

The Fisherman

VOL. 79 NO. 2

DECEMBER, 2014

VANCOUVER, B.C.

\$1

Season's Greetings



AGREEMENT NUMBER 40012128

FISHERMAN PHOTO-SEAN GRIFFIN

Owner-operator the rule on East Coast

Fishermen’s federation presses minister to apply policy in B.C.

The Canadian Independent Fish Harvester’s Federation (the FED), with members representing over 8,000 of the nation’s 10,000 independent fishermen, recently expanded in B.C. to include the B.C. Longline Fishermen’s Association. That makes 21 fishing organizations nationally, including UFAWU-Unifor. In early December the FED met with Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, to discuss DFO policies affecting independent fisherman.

Earlier this year the minister had taken action to protecting independent fishermen in Canada’s four Atlantic provinces and Quebec. PIIFCAF, the DFO policy to protect and preserve

small boat (less than 65ft) fleets and independent fisherman in Atlantic Canada, was coming up to a key enforcement date March 31, 2014, and the minister was being lobbied by fish processors and others to grandfather in control agreements or turf the PIIFCAF policy entirely.

By way of background to the issue, PIIFCAF (Preserving the Independence of the Inshore Fleet in Canada’s Atlantic Fisheries) was a policy developed in 2007, with two key elements: owner operator and fleet separation. These elements work hand in hand. Fishing licences must be operated by the fisherman they are issued to and fish processors cannot own or control these fishing licences. But processors often



The FED
Jim McIsaac

got around the policy by signing “trust” or “control agreements” with fishermen that gave effective control of the licence to the processor. Fishermen felt compelled to sign them or risk losing a market or processor support.

In 2008, the minister asked anyone holding a licence with a control agreement to self-identify and they were given seven years to get out of the control agreement.

When the deadline hit this March, the minister made it very clear that she would enforce the policy, the letter and the spirit, and would not renew any licences that were subject to a control agreement. At the meeting the FED congratulated the minister for taking this firm stance to protect independent fishermen.

Over the months following the decision, the FED has worked closely with the minister and her department to see the policy is enforced. The FED continues to host workshops and policy forums to strengthen independent harvester policy.

Independent fishermen in B.C. do not have the benefit of the PIIFCAF policy. It does not apply in B.C. and there is no equivalent policy on the Pacific Coast. Fishing licences are not required to be fished by whomever they are issued to and licences can be leased to speculators, processors or foreigners before they even get to a fisherman. As a result, fishermen are subject to a private tax on

their fishing efforts. Over the last decades, leasing costs have severely limited the viability of active fishermen and have become a major financial impediment for new entrants to the fisheries. Many fisherman are operating at or below the poverty line.

The accompanying graph is from the 2014 BC halibut fishery.

With no restrictions on leasing and transfers between inactive license holders, speculators, processors or foreigners, the viability of individual fishermen is squeezed to the limit. The minister knows the problem facing B.C. fishermen and has stated publicly that the “T” in ITQs stands for “Trouble”.

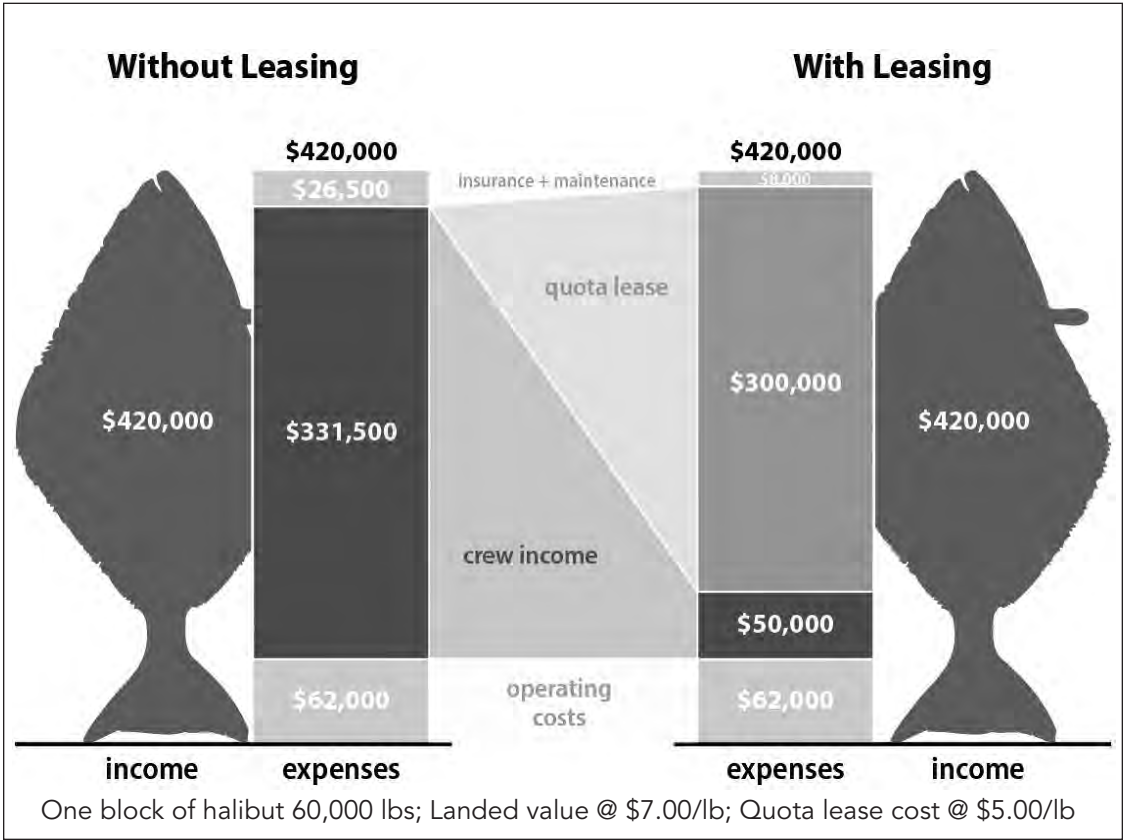
The FED is working towards a policy forum early in the New Year with B.C. fisherman looking for a made-in-B.C. solution and has asked the minister and her department to join the discussions. Without a clear policy to protect fishermen, the viability of B.C. fishermen will continue to spiral down.

Thanks for your business in 2014.

All the best in the New Year.

- We rebuild and service FORD and VOLVO marine diesel engines
- We rebuild WARNER transmissions
- We build KEEL COOLERS
- Exhaust flex joints
- Our SUPER DRIVE fits almost all makes of marine transmissions and saves downtime due to worn drive plates and input shafts

PM Marine Diesel
12211-1st Ave. (Steveston)
Richmond, B.C. V7E 3M3
Tel: 604-272-2672
Fax: 604-272-0275



Season's Greetings

Our sincere wish for a happy holiday season goes out to you and your family. May the New Year bring us progress towards a just world and a safe and successful fishing season.

from THE FISHERMAN
Sean Griffin Suzanne Thomson

and the officers and staff of the
UNITED FISHERMEN AND ALLIED WORKERS' UNION-UNIFOR

UFAWU-Unifor offices will be closed from Dec. 19 until Jan. 5

Speaking up for working fishermen

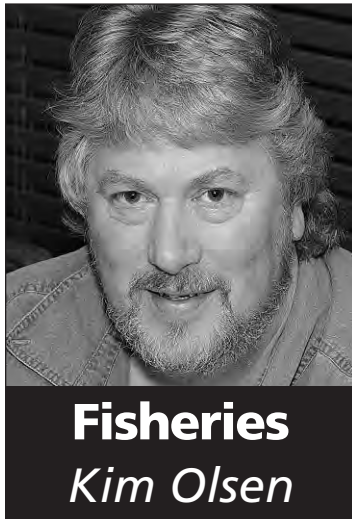
To all fisherman, tendermen and shoreworkers: I want to wish you all a merry Christmas and a wonderful new year, and to give you an update as we look towards 2015.

We have gained allies in our fight against individual transferable quotas (ITQs). It seems that most active fisherman are against the push for ITQs in the salmon industry and other fisheries where DFO is now trying to implement them, such as in the big- and long-nose skate fishery. (The skate are used mainly as bycatch in such fisheries as dogfish but DFO wants to put them on quota. That would be almost impossible to have a dogfish fishery without having to purchase skate quota to cover bycatch. And if DFO has its way, that skate

quota will be split up among many hundred boats in a number of fisheries.)

Fisherman are realizing that they won't see any gains from ITQs — just more costs and headaches as they're forced to broker deals for quota in order to access fisheries. Believe me, we have not given up on opposing ITQs and we are staying the course against them.

There is more good news as well. The union has grown in membership these last two seasons as the word spreads about our efforts to protect the independent fisherman's right to exist in our commercial fisheries. We have a closer relationship with the Native Brotherhood now than we have had in a long time and we must explore how we can



Fisheries
Kim Olsen

work more closely with each other to maintain our place in our chosen industry.

We have been active with area fishermen's associations in the

fight to get more access to designated allocations and to convince DFO to allow more fishing opportunities to harvest them. Last summer, dock meetings on Vancouver Island were attended not only by gillnet and seine fisherman, but also by trollers and fisherman from the drag fleets. They came out and discussed their opposition to ITQs and talked about how we must work together to ensure that the companies and quota leaseholders deal fairly with fisherman.

I have great optimism that we can see salmon fisheries that will provide good jobs and decent earnings in the future. We see salmon runs returning in record numbers in some areas on our coast. We must stay committed to pressuring DFO to move away

from escapement-based fisheries and go back to harvest based fisheries. The grand over-escapement experiment has to end. No longer can we let them over-escape our river systems to the detriment of our stocks and our livelihoods.

I am ever hopeful that fisherman will see the value of continuing to support the union in all of its fights and see that we are here for the benefit of all fishermen and shoreworkers now and long into the future.

Kim Olsen was acclaimed for re-election as president of UFAWU-Unifor at the union's biennial convention in New Westminster Dec. 6. Joining him as a union officer will be gillnetter Barry Marcotte, who was elected by acclamation to the post of vice-president.

Union votes to host Salmon Summit

Convention looks to expand co-operation in salmon fleet

Delegates to the UFAWU-Unifor convention made it clear that the union will working hard over the next two years to ensure a secure place for independent, working fishermen in the fisheries of the future.

The two-day convention, which wrapped up in New Westminster Dec. 6, also saw delegates outline policies to expand cooperation with other organizations in the fishing fleet and to give fishermen a stronger voice in developing harvest plans.

The convention unanimously endorsed a resolution from the union's general executive board to organize a "Salmon Summit" that would bring salmon fishermen across all area and gear organizations together with fisheries scientists, First Nations and environmental organizations supportive of fishing communities.

The resolution noted that DFO has been continually pushing up escapements and reducing the harvest rate on salmon stocks and "commercial salmon fishermen are all impacted by this movement of fish out of the fishery to spawning grounds, both because of the reduced catches and because of the damage that over-escapement causes to future runs."

But "unity between fishermen and fisheries scientists who have analyzed the economic and biological damage caused by increased escapement can bring this issue to the public's attention," the resolution stated.

UFAWU-Unifor president Kim Olsen urged delegates to work on promoting the summit "so we can make this happen." The union intends to host the

Salmon Summit in February before the roe herring fishery.

The convention also backed significant changes to the union's constitution to open new opportunities for cooperation with other fishermen's organizations and to permit vessel owner membership in the union.

Delegates voted to give



GUY JOHNSTON...expert advice on fisheries needed.

authority to the general executive board to create a new "associate membership" for organizations "that follow the principles supporting working fishermen and unionism." The arrangement will include working out a dues payment structure for the associate member organization so that the union isn't faced with extra costs.

Northern representative Joy Thorkelson emphasized that "it's other organizations and associations we're talking about, not individuals" in creating the new arrangement. The union recognizes that there are organizations representing working fishermen that want to have a close association with the union but their individual members may not be ready to join the union, she said.

Gillnetter John Stevens called the resolution a "timely step. This is the direction we want to go — to encourage cooperation with other organizations in the fishery," he said.

To provide additional resources for both the union and associated organizations in dealing with fisheries managers, the convention also authorized the union to hire a fish management biologist as either an employee or a contractor.

"You look at unions on the East coast, they all have a biologist who provides expert advice on fish management issues," prawn fisherman Guy Johnston told the convention.

"We need more clout when we go into meetings with DFO," Olsen said. "We need to look at all the ways we can to meet the costs associated with this."

In another initiative, independent seine vessel owners with more than two crew members will have the door opened again on direct union membership. The convention voted to remove a section of the union's constitution first inserted in the 1960s that prohibited vessel owners employing more than two crew members from being union members. The clause still excludes from membership those who belong to a vessel owners' association that bargains with the UFAWU-Unifor.

Coupled with that change was a resolution authorizing the creation a new vessel owners' local of the union for working vessel owners "to allow seine vessel owners a voice independent of the companies."

Throughout the two-day convention, delegates pointed to the need to create more effective organization to push for improved harvest rates and to protect the right of the small boat fleet to access fisheries and achieve their

allocations.

Delegates reaffirmed their opposition to ITQs in gillnet fisheries, emphasizing that the gillnet fishery has existed on this coast for over 120 years without the need for ITQs. "ITQs will only increase costs for fishermen with very little in return," the resolution adopted by delegates stated.

This year's huge overescapement on the Skeena system provided dramatic evidence of the need for increased harvest rates, as millions of sockeye poured up the river, forcing DFO to block their access to the Lake Babine spawning channels. The union's northern office created a YouTube video documenting the event, called "Wasted Sockeye" as more than 2 million sockeye were recorded at the Babine River counting fence — the highest



JOY THORKELSON... wasted sockeye on Skeena.

escapement in more than two decades of records.

Northern representative Joy Thorkelson noted that the 2014 run was well over forecast but still only 500,000 were caught in ocean fisheries and another 500,000 were caught in Babine Lake. "That left over two million spawners when we only needed half a million," she reported.

Delegates unanimously adopt-

ed a resolution submitted by the Prince Rupert Fishermen's local calling on DFO to increase the Skeena harvest rate "to provide commercial salmon fishermen greater opportunity to maximize economic benefits to fishermen."

In another action, delegates demanded that DFO ensure that small boat fishermen are given adequate time to catch their allocation after three fleets fell short on Fraser sockeye this year. Gillnetters in Area D and E and trollers in Area H were not given the opportunity to catch their allocations and in some cases, it was transferred to the seine fleet. Significantly, DFO still reports the allocation as having been caught by the fleet to which it was allocated, even if it is transferred to another fleet.

The final session also convention saw delegates endorse an emergency resolution calling on the fisheries minister "to support for 2015 a discard-only regulation for longnose skate in all areas of the coast and for big skate in Area 3CD." The regulation would be managed with a total allowable catch (TAC) only and without the individual quotas that DFO is proposing.

The motion was prompted by DFO's decision this year to put a TAC on skate for the first time and to manage the fishery — which is bycatch only from other groundfish fisheries — on an ITQ. But the TAC is dramatically lower than historical catches and the quota would be spread among as many as 700 boats in the groundfish fishery, many of which are not actively fishing.

Dogfish fisherman Dan Edwards, who introduced the resolution, said the DFO measure would force fishermen to go out and find quota to lease. "If you can't find it, you won't be going fishing," he said.

fish & ships

As many who have worked with him know, **David Lane** has never been one to seek the limelight. But that can never diminish the expert knowledge, insight and just plain dedicated hard work he has brought to his work at the UFAWU and the **T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation** over the last 25 years.

David stepped down from his position as executive director of the Foundation and UFAWU-Unifor

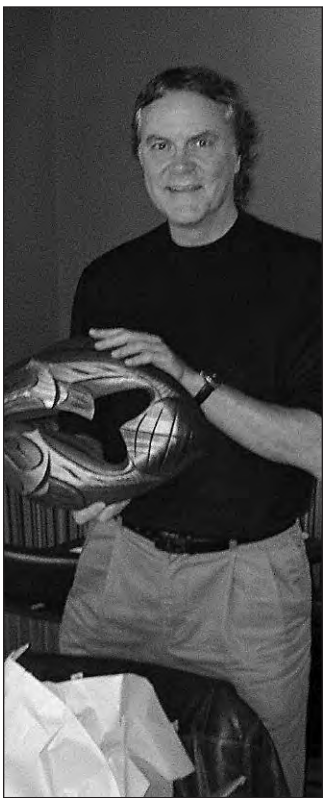


PHOTO-HEATHER MEARNS

David Lane with a wood carving, one of the gifts given him at a retirement lunch Nov. 26.

environmental director July 29. In November, union and Foundation staff and directors celebrated his retirement with a lunch and gifts in the Boathouse restaurant in New Westminster. With his usual modesty, David only touched on some of the things he has done over the years. But his accomplishments are many.

He originally came on staff in 1989 as assistant editor of **The Fisherman**, working with then editor **Geoff Meggs**. He was named editor the following year and produced the paper with assistant **Michel Drouin** for two years before stepping down in 1992, when the current editor **Sean Griffin** came on.

After a brief sojourn in Central America, he returned

in 1993 to take up the post as a campaigner, working with then T. Buck Suzuki Foundation executive director **Mae Burrows**, as the Foundation began some of its most effective work. In conjunction with the **Rivers Defence Coalition** in northwest B.C., the Foundation took up the campaign against Alcan's **Kemano Completion Project** and were successful in 1995 in winning a declaration from **Premier Michael Harcourt** that the project would not proceed. The Foundation also secured outside funding for marsh reclamation projects that employed fishermen in restoring Fraser River fish rearing areas and campaigned for upgrades to the Greater Vancouver Regional District's sewage treatment plants to protect local marine habitat from sewage pollution.

David took over as executive director in 1997 when Burrows left to become the founding executive director of the **Labour Environmental Alliance Society** and continued the work of building coalitions with other organizations to promote habitat protection. For several years, he represented the Foundation as a key member of the **Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform** that spearheaded the campaign against open net fish farms and helped halt the expansion of farms on this coast. He wrote on fish farms and other issues regularly for *The Fisherman*.

And if the measure of someone's work is what they leave behind when they retire, that will also come in size large. When he took on the post as executive director, he was the lone staffer, but over the years, he managed to get outside funding and project partners and now T. Buck Suzuki's staff includes **Jim McIsaac**, **Des Nobels**, **Luanne Roth** and **Bob Grant**.

David isn't leaving the field either. As readers will see from his article on page 11 of this issue, he's putting his heart and energy into the mounting campaign to stop the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline slated

to bring diluted bitumen from the Alberta oilsands to Burrard Inlet. We have no doubt we'll see him in the course of that campaign. And we're certain we'll be better able to wage it because of the work David has done – and continues to do.

It was back in December 2013 that we were sitting in a fishermen's meeting in the hall that we overheard a seine skipper and a couple of deckhands talking. No, not about fishing. About a new book. "Have you read that book **River Killers** that Bruce Burrows wrote?" the skipper asked. "No, I haven't yet," one of the deckhands responded, "but I want to get a copy." "You should," the skipper added. "It's a hell of a good book."

With promotion like that, fishermen turned crime novelist **Bruce Burrows** is bound to have a lot more readers in the industry ready to turn the pages on his newly-published novel, **The Fourth Betrayal**. We got our copy too late for review, but Bruce tells us that it's a sequel to *The River Killers*, picking up some of the first book's characters and introducing others, including Dougie Swanson, an old childhood friend turned reporter whose mysterious death sets the events of the novel in motion. It begins in Sointula, and navigates a path of intrigue through pipeline politics, bureaucratic corruption and financial skulduggery to Ottawa and back to the coast again.

"Once again, it's a book with an environmental theme," Burrows says. "This time it's the Northern Gateway pipeline." The *Fourth Betrayal* has already garnered good reviews from the *Globe* and *Mail* and the *Time-Colonist*.

Like the first book, the style is reminiscent of a 1950s crime novel, filled with banter and sharp-edged humour that helps

move the action along quickly. Burrows says he was working as an at-sea observer in the trawl fishery at the time "and I was able to get about two-thirds of it written while sitting in my bunk, tapping out the text on my laptop."

He also has an outline for a third book, but his new position as fisheries co-ordinator for the **Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw Tribal**



Bruce Burrows new novel is out in bookstores now.

Council (representing First Nations on Hope Island, Gilford Island and Kingcome Inlet), doesn't leave much time for writing. "It's a great job but it's incredibly time-consuming," Burrows says. "It's going to be a lot harder to find the time to write."

It was a welcome sight for fishermen when gillnetter Mike Emes walked into the conference room for the UFAWU-Unifor convention Dec. 5. He was looking a few pounds lighter

and maybe a few hairs thinner on top, but happy to be back after missing the entire 2014 salmon season. In fact, neither he nor his boat **Ocean's Best**, got out of his moorage at False Creek Fishermen's Wharf.

Instead, he was in hospital and the **B.C. Cancer Clinic** going through treatment for a disease that doesn't leave you either time or energy to do anything else but follow the treatment protocol.

Mike says he was just getting prepared to go fishing, when the symptoms appeared. "I was getting the boat ready to go fishing, when these swollen lumps came up on my neck," he said. "I went to one doctor, then another and then another, who told me: 'You're not going anywhere — you've got throat cancer.'"

That started a tough grind of radiation and chemotherapy treatments, as well as two unexpected bouts in hospital dealing with complications. "In the end I was supposed to get seven chemo treatments, but they couldn't do the last one because my body couldn't tolerate it," he says.

Still, the treatment worked. Despite the current news stories about problems at the B.C. Cancer Agency, Mike is unstinting in his praise of the Cancer Clinic staff who treated him. It was no less so at home, where his wife, **Carol**, a nurse, kept him going.

"I've got a clean bill of health," Mike says, after hearing the results of the last round of tests. "And I'm going to be back fishing next season."

Everyone will be looking forward to seeing you there, Mike.



FISHERMAN PHOTO-SEAN GRIFFIN

MIKE EMES ON HIS BOAT OCEAN'S BEST... "I'll be back fishing next year."

The Fisherman

1st Floor, 326–12th Street New Westminster, BC V3M 4H6
Ph: 604-519-3630 Fax: 604-524-6944
E-mail, editorial: fisherman@ufawu.org
Advertising, circulation: suzthomson@dccnet.com

Published by the Fisherman
Publishing Society
Publications Mail
Number 40012128.
Single copy \$1
Deadline two weeks
prior to publication.



Sean Griffin
Editor

Suzanne Thomson
Advertising Manager



FISHERMAN PHOTO-SEAN GRIFFIN

Delegates to the B.C. Federation of Labour convention launch the B.C. Fed's Fight for \$15 campaign for a minimum wage increase at a rally at Canada Place in downtown Vancouver Nov. 25.

Minimum wage increase lifts poverty, boosts the economy

The B.C. Federation of Labour has launched a new campaign to raise British Columbia's minimum wage to \$15, declaring that the new rate is necessary "to lift workers out of poverty."

Vancouver mayor Gregor Robertson and Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs grand chief Stewart Phillip joined the B.C. Fed's Jim Sinclair and Irene Lanzinger at a rally in downtown Vancouver Nov. 26 called to launch the Fight for \$15 campaign.

Sinclair told the rally working people can't live on \$10.25 an hour, the current minimum wage since 2011, when it was raised after a decade of zero increases. "When you get up and go to work every day, you should not come home in poverty," he told the crowd. He pointed out that, although the minimum wage is seen as affecting only students and young, nearly half of the 120,000 people in the province currently earning minimum wage are over 25 and nearly two-thirds of them are women.

Newly-elected B.C. Fed president Irene Lanzinger also emphasized that a minimum wage hike can provide a boost to the economy "because low wage earners are more likely to spend their money at businesses in their neighbourhood."

Predictably, however, business lobby groups were right off the mark in rejecting an increase to the minimum wage.

Richard Truscott, B.C. director of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, argued that an increase

in the minimum wage could do some "real damage to the economy" and would result in job losses, particularly in such sectors of the economy as retail and hospitality where the minimum wage is most prevalent.

The CFIB and other lobby groups have repeated the "job-killer" theme in response to minimum wage campaigns in virtually every province where unions and advocacy groups have called for increases. The media has echoed the claim and governments have cited concerns about possible potential layoffs as a reason to hold minimum wages back at low levels.

Significantly, they've never produced any statistical evidence to show that hikes in the minimum wage actually result in increased unemployment as claimed.

And now a new study produced by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives shows that the argument doesn't hold water at all.

Dispelling Minimum Wage Mythology, produced by Unifor economist Jim Stanford and Jordan Brennan last month, went back as far as 1983 to look at years of data to see whether changes in the minimum wage had any effect on unemployment levels, either by province or Canada-wide.

"In 90 per cent of the (statistical) tests we ran," the authors state, "we found no statistically significant relationship whatsoever between a higher minimum wage and labour market outcomes." In the

10 per cent of cases where there was any change, the effect was just as likely to be positive (leading to more employment) as it was negative, they note.

"There is no statistical evidence to show a connection between minimum wage increases and unemployment levels ... Fear of disemployment effects are overblown by those with a vested interest in keeping wages down."

— **Dispelling Minimum Wage Mythology, 2014**

"Even when the analysis is focussed on those segments of the labour market where low wages are most common (among young workers and in the retail and hospitality sectors), there was no consistent evidence of significant disemployment effects from higher minimum wages," the authors emphasize.

Stanford and Brennan point out that they "cast a wide empirical net" — going back 29 years and across all of Canada's provinces — to get the statistics necessary to determine the effect on employment of minimum wage hikes. Until now, most of the studies have been theoretical, many of them based on free market notions that raising wages prompts businesses to look for ways to save money,

including layoffs.

"Opponents of a higher minimum wage often make a simple argument: if labour is more expensive, employers will buy less of it...."

"But we find almost no evidence of any connection between a higher minimum wage and unemployment and employment levels," they emphasize in the study's conclusion. "Fear of disemployment effects are overblown by those with a vested interest in keeping wages down."

Although minimum wage hikes did not have a measureable effect on employment, increasing minimum wages can be effective in increasing labour's share of income — and therefore increasing consumer demand, which is a dominant factor in economic growth, the study also points out.

"Stronger minimum wages can be an important and effective tool in boosting earnings for low-waged workers, promoting greater equality across employed persons, stabilizing or improving the total labour share of income of Gross Domestic Product, and reducing poverty," Stanford and Brennan conclude. "The minimum wage is not solely an anti-poverty measure; it has a broader effect in strengthening labour incomes."

Dispelling Minimum Wage Mythology: The Minimum Wage and the Impact on Jobs in Canada, 1983-2012 is available as a free pdf download from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Go to www.policyalternatives.ca > Publications.

Fight for \$15 FAQs: BC Fed

Q: Why \$15?

A: Work should lift you out of poverty. That's why the target of \$15. Fifteen dollars per hour would put a minimum wage worker above the poverty line on all the standard measures of poverty (Low Income Cut-Off (LICO), Low Income Measure and Market Basket) using a 35-hour work week and a projected inflation rate of 2 per cent per year. If a \$15 wage were achieved in 2015, it would put B.C. workers 10 per cent above the LICO and give them a fair chance to pay for the most basic necessities.

The average industrial wage in B.C. as of August 2014 was \$899.97 weekly or \$46,798.44 annually. This is a 3 per cent increase over the previous year. The target of \$15 falls at 58 per cent of the average industrial wage in B.C.

Q: How is the minimum wage different from the Living Wage?

A: The minimum wage, currently \$10.25, is a statutory requirement contained in the Employment Standards Act. It is the lowest wage that an employer can legally pay an employee in any community in BC. The Employment Standards Act also sets out separate minimum wages for liquor servers and farm workers.

The living wage is an opt-in campaign targeted at convincing progressive employers to pay their employees a wage that will allow workers to purchase the basic necessities. The living wage is calculated for a family of four based on the actual costs in the community the business is based. The living wage calculation is updated for each community on an annual basis.

Q: Isn't the minimum wage the same for all workers?

A: No. Liquor servers have a minimum wage of \$9 and farm workers are paid at a piece rate. The B.C. Fed believes the liquor server and farm worker rates should be eliminated, so there is one fair minimum wage for everyone.

— BC Federation of Labour

2014 season highlights need for PFDs

For the majority of us involved in the fishing industry, this past season was an excellent one. There were lots of fishing opportunities and lots of fish.

Unfortunately, two fishermen did not make it home this summer. During the prawn fishery a crew man fell or got caught in the gear and went overboard. Even though crew members were able to get him back on board, they were unable to revive him. He was not wearing a PFD.

Near Kelsey Bay a crab vessel capsized with a captain and deck-hand ending up in the water. The crew man had a PFD on and made it to shore. The captain was not wearing a PFD and didn't survive.

Fish Safe, through its Safest Catch Program, has been working with fishermen for the past six years bringing safety education and awareness to fishermen with a focus on PFD wear and cold water survival. We have circulated much information through the Real Fishermen Wear PFDs brochure and have been active on the vessels with our Safest Catch Program. We have even been out on the waters with our "Show me your PFD" program, giving prizes to fishermen who are taking ownership of their safety by wearing



Safety
John Krgovich

PFDs while they are working. It's all in an effort to ensure that fishermen will be given the information and tools to make decisions to have safety on board so that they might come home safely.

Still, incidents such as those this past summer make us wonder why the message is getting through to some fleets, or segments of fleets and not others. What is the key to getting all fishermen to wear PFDs?

Rather than dwell on the ones who still haven't got the message or seem unwilling to change, it might be more productive to look to fleets where the message is sinking in and the safety culture is changing.

The Area L and Area J crab

fishing fleets off the Fraser River and Boundary Bay are one example of a fleet that has taken ownership of safety on board. They have participated in many training programs including the Safest Catch and are wearing PFDs when they're on the water.

This change did not come quickly or without some resistance. The crab fleet benefited from dock walks done by Safest Catch Advisors who provided hands-on samples of PFDs to try and test in their fleet to see what worked best. The message trav-

elled through the tightly knit community of the crab fleet to a point where some of the most prominent fishermen and organizers put together large groups of crab fishermen to participate in the Safest Catch Program.

This leadership and positive uptake of PFD wear did not go unnoticed. WorkSafeBC safety officers reported at the last Fish Safe Advisory Committee that everyone they checked during their at-sea inspections of the crab fishery, had on a PFD.

So while there is still much

work to be done with PFD wear among fishermen, it is good to see that with the Fraser River and Boundary Bay crab fishing fleets the Safest Catch Program is really catching on. Maybe it's time for us old salts to take a page from their leadership and wear a PFD so we can give ourselves a better chance at becoming even older salts.

Join us at the next Fish Safe Advisory Committee, January 29, 2015 and see the newest PFD vest designed for wearability on fishing vessels.



Fishermen show off their PFDs during the southern crab fishery.

Happy Holidays



CANADIAN FISHING COMPANY

*We wish our fishermen, employees, associates and their families,
a wonderful Holiday Season and a successful New Year !*

Vancouver
604-681-0211

Prince Rupert
250-624-6726

Port Hardy
250-949-2629

Injuries spur call for regulation change

Union, FishSafe urge shorter beckets for North Coast nets

By Don Ekroth

On a cold, drizzly July morning, just a few wind-chopped kilometres from the Canada-Alaska border, well-known skipper Barry Marcotte watched his net peel off the drum of his gillnetter Sun Mariner into the semi-frigid waters of Portland Canal. It was something he'd done hundreds of times that season. But this time it would be different.

"As the net wound off the drum and over the back of the boat I was suddenly aware of a slight tugging at my arm," Marcotte recalls.

Little did he know that moments later he was to become the latest victim in a string of life-threatening incidents that have occurred since DFO instituted the 1.2-metre drop weedline requirement for 90-mesh gillnets nearly 20 years ago.

"In a fraction of a heart beat I was yanked off my feet and slammed into the stern roller," he says. "It happened so fast I didn't have time to throw on the brake, take the boat out of gear or reach for a knife. All I could do was hold on for dear life and try to keep from being dragged out over the stern."

In the late '90s gillnetters successfully won the right to use 90-mesh nets in the Area 3, 4 and 5 sockeye fisheries. It was felt the deeper nets would be more efficient and allow the gillnet fleet to more readily achieve its allocation target. The price DFO exacted for that concession was the requirement to provide a 1.2 metre space between the corkline and the web to facilitate the escapement of steelhead. In order to create that 1.2 meter corridor,

gillnetters were required to tie lengthy gangions (or beckets) between each cork on the net and the weedline. If a net has 400 corks on it, there are 400 beckets joining them to the weedline.

It is these loops (thrown out from the drum by centrifugal force) that precipitated the events that followed when Marcotte set his net that day. What he didn't realize at first was that one of the loops had gone over his arm and was starting to tighten.

"The becket closed tight around my forearm, then slid down my wet raingear to my wrist. By this time I was clinging to the roller, hanging over the stern with my arm towed straight out. All the while, the boat was still idling ahead. Flashing through my mind was the panic-stricken thought that I would end up in that frigid water. How long would it be before hypothermia set in? After an eternity — likely a couple of seconds — the sleeve on my raingear ripped, my hand broke free and I fell back into the boat."

While incidents like this are rare, all of them are life-threatening. Broken limbs, cuts, scrapes, bruises have been documented since the late '90s, when the regulation came into existence. Undocumented (and likely more numerous) are the hair-raising near-misses when rubber gloves are ripped off fishermen's hands by these lethal loops.



Fisherman Barry Marcotte shows the rip in the sleeve of his raingear that probably saved him from being dragged overboard by his net when a 1.2-metre becket caught and held his arm.

But now calls for change have come from two influential sources.

A recent Fish Safe coast-wide conference on industry safety issues (held in Richmond September 25) recommended in a unanimous decision that DFO allow a reduction in the length of the beckets. The delegates felt that reducing the size of the dangerous loops would make the nets considerably safer. In a letter to DFO's Kelly Binning, Fish Safe

as this would reduce the safety issues significantly, while still, if necessary, maintaining a management policy for conserving steelhead."

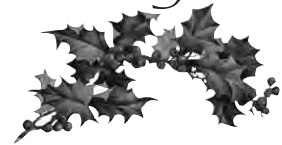
More recently, delegates to the 61st annual UFAWU-Unifor convention Dec. 5 and 6 overwhelmingly adopted the call for DFO to make the change from 1.2-metre beckets to 0.75 metre.

President Kim Olsen stated: "While the union supports steelhead conservation when needed, we do not accept that it should be done at the expense of safety. It is for safety concerns (and the questionable need to conserve already strong Northern steelhead stocks) that we recommend the 0.75 meter drop weedline."

"While it doesn't go as far as we would like it to, we feel the revised regulation would strike a reasonable and workable balance between perceived needs for steelhead conservation on the North Coast and our own need to protect gillnetters' health and safety."

Should DFO continue to choose conservation of northern steelhead over the safety of Northern gillnetters, it will only be a matter of time until one of those fishers will pay the ultimate price.

Season's Greetings



Mits Fishing Supply Ltd.

NAGAURO NETS
Salmon and herring

Tel: 604-291-9699 1-888-491-9699
mits@telus.net
580 Clare Ave., Burnaby BC V5B 4L4



Season's Greetings



FALSE CREEK FISHERMEN'S WHARF
1505 West 1st Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1E8
Tel: 604-733-3625 Fax: 604-733-3628
www.falsecreek.com

Season's Greetings



National Seafood Sector Council
38B John Street
Yarmouth, NS
B5A 3H2
Tel: 902-742-6167



National Seafood Sector Council

www.nationalseafood.ca

Season's Greetings

to our many customers and friends!

B.C.'S BEST

SMALL SHIPYARD

TOM-MAC



SHIPYARD

A COMPLETE MARINE SERVICE FACILITY

17011 RIVER ROAD
RICHMOND

CALL US FOR A FREE ESTIMATE AND SUGGESTIONS
604-278-1516
Fax: 604-278-1402

Survitecgroup

Season's Greetings!

WE HAVE YOU COVERED.

We manufacture the most comprehensive range of liferafts on the market today. Before heading offshore, be safe and plot a course for Survitec Group.

- Commercial life rafts
- Personal flotation
- Immersion suits
- Pyrotechnics
- Safety electronics
- Rescue boats
- EPIRBs

Fire And Safety Division

Supply / Install / Service

- Fire Systems (CO2, Halon Alternative)
- Fire Extinguishers And Bracket

Survitec Group

1689 Cliveden Avenue,
Delta, BC, V3M 6V5 Canada

Tel: (604) 278-3221 / Fax: (604) 278-7812

Email: vancouver.sales@survitecgroup.com

www.dbcmarine.com / www.survitecgroup.com

*Have a safe and wonderful Christmas with your families
from the staff at Stryker Electronics*



STRYKER Electronics Ltd.

6710 Hardy Bay Road
Port Hardy, BC V0N 2P0
Tel: 250-949-8022
Fax: 250-949-8077
Toll-free: 1-888-839-8022
E-mail: stryker@cablerocket.com

FURUNO

*Introducing the
award-winning
NavNet 3D
navigation
system*



Sales and Service of Marine Electronics



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

PO Box 10, Stn C, 2nd Floor, 368 Hamilton Ave.
St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 5H5
Tel: 709-576-7276 | Fax: 709-576-1962



FFAW | UNIFOR
Fish, Food & Allied Workers
www.ffaw.nf.ca



HOLIDAY GREETINGS

to one and all from the
**B.C. Salmon
Marketing Council**






BC Salmon Marketing Council
PO Box 18538 Delta, BC V4K 4V7
Tel: 1.855.642.3551 (toll-free in North America)
gowild@bcsalmon.ca www.bcsalmon.ca

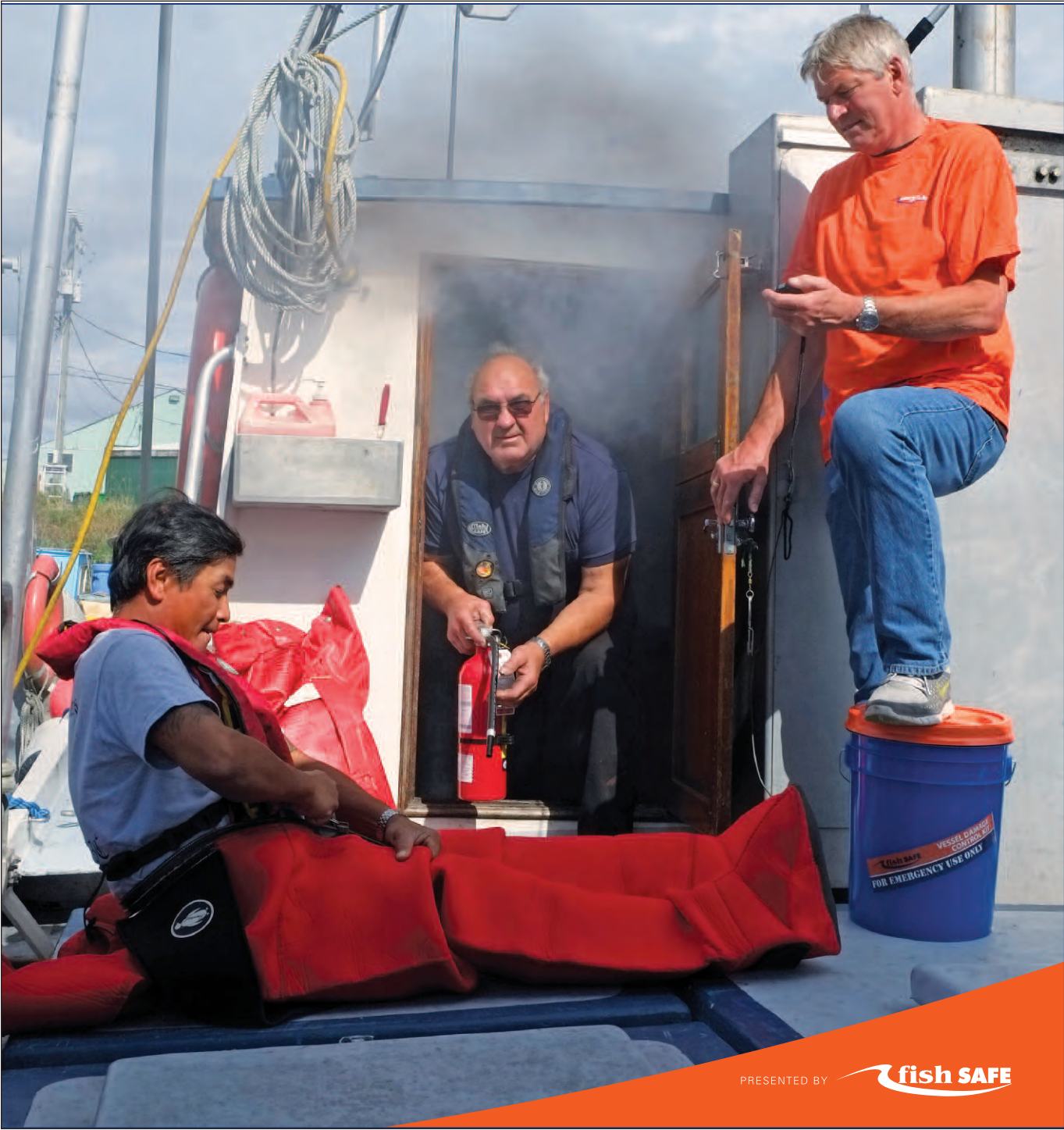
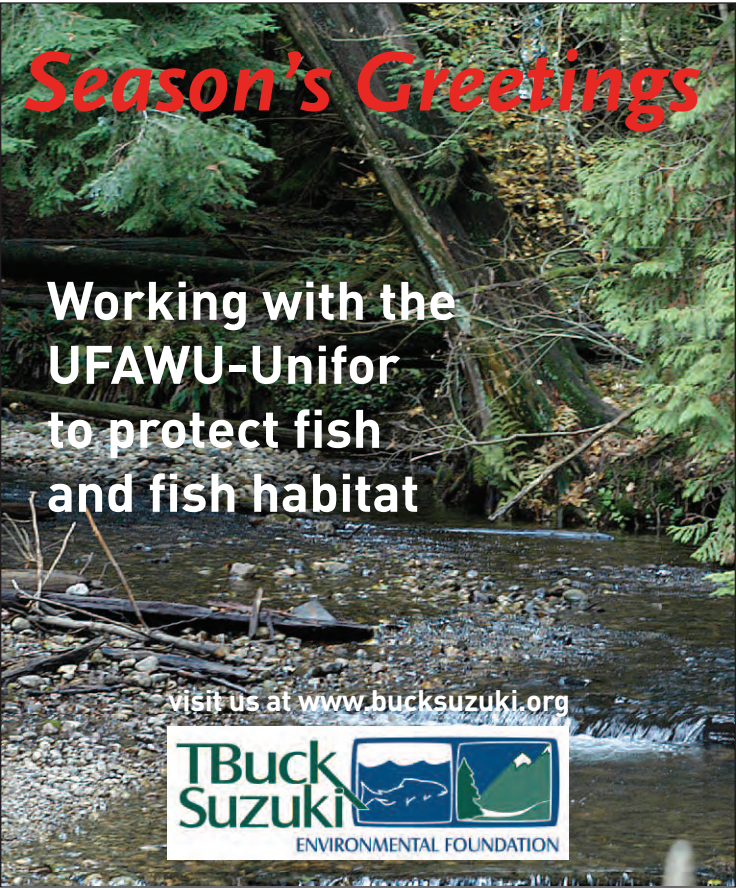
Season's Greetings

Working with the
UFAWU-Unifor
to protect fish
and fish habitat

visit us at www.bucksuzuki.org



TBuck Suzuki
ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION





SAFEST CATCH PROGRAM

FISHERMEN HELPING FISHERMEN

SAFEST CATCH FISHERMEN ASK "WHAT IF?"

Out on the water, risk can become reality fast. With realistic on board fire simulations and safety drills, the Safest Catch Program gives commercial fishermen the confidence needed to handle emergencies while fishing.

**Give us a call to book
your FREE vessel visit:**

TEXT 604.729.8407
phone 604.261.9700
email fishsafe@fishsafebc.com
web fishsafebc.com

PRESENTED BY 

Salmon harvest rates key to future

UBC expert critiques DFO failed policy of boosting escapements, cutting fisheries

The way DFO is managing salmon fisheries and implementing the Wild Salmon Policy is “fundamentally flawed” and until that changes, small-boat fishermen will be restricted by harvest rates that are far lower than they could be, a leading fisheries expert told delegates to the UFAWU-Unifor convention Dec. 6.

“The biggest threat facing you is the severe reduction in harvest rates,” Dr. Carl Walters, professor emeritus at the University of B.C.’s Fisheries Centre, said during a special presentation to the two-day convention. That reduction is the direct result of DFO moving to an escapement-based policy rather than an exploitation rate for fisheries, changes in allocation and DFO’s push to implement individual transferable quotas (ITQs), he added.

For more than a decade, DFO has pointed to its Wild Salmon Policy as the reference point for cutting back fisheries harvest rates and driving greater numbers of fish on to the spawning grounds.

But the way that DFO is implementing the Wild Salmon Policy is “just plain stupid,” Walters declared.

“The way that data are being fed into the system is not taking into account the effect of losses of high value fisheries from the largest stocks. Scientists are not talking about the trade-offs,” he said, adding that consideration of those effects is one of the requirements of Strategy 4 of the Wild Salmon Policy.

“They’re just not doing the job they’re supposed to do,” he said.

Walters, who estimated earlier this year that the economic losses from restrictive harvests on the 2014 Fraser sockeye run were about \$20 million, emphasized that DFO could increase harvest rates for the small boat fleet scientifically and sustainably — but it requires a different attitude within DFO.

“There is some beautiful science showing that it’s possible to increase harvest rates,” although at this point, “it’s running into an institutional wall within DFO,” he said.

Still, fishermen could use that science to take to the department “when they tell you they can’t open a fishery,” he emphasized.

Walters cited run statistics from the productive Adams River stocks showing that some of the biggest runs have come from “moderate escapements,” with high escapements not yielding big returns.

In recent years, DFO has maintained that high overall escapements are necessary — even if it mean severe cutbacks to fisheries on very productive stocks — in order to ensure large numbers



DR. CARL WALTERS...harvest rates on salmon can be scientifically and sustainably increased.

of spawners on weaker stocks.

“DFO treats the Cultus Lake stock, which barely makes it on to the graph, the same as a large stock like the Adams — and that’s wrong,” Walters said. “Reduced fishing doesn’t always lead to increased returns — it just means harvest losses.

“DFO policy just plain isn’t working: smaller stocks are not responding to DFO’s escapement policy,” he added. Despite that lack of response, fishermen are being forced to forego fishing opportunities to achieve those high escapements.

A key factor in changing DFO’s policy is recognizing that there is a distinction between “overfishing”, which is an economic concept, and “extinction fishing”, a conservation concept. Walters noted. DFO doesn’t make that distinction, presenting any

overfishing to the public as potential extinction fishing.

In fact, “smaller stocks can be sustainably overfished without causing a high extinction risk,” Walters emphasized. “An overfished stock can be biologically healthy.”

He pointed to several smaller stocks on the Shuswap system, including Scotch and Seymour creeks, that had been sustainably overfished for years. Significantly, those stocks actually declined in productivity when DFO increased escapements as part of an effort to achieve maximum yield, Walters said.

Similarly, the Pacific Salmon Commission was following the same principle when it allowed a high harvest rate on early Summer runs in order to maintain fisheries in the early part of the 2014 Fraser sockeye run, he said.

Coupled with the reduced fishing opportunities, DFO’s “determination to drive ITQ management” in salmon fisheries is creating more pressure to limit harvest rates as managers are compelled to project run sizes very conservatively in setting out pre-season individual quotas, Walters noted.

“They have to keep quota shares down pre-season and then they can’t adjust in-season fast enough,” he said. “Half the run is past before they can make decisions — and then you can’t catch up.”

Walters acknowledged that it’s difficult for fishermen to break through DFO’s “institutional wall” but told delegates they “should demand improved fisheries management” that is doing its job in implementing strategy 4 of the Wild Salmon Policy.

He also urged them to challenge the public perception — which, he said, is the result of “misinformation from DFO and the media” — that salmon runs are declining. “In fact, salmon are back to near historic levels,” he pointed out.

During a question period, UFAWU-Unifor northern representative Joy Thorkelson said she didn’t share Walters’ pessimism about the inevitability of salmon ITQs for the small boat fleet.

“DFO is acknowledging that it doesn’t have the knowledge to fully implement ITQs is salmon fisheries. And ITQ fisheries have not been as successful as it was stated they would be,” she said.

Thorkelson said she was “hopeful that the ITQ debate can be silenced while we have the discussion about the much larger issue of salmon allocation.”



PFDs save lives

Wear one while you’re working

For workplace health and safety materials and resources visit
worksafebc.com/safetyatwork.

WORK SAFE BC

UFAWU-Unifor convention outlines union's framework for allocation modernization



The 61st convention of the UFAWU-Unifor Dec. 5 and 6 endorsed a framework for allocation in the salmon fishery that would support coastal communities and First Nations. It was developed over the past year with a series of meetings in different parts of the coast that included fishermen from all gear types and areas. Below are some of the highlights of this policy. The full document is on the UFAWU-Unifor/Fishermen Facebook page.

The union's fish regulations committee, chaired by troller Guy Johnston, will be meeting with other fishing organizations and fishermen all over the coast to start to flesh out this proposal. "Fishermen are excited to talk about how to return the fishery to biological and economic sustainability, instead of the ITQ solution that would mean fishermen selling their jobs and further dismantling their communities," Johnston said.

PROPOSAL TO MODERNIZE ALLOCATION:

Goals:

1. A 'modernized' commercial allocation plan should encompass a fair sharing of the resource by all three marine commercial salmon gear-types and First Nations' economic fisheries.
2. The new allocation policy should promote the economic well-being of independent fishermen, active fishermen and owner-operators. The

benefits of a fishery should go to those who actually fish.

3. Successful "allocation modernization" will cultivate a cooperative management regime with First Nations and among gears and areas that will promote better access to the resource for all parties, while ensuring the sustainability of salmon stocks.

General principles:

Salmon is a common property resource. UFAWU-Unifor believes that the fishery should benefit those doing the fishing. As the present allocation policy states, "access to the resource is a privilege ...it is not a right that conveys a proprietary interest to the licence holder". (An Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon DFO New Direction policy p. 19)

The fishery shall not become an ITQ fishery with leasing or purchasing taking place within or among fleets.

The union also takes the position that corporate concentration of the ownership of salmon licences should decrease over time. Moreover, allocation modernization should not provide an avenue to increase the corporate ownership of salmon access. The DFO policies of fleet separation and owner-operator fisheries applied on the East Coast of Canada should be applied to the B.C. coast as well.

All Canadians should contribute to First Nations' economic fisheries. Any reduction in the regular marine fishery by reason of transfer to a First Nation economic fishery should be compensated by all Canadians through a buy-back program.

All commercial fisheries (marine and inland) must have allocated sufficient bycatch to prosecute their target fisheries as a priority over a full sports allocation.

FIRST NATIONS ECONOMIC FISHERIES

1. There will be an transfer of a yet-to-be-determined percentage of the coastwide marine Canadian commercial TAC (gillnet, troll, seine) to all salmon First Nations.
- a. The First Nations commercial fisheries will be based on a percentage of the TAC, not on a number. For example, if the commercial TAC is zero, all commercial fisheries, including First Nations' economic fisheries will have zero catch.)
2. The transfer will be an economic transfer. It will be an agreement between commercial fishermen and First Nations. It will not be part of treaty negotiations and will not prejudice claims. The agreement will be a business arrangement between willing parties.

- a. The transfer will take into consideration both where in the marine commercial fishery the fish was caught and where it spawns.
3. The percentage of fish transferred from the marine commercial fishery to the First Nations economic fishery must be large enough to be meaningful. The actual percentage will be negotiated between commercial fishermen's and First Nations' representatives.

MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE:

There shall be an agreement by all parties to properly and effectively monitor and enforce all fisheries.

Marine commercial fishing' monitoring and enforcement plans will be open and transparent and satisfy first Nations' concerns. First Nations' fisheries monitoring and enforcement plans will be open and transparent and satisfy marine commercial fishermen's concerns.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND HARVEST PLANS:

DFO will co-manage with First Nations so they can enforce their fisheries regulations.

Selective Fishing: Each group shall fish as selectively as necessary to ensure that every group will have sufficient by-catch or incidental catch to harvest their allocation.

INTRASECTORAL ALLOCATION PRINCIPLES

Every fleet (all gears and all areas) has a right to exist and the right to a fair and viable share of the commercial TAC. Unless there is no TAC available in any fishery due to conservation problems, every fleet must have a TAC to harvest every season.

Equal average earnings should be a serious consideration in annual allocation discussions.

Sufficient by-catch and incidental catch must be made available to all commercial fisheries to enable each to sustainably harvest their target TAC. By-catch and incidental catch will be shared amongst all gear types to permit all to harvest their TAC.

Fisheries can use a full tool box of methods to ensure a sustainable harvest and access to all available TAC, including equal division quota, registered, pool, and lottery fisheries.

Within any one area, any present fishery managed on an ITQ basis will be grandfathered in. However, a grandfathered ITQ fishery can be changed by a simple majority of fishermen to a different management tool. Otherwise, ITQ fisheries will not be permitted.

The union proposes Regional Salmon Development (RSD) (Alaska-style ocean ranching) to increase salmon harvests. The benefits should be shared according to the allocation plan.

The union is presenting this plan for discussion and amendment by active fishermen. It was developed by members of the different areas and gears.

HEAT-SHIELD BLANKETS WILL:

- Reduce deterioration of belts and hoses
- Create a safer work area
- Reduce deterioration of electrical parts caused by radiant heat
- Reduce fire hazards associated with fuel or oil leaks
- Reduce engine noise
- Permit easy removal and replacement for inspection or repair of piping (mufflers)



BC'S OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTOR
OF WINKLER STRUCTURES



CLARK
SERVICES &
INSULATIONS LTD.

QUALITY PRODUCTS WITH OUTSTANDING SERVICE SINCE 1986.

Season's Greetings

5620-198th Street, Langley V3A 7C7

604-530-2213 • Fax: 604-530-2218

Toll-free 1-800-667-9455

greg@redden-net.com • george@redden-net.com



Redden Net Custom Nets Ltd.



ANDERSON WANG PHOTO

Despite arrests, environmental activists, First Nations, Burnaby residents and SFU students and professors maintained a protest against Kinder Morgan's drilling on Burnaby Mountain until crews left in early December when the court-set deadline for completion of the work was up.

Sticking with the pipeline campaign

I have now retired as executive director of the T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation, leaving the organization in the very capable hands of Jim McIsaac, Bob Grant, Des Nobels and Luanne Roth. I have been blessed with a consistent, thoughtful and experienced long-term Board of Directors headed up by Paul Kandt and have relied on a host of ready and able volunteers from the membership.

Although I have moved on, I have no intention of dropping environmental activism from my life and will be looking at campaigns where I can still contribute in the new year.

Over the past 25 years working for the T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation and UFAWU-Unifor, one fundamental lesson is top of mind — the environmental campaigns that have been successful have all involved broad coalitions bringing together a wide range of people with common concerns for protecting the environment: commercial fishing folks, environmentalists, local ranchers and nature-lovers, trade unionists, First Nations and others. It is never easy, as these same groups and individuals may have quite opposite thoughts on fisheries conservation, but are still able to find common cause on habitat and ocean protection.

A second lesson that has also become clear over the years is that the commercial fishing sector needs to be front and centre in these coalitions, fighting against environmental impacts that harm fish and fish habitat. It is essential for several reasons: commercial fishermen and fish plant workers have the most to lose for themselves and future generations in the fishing industry; they live in coastal communities that depend on jobs and incomes from fishing,

which brings real stories of human costs to these environmental debates. Just as important, commercial fishing folks can often offer solutions and recommendations that might not otherwise come to the table, solutions that include the survival of fishing jobs and coastal communities.

It was through unifying actions and collective campaigns for government action that there were victories in stopping the Kemano Completion Project, winning proper sewage treatment for Victoria and Vancouver, and securing adequate buffer zones around streams where logging and urban development were encroaching. It was a broad range of groups, some working together and others working on their own, that stopped the salmon farming industry from expanding on the B.C. coast.

Pipeline construction and oil tanker expansion are the new threat to B.C.'s streams and coastline. Again, it will be collective action by many groups and interests that may actually kill the Enbridge and Kinder Morgan pipeline projects. Both pipelines would result in a massive increase in oil tanker traffic on the B.C. coast with unrefined bitumen posing an even greater threat to sea life. Both pipelines would be crossing hundreds of streams and rivers. A pipeline rupture or an oil tanker accident could do untold



Environment
David Lane

damage to our coastal fisheries.

Despite the threat posed by these two pipeline projects, I remain optimistic that common sense and the will of the majority of citizens will prevail.

The Kinder Morgan (Trans Mountain) pipeline expansion project is currently facing major obstacles ranging from well-organized protests on Burnaby Mountain, to First Nations court cases and challenges to the anti-democratic National Energy Board (NEB) approval process. In a mockery of past environmental reviews, the NEB is not even allowing public hearings. It has also done away with the cross-examination of witnesses that ensures evidence is factual. There will be no oral hearings in affected communities as has always been the case with major projects.

Kinder Morgan can overwhelm this process with written "evidence" that side-steps crucial questions and avoids worst-case scenarios. Those concerned about oil spills can only ask questions in writing to Kinder Morgan and the company can simply answer in writing with vague and off-the-mark responses or ignore the question altogether.

Even more troublesome is that the National Energy Board has rejected all petitions asking that climate change impacts from the extraction, transportation and use of tar sands oil be fully examined. This, of course, is the most important and most damaging environmental impact and yet it will not be addressed, documented or analyzed. This is the one clear and predictable outcome for B.C. salmon and other fisheries: a significant increase in fossil fuel extraction and use will result in increased warming of the planet which means warmer stream temperatures and dryer weather, both of which could lead to the extinction of some or all salmon runs in B.C. over the coming decades. Sockeye salmon are particularly susceptible to warming river and stream temperatures as they increases stress, which can make longer migrations unsurvivable or can promote in-river mortalities from disease.

Ironically, because the official NEB review process is so distorted and inadequate, other forms of protest have taken over the public spotlight, including a noisy occupation on Burnaby Mountain where Trans Mountain had engineering crews and equipment to test the viability of a tunnel under a wooded conservation area and parkland. In what can only be seen as a public relations disaster for the oil company, Trans Mountain went to court to get an injunction against the protesters leading to a civil disobedience and the mass arrest of more than 100 protesters. Most of the charges have been dropped because the protest site was wrongly identified when the arrests were made. Both Burnaby and Vancouver city councils are formally opposed to the pipeline, as are most Fraser Valley municipalities.

This is a fight that is not going away and I believe the project will eventually be abandoned as a too-risky business investment because of the strength of the public opposition and the likely success that First Nations will have in the courts. It is a fight where commercial fishing folks need to be, working in step with environmental and citizens groups who share our concern for healthy rivers and oceans and who welcome our unique voice.

Season's Greetings

from the

**Steveston
Harbour
Authority**



Serving all the fleet in Steveston
Tel: 604-272-5539 • Fax: 604-271-6142

Assisting Native commercial fishermen

Native Fishing Association



Mark Recalma, Chairman
110-100 Park Royal South
West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2



Tel: 604-913-2997 Prince Rupert: 250-624-3888
E-mail: reception@shoal.ca www.nativefishing.ca

*Wishing you a happy holiday season!
from the board and staff NFA*

Fleet trying novel ways to cut bycatch

Research shows LEDs on trawl can repel non-target species

Most traditional fishermen have always been interested in reducing bycatch, even if sometimes it was just for practical reasons, especially for reducing sorting time.

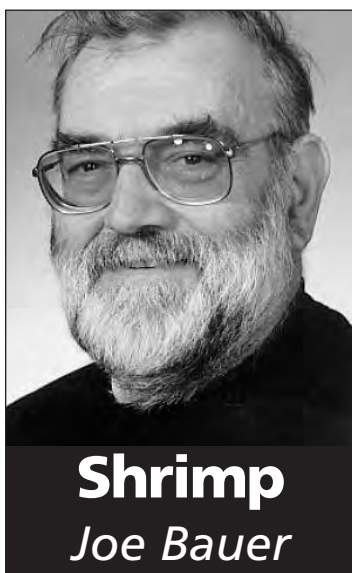
In fact, that was one of the main reasons that most of us switched back from otter trawls to bream trawls a number of years ago when the shrimp biomass was badly reduced by overfishing. The slower towing speed (1.1 knots as opposed to 2.5-3 knots) required

for the beam trawls to operate effectively resulted in a bycatch reduction on juveniles from various other species. But the lower bycatch didn't just make our fisheries more efficient — it was important for other fisheries and in protecting the predator species that make up the catches of other gear types and help maintain biomass sustainability.

Most hands-on fishermen themselves have been the ones to develop different methods to reduce bycatch. And now a new



SHRIMPER, STEVESTON SALES DOCK... LED lights the newest innovation in bycatch reduction.



**Shrimp
Joe Bauer**

one has come up, although its use has surprised me. It involves the use of lights on the trawl while it is fishing underwater.

In the past we always used lights to attract fish, not repel them. When I was young and went seining for herring, pit lamping was common as a way of attracting the fish and getting them to shoal at night. We'd shut off the lights on the seiner and then put lights in the skiff to hold the shoal of herring while we hauled up the anchor and set the seine net to surround the school. A similar method was used for squid in both dip/lift nets or jigging at night. Lights are still used

for squid jigging and unfortunately, for attracting free food for the open netpen salmon farm industry.

But now lights are part of a new approach that involves using LED lights on the head rope of the otter/board trawls. It seems to repel certain types of bycatch species while the trawl is in operation.

The LED self-contained lights are not strobe type but a rather a constant blue, green or white lighting with long battery life. At this time, the Oregon fleet is continuing to work on this approach with a lot of success. They are using about 10 lights, spaced about four feet apart in the centre on the head rope of the trawl.

There is still a lot of research and work to be done but the results so far are encouraging for the future of bycatch reduction efforts. Some of the results to date are: eulachon bycatch reduced by 90 per cent (by weight); juvenile rockfish reduced by as much as 78 per cent; and combined flatfish reduced by up to 69 per cent. But the shrimp loss of 0.7 per cent isn't considered statistically valid and needs further research for confirmation.

One experiment that was tried and backfired involved placing the

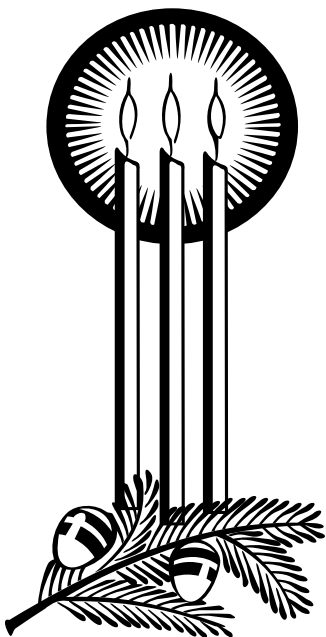
lights around the bycatch reduction grate ahead of the cod-end. It resulted in an increase in eulachon bycatch of 100 per cent — not what researchers were hoping for. But it was all part of the experimental stage and research is ongoing.

As a follow-up to the research, the Pacific Coast Shrimpers Cooperative proposed to use donated voluntary funds from non-active fishermen to fund an initial investment of \$2,000 to purchase 24 of the LED lights and to lend them to two vessels for preliminary testing. I fully support the proposal and to have active fishermen involved is of prime importance.

During my years fishing salmon up and down the coast, there were nights when goosejellies and other species of jellyfish would come in contact with our gillnets. They would light up our nets like giant blue-green neon lights. On those nights, there would be no salmon catch — they were avoiding the light.

That avoidance may be because of an unusual circumstance or the signal of predators in the area. Whatever the reason, it's valuable knowledge to have if it can enhance bycatch evasion and reduction.

THE ONE-STOP FISHING STORE



Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away
like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.
The good you do for others is the good you do yourself.

— Norman Wesley Brooks

1-800-895-GEAR(4327) Toll Free U.S. & Canada



PACIFIC NET & TWINE LTD.

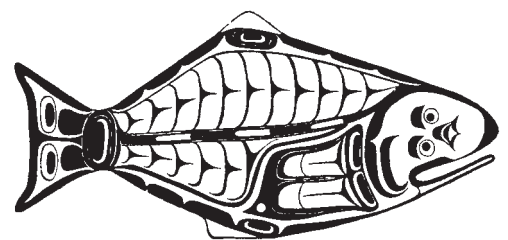
3731 Moncton Street, Steveston, B.C. V7E 3A5

Phone: (604) 274-7238 Fax: (604) 271-2914

Website: pacificnetandtwine.com

BRANCH STORES: PARKSVILLE: 250-248-6953 PRINCE RUPERT: 250-627-1770

*A Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
to all our friends and fishermen.
Thanks for your support in 2014.*



S.M. PRODUCTS (BC) LTD.

PROVEN MARKETERS OF NORTH PACIFIC HALIBUT SINCE 1990

**LONG LINE HALIBUT,
ZN GROUND FISH & FAS BLACK COD**

BUYING AND OFFLOADING STATIONS:

10 Stations in British Columbia
7 Stations in Alaska and Washington

**TOP PRICES FOR TOP QUALITY
SUPPORTED BY TOP SERVICE**

*Ice and Bait available upon request
Available 24 hours a day
Office: 604-946-7665 • Toll-free: 1-888-962-5577*



Jorn: 604-657-9260
Blake: 604-290-2454
Carl: 604-671-8947
Gord: 604-644-9980
Rob: 604-418-6867

www.halibut.ca

Benefit Fund meetings improve coverage plan

Deductibles cut, reimbursement amount boosted

Health care costs have been going up steadily for our members over the past several years, with prescription drug and other expenses rising along with Medical Services Plan premiums. So when the trustees of the United Fishermen's Benefit Fund met in November, the idea was to see what we could do to offset some of those costs through improved UFBF benefits.

In the end, trustees voted to make five recommendations for changes, most of them aimed at reducing deductibles for both active and honorary members of the UFBF and increasing the amount reimbursed for prescriptions and other covered medical expenses.

Making changes to UFBF benefits is always a balancing act because the income to the fund is based on a per-pound levy that processors pay for salmon delivered to signatory companies. Since salmon returns vary widely year over year, UFBF trustees have to ensure that any increases in benefits are sustainable over several years.

The Fund's finances showed the improved benefits could be maintained over the longer term and trustees voted to recommend the changes to the UFBF annual meeting, which is held in conjunction with the UFAWU-Unifor convention. Delegates to the convention, held in New Westminster Dec. 5-6, voted to endorse the changes and they will go into effect Jan. 1, 2015.

EH DEDUCTIBLE

Deductibles for extended health for UFBF members are currently \$75 for single and \$150 for a family of two or more. That will be reduced Jan. 1 to \$50 for



Benefits
Gary Prisner

single and \$75 for a family of two or more. It will effectively enable members to begin getting reimbursed earlier since they will reach the lower deductibles sooner.

The change will affect both active and honorary members.

DENTAL DEDUCTIBLE

The deductibles for United Fishermen's Benefit Fund dental coverage, which are the same as extended health coverage, will also change Jan. 1 to \$50 for single and \$75 for a family of two or more. Again, the change will affect both active UFBF members and honorary members.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Honorary members currently pay an annual premium of \$375 single and \$900 for a family of two or more to access the Benefit Fund. Effective Jan. 1, 2015, the family premium will be reduced to \$750. The single premium will remain the same.

PART-TIME PREMIUM

Under current UFBF provisions, fishermen who fish roe herring only can pay a reduced-fee premium that extends Benefit

Fund coverage from four months to a full year, based on the start date for the roe fishery. However, the provision is now rarely used, with only two fishermen per year applying for it over the last four years. Effective Jan. 1, 2015, the part-time premium will be dropped and fishermen will be eligible for the extended coverage without additional payment.

REIMBURSEMENT

Benefit Fund members are currently reimbursed, after the deductible has been reached, for the 60 per cent costs of drugs that are listed under the B.C. Pharmacare program. Effective Jan. 1, 2015, that will rise to 70 per cent. The increase will benefit all members but it will be particularly important for those on high cost drugs such as asthma inhalers and blood pressure medications.

Best Wishes for the New Year

Towns Marine Supplies Ltd.

105-6033 London Road Richmond, B.C. V7E 0A7
Tel: 604-277-3191 Fax: 604-277-6131

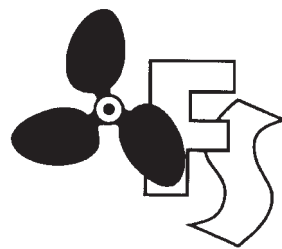
TOWNS

TOLL-FREE
1-800-298-6967
info@townsmarine.com

WE WISH TO THANK ALL FISHERMEN FOR THEIR SUPPORT THIS PAST YEAR.

ALL THE BEST TO YOU AND YOURS IN THE NEW YEAR.

- Ship repairs
- Steel, aluminum welding
- Power washing
- Painting, sandblasting
- Mechanical, electrical
- Marine repairs
- CWB Certified Welders



FRASER SHIPYARD
and INDUSTRIAL CENTRE LTD.

165-6831 GRAYBAR ROAD
RICHMOND, B.C. V6W 1H3

Tel: 604-244-0990
Fax: 604-244-0998

www.frasershipyard.com



Merry Christmas

*and a safe, healthy
and prosperous New Year
to all shoreworkers,
tendermen and fishermen*

from the Director, staff and Board of trustees

*Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*

Native Brotherhood of British Columbia

110-100 Park Royal South
West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2
Tel: 604-913-2997
Fax: 604-913-2995
E-mail: nbbc@nativevoice.bc.ca

www.nativebrotherhood.ca



**UNITED FISHERMEN'S AND
SHOREWORKERS' BENEFIT FUNDS**

First Floor, 326-12th Street
New Westminster B.C. V3M 4H6
Tel: 604-519-3644 Fax: 604-524-6944

UFBF and SWBF bylaws now available by e-mail. Contact us at benefits@ufawu.org

Uncovering the salmon farm story

The Pristine Coast gets honours at VIFF as it poses questions about fish farming

When filmmaker Scott Renyard was sports fishing on the banks of the Vedder River in Chilliwack two decades ago, he could hardly have imagined that his favourite pastime would lead him to an odyssey around the world examining the impact of fish farming on wild stocks. Or that his work would lead to a feature-length documentary film that would be named as one of the top 20 films screened at the Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) this fall.

That film is *The Pristine Coast* so far have been able to see it so far, it could very soon be showing up at local film festivals in B.C., notably in Powell River, Tofino and Salt Spring Island, probably in February. Many other communities in the province also hold local film festivals and it could well be on the screening list there too. Renyard has also arranged with a distributor to get it into libraries and other institutions and another agent will be looking for opportunities to get it into TV distribution.

However you can get to see it, make sure you do. It's a critically

important film to watch and to discuss the ideas it raises.

Renyard says his interest was first piqued by the declines he saw in salmon stocks in the sports fishery. But it was when he heard of Alexandra Morton's research into the disappearing pink runs in the Broughton following the siting of salmon farms there — and then received photos from her of bleeding herring affected by disease — that he began looking well beyond the Fraser River watershed.

"I started looking at herring, northern cod and sturgeon — and the pieces started to come together," Renyard says.

The film opens with video footage of the Get Out Migration march and rally on May 8, 2010 when 5,000 people converged on the legislature in Victoria, with Alexandra Morton in the lead, demanding that governments act to get salmon farms out of wild salmon migration routes. From there it moves back and forward in time, to the beginnings of fish farming on this coast in the 1970s and 1980s and to other jurisdictions where fish farming has altered the ocean's ecosystems. Several interviews fill out the nar-

rative and include such people as Geoff Meggs, who looked into fish farming in the 1980s as editor of *The Fisherman*, Otto Langer, a former DFO biologist and later scientist for the David Suzuki Foundation, as well as Brad and June Hope, who run a salmon farm, Tidal Rush Farms.

Renyard also spent weeks in *The Fisherman's* offices combing through archival editions, eventually creating some 400 images of stories and feature articles that have run in the paper over the past 35 years. Many of them appear in the film.

One by one the questions emerge: was the herring collapse in 1982 in Puget Sound linked to the first trial farms set up there at that time? Did the lethal disease viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) also show up in those Atlantic salmon farms and spread from there?

In one of the most provocative questions he raises in the film was prompted by observations raised by scallop farmers. It's already well known that the world's oceans are becoming more acidic as they absorb CO2 emitted into the atmosphere. But the film notes that that the waters of the



FISHERMAN PHOTO-SEAN GRIFFIN

Footage from the Get Out Migration march in May, 2010, led here by Alexandra Morton, opens Scott Renyard's documentary film *The Pristine Coast*.

Salish Sea are now becoming a source of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere, specifically CO2. "The waters in B.C. are no longer fixing carbon but rather emitting CO2," the narrator states in the film. "Is this just coinci-

dence or is it linked to salmon farms in the ecosystem?"

Screening dates will be publicized as they come up at the film's website, which is at: www.juggernautpictures.ca

—Sean Griffin

WISHING YOU VERY
HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
 and a
JOYFUL
NEW YEAR

SAVE | BORROW | PLAN | PROTECT

G&F
FINANCIAL GROUP

604-419-8888 | www.GFFG.com

SEASON'S GREETINGS

**BERRY'S BAIT
AND TACKLE**

We buy salmon roe
 (Chum, spring and coho only)

14651 Westminster Highway, Richmond V6V 1A4
 (2 blocks east of Knight St.)

Tel. 604-273-5901 • Fax: 604-273-5980

*Season's Greetings
to the men and women
in the fishing industry.
Good health and happiness in 2015.*

**KLASSEN
DIESEL SALES LTD.**

Proven Engines
100% Parts & Service

10-7187 Progress Way, Delta, B.C. V4G 1K8
 Tel: 604-940-6400 • Fax: 604-940-6500

E-mail: delta@klassenengine.com

www.klassenengine.com

CLASSIFIEDS • PHONE 604-833-8942

MINIMUM INSERTION: TWO LINES \$15.00. EACH ADDITIONAL LINE \$1.00. PHONE FOR DEADLINES.
ADS MAY BE MAILED TO: THE FISHERMAN,
1ST FLOOR, 326-12TH STREET, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. V3M 4H6
FULL PAYMENT MUST BE ENCLOSED

ENGINES FOR SALE

STEVESTON MARINE SERVICES.
Caterpillar marine engine sales.
3408A, 334, 3406B, 3116TA, C9, C12
C18 and more. Used, rebuilt and
new. 12200-1st Avenue, Richmond.
604-274-9825.
services@stevestonmarineservices.com

For Fisherman display
ad rates,
call **604-886-1395**

ENGINES FOR SALE

VOLVO PENTA
engines, gears and outdrives.
New & quality used parts.

Interstate batteries,
Racor & Dahl fuel filters.

J.D.R. MARINE SERVICES
#32-12740 Trites Road
Richmond, B.C. V7E 3R8
Tel: 604-275-1885
Fax: 604-275-2448

ENGINES FOR SALE

www.gannetdiesel.com

Detroit Diesel Engines • Twin Disc Gears
• Factory-trained
Detroit Diesel mechanic

Shop and Field Work
Competitive Rates

Also available — used engine parts,
exchange components, filters.

GANNET DIESEL
Phone: 604-514-3722
Pager: 604-631-0759
202-19379 Enterprise Way
Surrey, B.C. V3S 6J8

SERVICES OFFERED

SANTOS & CO.

Certified General Accountants

- Accounting, Auditing
- Income tax, personal and corporate
- Business consulting
- Fish Boat Owners

201— 5262 Rumble Street, Burnaby

Ph: 604-430-1661
Fax: 604-430-1541

SERVICES OFFERED

**LARKINS MARINE
SURVEYORS LTD.**

Peter Larkins, Captain

- Condition & Evaluation
- Pre-purchase & insurance
- DFO measurements

- Underwater Surveys with Video

604-940-1221 Fax: 604-940-1275
5827 Crescent Drive, Delta V4K 2E7
e-mail: larkinsmarine@telus.net

*Season's
Greetings*



Heads-Up Navigation

Providing Classroom Courses on Vancouver Island
We'll travel to your location to train
MED A3, SVOP, PCOC, ROC-M

1-877-655-4656 • 1-250-704-0325
captain@headsupnav.co
www.headsupnav.com



Pacific Boat Brokers.com

Head office: 1-877-448-0010
Edmonds, WA: 360-332-9526

B.C.'s largest Marine Brokerage
Check our website for hundreds of listings

Season's Greetings from all of us at PBBI

- Commercial fishing vessels, licences and permits
- Tugs and Barges
- Supply vessels
- Offshore exploration
- Patrol and research
- Pleasure and sailboats
- Yachts
- Cruise ships
- Equipment
- Charter
- Floating accommodation

Buying or Selling? For excellent results, call us!



Victoria Marine Electric

A division of Atlantic Electronics

SITEX • KOBELT • FURUNO
SIMRAD • STANDARD • JRC
ELECTRONICS SALES & SERVICE

680 Sumas St., Victoria, BC V8T 4S6
Tel: 250-383-9731 Fax: 250-382-6153

Vancity Investment Management

Vancity Investments

Duncan McCrindell

Allan Pankratz

300-900 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1E5
Tel: 604-871-5355 Fax: 604-877-4963



Season's Greetings from Cantrawl Nets

MIDWATER & BOTTOM TRAWLS • OTTER & BEAM SHRIMP TRAWLS

Doors • Warps • Rockhopper Gear • Repairs • Rope • Netting • Twine • Hardware
WIRE ROPE & SPLICING for bridles, rigging, anchor and boom winches
Pathfinder Lubricants

Call **604-270-6387** Fax: **604-270-2527**
140-6660 Graybar Rd. Richmond, B.C.



CALDWELL & Co.
Maritime and Fisheries Law



Brad Caldwell

- Fisheries Act violations
- Insurance transfers and mortgages
- Insurance claims
- Arrest and seizure of vessels
- Incorporations

Tel: **604-689-8894** Fax: **604-689-5739**

401-815 Hornby St., Vancouver, BC V6Z 2E6
www.admiraltylaw.com/fisheries/bradcv.htm



Season's Greetings

*and best wishes
for the New Year
to all workers and retirees
in the fishing industry*

**Working on behalf of shoreworkers
and tendermen since 1991**

326-12th Street
New Westminster, BC
V3M 4H6
Tel: 604-519-3636
Fax: 604-524-6988

Sandra Gertsch, Administrator





SEASON'S GREETINGS!

**TO BRITISH COLUMBIA'S
FISH HARVESTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES,
OUR BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON.**

From our members to you.

Alliance des pêcheurs professionnels du Québec
Area A Crab, Area G / Troll Fishery Association
Agence Mamu Innu Kaikusseht
Association des pêcheurs professionnels membres d'équipage
Bay of Fundy Inshore Fishermen's Association
Fédération régionale acadienne des pêcheurs professionnels
Fish Food and Allied Workers Union / Unifor
Gulf Nova Scotia Fleet Planning Board
Lake Manitoba Commercial Fishermen's Association
Manitoba Commercial Inland Fishers Federation
Maritime Fishermen's Union / Union des pêcheurs des maritimes
Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island
Native Brotherhood of British Columbia
PEI Shellfish Association
Prince County Fishermen's Association
United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union / Unifor



Try the Fishing Vessel Stability Simulator
Register now at: www.fishharvesterspecheurs.ca/simulator