Sampare, Prince Rupert
Sukhdeep Sangha, Prince Rupert
Gordon Shaw, Masset
Dana Stevens, Prince Rupert
Brandon Stokkeland, Masset
Cathy Tsahsisris, Vancouver
Cora Yeltazie, Masset
Nadine Yeltazie, Masset

Roy Yeltazie, Masset
Adrian Wong, Prince Rupert
Carolyn Young, Prince Rupert
Natika Young, Prince Rupert

BC Packers - Steveston

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Aldo Chies, North Delta
Sharon Chime, Vancouver
Steve Collins, Richmond
To-lien Duong, Vancouver
Jerry Itterman, Burnaby
Jeff Johnstone, Richmond
Rodney Olson, Richmond
Mohinder Shergill, Surrey
Dennis Timm, Richmond
Daniel Yeung, Vancouver

Seafood Products – Vancouver

Leungly Chan, Vancouver
Ren Ai Chen, Vancouver
Ha Tuyet, Duong, Vancouver
Bach Yen Hoang, Vancouver
Hung Dinh Nguyen, Vancouver
Rina Shankar, Delta
Ngoc Bach Tran, Vancouver
Diana Vandale, Coquitlam

Canadian Fish – Vancouver

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Paul Caines, Burnaby

Louisa Chen, Vancouver
Michelle Clark, North Vancouver
Michael Cronkhite, Vancouver
Nirmal Dayal, Vancouver

Scott Dyck, Richmond
Michele Evans, Moncton
Darnell Gawdin, Vancouver
Bernadine Grant, Gibsons
Paul Hansler, Vancouver
Sarbjit Hayre, Vancouver
Gordon McDonald, Vancouver
Rob Menard, Burnaby
Robert Mitchell, Surrey
Jatana Mukhtiar, Surrey
Robert Nixon, Port Coquitlam
Robert Pearson, Vancouver
Jason Rezanoff, Surrey
Bruce Storozynski, Burnaby
Richard Tin, Vancouver

Fjord, Great Northern Packing & J.S. McMillan

David Fleck, Sardis
Gale Harman, Langley
Dalbir Mann, Surrey
My Thuc Lac, Vancouver
Nam Thibe Lam, Burnaby
Loreen Point, Vancouver
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Trevor Lafont, Calgary
Precilla Enoc, Vancouver
Tuan Tran, Vancouver

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Nick Malnik, Vancouver
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Donna Anderson, Campbell River
Jagit Bains, Campbell River
Ali Behrouzi, Port Alberni
Daniel Best, Port Alberni
Dave Carlson, Campbell River
Tracy Chester, Ucluelet
Lori Cumming, Courtenay
Kathleen Currie, Sayward
Paul Cyr, Port Alberni
Kim Dawson, Campbell River
Robert Dennis, Port Alberni
Jody Drinkwater, Port Alberni
Liz Edgar, Vancouver

Steven Ellis, Campbell River

Darren Farrell, Campbell River

Linda George, Victoria

Jean Glendale, Campbell River

Joyce Holbrook, Port Alberni

Lloyd Homeniuk, Ucluelet

Jan Jensen, Campbell River

Harold Joseph, Port Alberni

Les Joseph, Ucluelet

Michael Kriss, Campbell River

Mario Lagrotteria, Campbell River

Jeff McLaren, Campbell River

Sherry Mercer, Ucluelet

Scott Mills, Nanaimo

Elaine Newberry, Campbell River
Dean Neuwirth, Nanaimo

Marcel Put, Port Alberni

Jay Roach, Campbell River

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John Sparks, Edmonton

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Terrance Unrau, Williams Lake

Leah Wright, Courtenay

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David Daber, Ladysmith
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Lessons learned from an old herring fishery

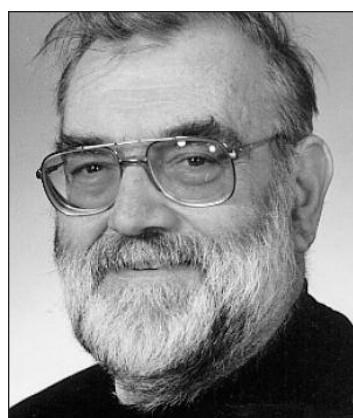
Climate change compounds threat of pollution

As our planet's population grows, the need for food seems to escape the attention of the people in power, right around the globe.

Climate change is a big — maybe the biggest — issue that needs to be seriously addressed, not only for the sustainability of our own species but also for the other biological species that have evolved on the only habitable planet we know.

Here where I live, in Richmond, for example, some of the most agriculturally-suitable farmland is being built on and purposely contaminated in order to destroy it for agricultural use. That way, it can be used in the future for residential and commercial development, with easy dollars in mind instead of the food-growing sustainability of future generations.

Farmers are standing up to try and defend this vitally important habitat on Finn Road — a productive piece of farmland until 2011 — against the dumping of



**Fisheries
Joe Bauer**

demolition materials. The debris includes huge pieces of concrete, filled with rebar, wire mesh and other contaminants. It will affect not only the soil, but the water table below — in effect the whole ecosystem.

Without dykes, this land would be under water on the high tides. Even though it is now dyked, the tidal effect on the water table continues, with any contaminants able to enter adjacent aquatic habitats that are vital to the rearing of fish and other species. Contaminating those waters would affect all of the life forms that up to today have allowed our fisheries to harvest healthy food from both the freshwater and marine environment.

Climate change adds to the problem. Climatic warming could see new parasites and other disease pathogens invade affected habitats, posing new risks to species that may not have had time to develop defences against them and cannot adapt.

In my 59 years of fishing, I've seen many changes. One that really sticks in my mind is the loss of the Point Grey herring that we used to fish as a food source, for smoking and pickling. The fishery took place off the north flats (Sturgeon Bank) in the middle arm of the Fraser River.

When the sewage system was first installed at Iona Island, the outfall pipe that was built along the Iona Jetty directed the untreated sewage straight out into the Gulf of Georgia. The last year I fished for herring, I got six very diseased herring and over 1,500 condoms (my deckhand actually counted them).

This very valuable fishery collapsed in a very short time, never to recover. Overfishing was certainly not the problem. The issue was habitat destruction. Had common sense — seemingly missing in many of our leaders, then and now — prevailed at the time, the outcome might have been very different.

To survive, we have to learn again to work with Mother Nature, because the biosphere is a community to which we belong, not simply a source of resources belonging to us alone. We have stewardship for the quality of air, water and soil for which that community depends, now and in the future.

Sustainable development means maintaining and even enhancing the integrity of our natural habitat, and contributing to the wellbeing of all species. In the end, contaminating the soil and polluting our waters threatens the survival of all of us.

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Ottawa ties knot in marine planning

Integrated approach is critical if fishing industry is to benefit

The British Columbia coastline traces inlets, headlands and 6,500 islands for 37,000 kilometres between Juan de Fuca in the south and Portland Canal in the north. Our ocean space, covering over 450,000 square kilometres, supports a rich diversity of mammals, birds, fishes, plants and other forms of marine life. For fishermen the coast is iconic, an aesthetic place, a place to earn a living. Our coast is also busy and getting busier.

Port Metro Vancouver — Canada's largest port by tonnage shipped — is visited by 3,000 foreign vessels annually including cruise ships, bulk and container carriers, tankers and auto carriers. In the north, ports at Prince Rupert, Stewart, and Kitimat are growing, largely on the basis of trade with Asia. Overall, transporting people, raw materials and consumer goods requires an average 400,000 vessel movements a year on our coast.

The potential for energy development — oil, gas, wind and tidal energy — is laying claim to ocean space and resources.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) including National Marine Conservation Areas, marine National Wildlife Areas, B.C. Marine Parks and Rockfish Conservation Areas are expanding to protect species and unique features. Canada and the Province of B.C. are working on a network of

MPAs that will protect our marine environment for future generations and meet international commitments.

As commerce expands, the pressure on marine ecosystems increases and conflicts develop among users of the ocean. The governments of Canada, B.C., First Nations and local communities share jurisdiction over the marine environment, and there are a multitude of regulatory controls in place to protect the ocean environment and manage ocean resources.

These regulatory controls alone are proving inadequate as use of the ocean increases and overlapping jurisdictions often make change difficult. For example, Environment Canada, Parks Canada, DFO, and at least two provincial ministries are responsible for the designation of marine protected areas. And it all has an impact on those catching fish, whether they're fishing to make a living and support communities or simply enjoying the experience.

Following the adoption of the UN Law of the Sea convention in 1994, Canada brought in the Oceans Act to implement the UN principle of integrated oceans management, aimed at regulating the use of marine areas while ensuring marine conservation. DFO, which was given responsibility to lead the government's effort, identified five large ocean management areas to pilot integrated oceans management. In 2005, work started on a major initiative — the Pacific Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) — and several agreements with First Nations and the B.C. government were signed over the next six years.

These efforts were recognized internationally as leading edge — the PNCIMA was identified as one of the ten best ideas on the planet in early 2010. But then, the federal government, shortly after it received a majority mandate in 2011, shocked the other governance partners and stakeholders by unilaterally restructuring the process. The fear might have been that decision-making was being shifted away from Ottawa to the region, possibly affecting the government's economic imperative of moving tar sands oil through B.C.

Still, the PNCIMA, though only a shadow of what it would have been, has managed to produce one significant piece: an Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) framework, with principles, assumptions, definitions, and goals that governance partners and stakeholders have built through consensus.

The province of B.C. and most First Nations in the region are making an effort to carry on the integrated planning under a new process called Marine Planning Partnership of the North Pacific (MaPP). But the effort has been complicated by jurisdictional issues and without the federal government's involvement, the process may have too many hurdles to overcome. In fact, the fisheries sector has been forced to withdraw from MaPP, in large part because of jurisdictional issues caused by an absent federal government.

governance parties will meet. But if the fishing industry is to survive and flourish in an increasingly crowded ocean space, we need integrated marine planning, not just MPA planning. If healthy fisheries are to remain part of the future coast, all activities on the coast need to be operating sustainably.

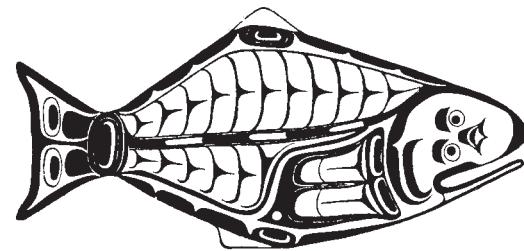
At the moment, the main focus for the MaPP partners is not integrated planning, but rather to take the B.C. and First Nations' "New Relationship" on land issues and project it on to the marine environment. The trouble is that the B.C. relationship with First Nations is very different from federal relationships with First Nations.

Moving forward, the federal government does appear committed to creating a network of Marine Protected Areas — and this will be the key area where

Canada's Oceans Act tasks DFO to lead this effort and the UN Law of the Sea commitments for integrated management cannot be achieved by Marine Protected Areas alone. If the federal government can't — or won't — commit to integrated planning, its mandate must be passed to the coast.



Marine planning
Jim McIsaac



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UFBF members hit snag on Rx claims

Special Authority confirmation is vital with non-Pharmacare drugs

For many Benefit Fund members, prescription drugs are an important part of their regular health care and the rising cost of drugs makes benefit coverage particularly important. But lately, it's become more difficult to navigate through the changes that are necessary to maintain that coverage and we've had a lot of calls from members asking for help in getting their claims accepted.

Benefit coverage for prescription drugs can be a bit complicated because it involves the province's Fair Pharmacare program, first of all, and then insurance carriers such as Pacific Blue Cross, which provide extended

health coverage. In the case of the United Fishermen's Benefit Fund, the UFBF contracts with Pacific Blue Cross to process members' extended health claims and provide benefit payments based on reimbursement rates set by UFBF.

For the most part, the system has worked and UFBF members have had their claims covered according to UFBF rates. But lately, it seems, there has been a rash of problems, with members having their claims rejected for drugs that were previously covered, or not having claims covered at the expected rate, even when members and their families have two coordinated extended health plans.



Benefits
Gary Prisner

Even though it's not clear why this is happening now, it's important to point out that it's not because of any change in UFBF policy or administration. At the same time, we are doing whatever we can to sort out the difficulties that members are encountering.

Changes at the Pharmacare program, including recent government changes in drug pricing seem to be a big factor in the recent problems.

Under many plans, including the United Fisherman's Benefit Fund, coverage of prescription drugs is based on what B.C. Pharmacare covers. Pharmacare has an extensive list of covered generic drugs on its Low-Cost Alternative database and also establishes a maximum price it will pay for covered medications and pharmacy dispensing fees. Pacific Blue Cross follows those same policies in processing extended health claims for UFBF members.

On April 1, new pricing policies came into effect that reduce the amount that the province will

pay for generic drugs. For prescriptions that are fully covered by Pharmacare, that works because pharmacies are only allowed to bill the province for the maximum price set by Pharmacare. But for those people paying directly for their prescriptions or paying through insurers such as Pacific Blue Cross, pharmacies can charge a higher mark-up. That's also true for specialized non-generic drugs that are permitted under Pharmacare. Because Pacific Blue Cross follows the Pharmacare limits, it pays a percentage reimbursement that's based on a lower price — and UFBF members are out of pocket for the difference.

Many members will also notice that their pharmacy charges them \$11 or even more for a dispensing fee. But Pharmacare — and Pacific Blue Cross, which follows the Pharmacare guideline — will only cover up to a maximum of \$10, so people lose there as well.

One area that seems to be a source of wrongly-rejected claims is the Special Authority provision for certain prescription drugs.

Most of the drugs covered under Pharmacare are listed in the Low Cost Alternative database. But many specialized drugs (both patent and generic) that are considered to be the standard of treatment for such conditions as asthma, heart disease, depression and acid reflux, among others, may be covered under a Special Authority granted by Pharmacare. A patient's doctor fills out the Special Authority application and submits it to the ministry for approval. If it is approved — and there's no guarantee of that — the patient will be eligible for

Pharmacare coverage of that drug. Based on the policy noted above, Pacific Blue Cross will also cover it under the special authority.

But that's only the first step. For Pacific Blue Cross to provide coverage of that drug, confirmation of the Special Authority approval has to be communicated to Pacific Blue Cross. That doesn't happen automatically, so here's what we're encouraging UFBF members to do:

- Ask your doctor (regular physician or specialist) if the drug that he or she is prescribing for you requires special authority. If it does, ask that your doctor submit the Special Authority application form to Pharmacare for approval.
- Allow a month for Pharmacare to process the application. After that time, send a letter to Health Insurance BC, asking for confirmation of that special authority. The letter should include your name and Personal Health Number (from your CareCard) and should state: "My doctor (provide doctor's name) has requested special authority for me for the following drug (include the name and drug identification number {DIN} from your prescription). Please provide confirmation of special authority for insurance purposes." Send the letter to Health Insurance BC, PO Box 9655, Stn Prov, Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9P2. Alternatively, you can fax it to 250-405-3587.
- You should receive a letter back from Health Insurance BC confirming the special authority, along with a list of DIN numbers that are covered by that authority. When you receive the letter, make a photocopy and send the original to Gary Prisner, United Fishermen's Benefit Fund, 326-12th Street, New Westminster, V3M 4H6. We'll forward the letter to Pacific Blue Cross to ensure that any drugs covered under the authority are covered.

In some cases, claims have been wrongly denied because Pacific Blue Cross didn't make reference to the list of DINs in confirmation letters and rejected a claim after a pharmacy substituted a different manufacturer's generic drug (which has a different DIN). If we have confirmation letters, we can help deal with similar problems.

In the meantime, if UFBF members have problems with denial of claims for drugs that have previously been covered, get in touch with the Benefit Fund office at 604-519-3644. We'll do our best to help.

Supporting Native Commercial Fishermen

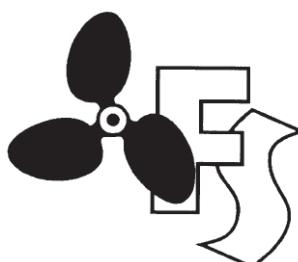


Native Fishing Association
Mark Recalma, Chairman

The Native Fishing Association (NFA) is a not-for-profit financial lending institution that provides loans to assist fishermen, leases fishing licences annually, and administers a commercial licence bank. The NFA is currently restructuring its membership to include all sectors of the industry: commercial fishermen, Community Fishing Enterprises, and Band and Tribal Councils.

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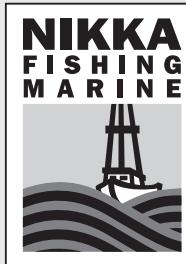
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