

ON THE WATER

The Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board Newsletter

Summer 2002

SAFETY COURSE FOR APPRENTICES WELL RECEIVED

The Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board (PFHCB) introduced a mandatory five-day safety training course for apprentice fish harvesters during the winter of 2002. This pilot training program was developed through a partnership between the Board, Marine Institute, Canadian Coast Guard, Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), and FFAW/CAW. The safety program evolved in response to a growing concern related to the number of accidents in the fishing industry and to satisfy the requirements under the professionalization program for apprentices having to complete a five-day basic safety course as soon as possible after they begin their fishing career.

The approach taken on the delivery of safety training utilized the "fisherman teaching fisherman" method whereby qualified, experienced fish harvesters delivered the program to their colleagues.

The Board advertised for fish harvester instructors in December, 2001 and selected 35 individuals from the over 70 applications received. These instructors received intense training at the Marine Institute and the Canadian Red Cross during February and March in preparation for delivery of the program in the field. The five-day course includes 2 days of Basic Safety (safe fishing vessel operations, general seamanship and stability), one day of Marine Emergency Duties, and 2 days of Marine Advanced First Aid (including CPR). Transport Canada Marine Safety has recognized and approved the program as meeting the requirements for small fishing vessel training and certification.

All apprentice fish harvesters were advised of the safety training requirement and forwarded applications early in 2002. The cost of the one-week training program was \$100.00 per person. Other costs associated with the program were funded through HRDC (tuition support), the Canadian Coast Guard (safety equipment), and the Board (course development, instructor training, coordination and delivery). Over 1700 applications were received and training was provided to 775 apprentices between March 4-29, 2002. Training will begin again in late fall starting with the apprentices already registered for the program. Apprentices who have not yet applied for the program will be sent applications in September. **Completion of a recognized safety training course is now a condition of registration for apprentice fish**



35 (fish harvester) instructors received training at the Marine Institute and Red Cross during February and March 2002, in preparation for delivery of the Boards 5-day Basic Safety Course.

harvesters and all apprentices must fulfil this requirement.

Apprentices who took part in the safety course completed an evaluation on their week of training and were asked to give their opinion on the course's content. A number of positive comments were received such as:

"After completing this course I can take part in this years fishery with my eyes open a little wider. I now have more confidence that I can handle myself should a serious situation arise."

"This is a wonderful course, it gives everybody a general knowledge of what is out there regarding safety and procedures to help you in case of an emergency at sea. I myself have been in a fishing boat since I was old enough to walk. I do know a lot about safety but like the saying goes, you can never be too prepared."

"I feel this was a good course. I think because of it I would be able to handle an emergency situation onboard the boat much better."

"I enjoyed this course very much and would recommend it strongly to other fish harvesters."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

- Message from the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Fish Facts
- Safety Column
- Marine Show - Poster Launched
- 12-Week Training Program Up and Running
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Registration Numbers 1997 - 2001
- CCPFH Appoints New Executive Director
- New Board Member Appointed
- Professionalization Moving Ahead in Quebec
- DFO Licencing Numbers 1991 vs. 2001
- Harvester Profile

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE



Gerry Reid, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, represents the provincial district of Twillingate-Fogo.

I would like to take this opportunity to reconfirm the Province's support for professionalization in the fishery. I commend the Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board for its endeavors in promoting and enhancing the principles of professionalization, setting high standards for certified fish harvesters in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Now more than ever, as the fishing industry makes rapid advancements in navigation, fish finding and fish harvesting, we require a well

trained professional work force. Fish harvesters who are now entering the industry and those who will enter in coming years, must possess the knowledge, competency, and commitment to satisfy the future needs of the fishery's labour force. While professionalization regimes in other Provinces are moving forward, I take great satisfaction in noting that Newfoundland and Labrador was the first jurisdiction in Canada to introduce professionalization legislation.

Professionalization in the industry is heightening the awareness, especially among the general public, that fishing is a skilled occupation. As such, participants in the industry are now being properly recognized as professionals. Programs including, establishing standards for new entrants, improving marine safety training, and establishing professional standards for all participants, are helping to achieve these objectives.

Fish harvesters play a pivotal role in the Newfoundland and Labrador economy, and the fishing industry continues to be a major contributor to the viability of hundreds of coastal communities. In 2001, peak employment in the fishing harvesting industry totaled more than 12,000, along with more than 10,000 individuals employed in the processing industry. Additionally, hundreds of varied service industry jobs are derived from the fishery.

As the industry evolves, fish harvesters will be called upon to play an even greater role in the management of our fish resources in the future. While challenges lie ahead, the accomplishments made to date through professionalization and the work of the Certification Board are positive steps toward a viable and sustainable fishery for the future.

I congratulate the Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board on past accomplishments, and wish you every success with the professionalization initiative in the coming years.

Gerry Reid, MHA
Twillingate-Fogo

NEW BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED

Rachelle Cochrane has been appointed by the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture as the new Department of Education representative on the PFHCB Board of Directors. Ms. Cochrane replaces Barry Roberts, whose three-year term of appointment expired on December 31, 2001.

PFHCB REGISTRATION NUMBERS 1997 - 2001

The Board has been issuing certification cards (Apprentice, Level I and Level II) to fish harvesters since 1997. DFO's Former personal fishing registration (PFR) system reached its peak in 1989 with over 29,000 registrations. In 1992, there were approximately 25,500 registered harvesters. That number has now stabilized around 15,000-16,000. The decrease since 1997 can be attributed (mainly) to licence retirement programs.

YEAR	APPRENTICE	LEVEL I	LEVEL II	OTHER*	TOTAL
1997	3502	1573	10949	1044	17068
1998	3655	1438	10734	783	16610
1999	5187	1327	9258	587	16359
2000	4846	991	8217	2098	16152
2001	4771	982	8068	1274	15095

* The "other" category is made up mainly of individuals not meeting the Boards certification criteria. They currently hold Temporary Certifications pending the outcome of an ongoing court case.

MARINE SHOW EXHIBIT - POSTER LAUNCHED

For the first time, the Board had an exhibit at the Marine Show, held last November 22-24th at Mile One Stadium. The main reason for having a booth at the show was to circulate information about fisheries professionalization, and give harvesters an opportunity to ask questions or express concerns about certification and training. With the large public turn out, it was also a great opportunity

to promote fish harvesting as a legitimate professional occupation. We were very pleased with the number of harvesters, industry personnel, and members of the general public, who took the opportunity to stop by and discuss various aspects of fish harvester professionalization with Board staff.

The backdrop of the Board's first Marine Show exhibit was a promotional poster aimed at portraying fishing as a professional progressive occupation, making an enormous contribution to our provincial economy and culture – past, present and future. *(A miniature version of the poster is included on the back cover of this issue.)* The poster, designed by Vivid Design Studio Inc., received great reviews at the show, and has recently been mass-produced for distribution to schools, industry related offices, fish harvesters, and the general public. Actual size is 23" X 36", and it is now available to anyone wishing to have their own copy. Contact the Board office for details.

We look forward to seeing you at Marine Show 2002, November 21-23 at Mile One Stadium.



Cyril Dalley, vice-chair of the PFHCB Board of Directors, staffs the booth during Marine Show 2001.

COMMERCIAL LICENCES/PERMITS 1991 vs 2001

Ten years have now passed since the moratorium on Northern cod, and the face of this province's fishery has changed dramatically. One of the most noteworthy changes over the past decade has been a significant shift in the number and type of commercial species licences. We thought harvesters would be interested in seeing the total numbers of licences/permits currently issued by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and how those numbers have changed over a ten-year period.

Number of Commercial Licences/Permits for Vessels Under 65 Feet by Major Species¹ in the Newfoundland Region²

SPECIES	1991	2001	
		CORE	NON-CORE
Groundfish	9447	3915	788
Lobster	4390	2453	477
Crab	731	754	3
Shrimp	57	46	-
Squid	2951	2139	503
Scallop	719	878	41
Salmon	2971	72	3
Capelin	3091	1834	134
Herring	3051	2112	253
Mackerel	843	1832	93
Tuna	24	50	1
Swordfish	8	7	1
Seals	3821	2557	6936
TEMPORARY PERMITS:			
Crab	-	2431	-
Shrimp	-	397	-

¹ Excludes recreational licences such as recreational scallop, recreational tuna and personal use seal.

² All numbers provided by the Department of Fisheries & Oceans, NF Region.

NOTE: Approximately 90% of all major species licences (excluding seals) issued in 2001 were held by core enterprise owners (Level II), approximately 9% were held by non-core professional fish harvesters (Level I & II), and approximately 1% were held by non-core Apprentice licence holders.





The goal of all fish harvesters and fishing crews should be to engage in safe fishing practices at all times, ultimately reducing the risk of a marine emergency. However, if an emergency does occur, knowing how to communicate distress messages and request assistance can mean the difference between life and death. You may only get one chance to call for help, so it is important to learn how to properly transmit a distress message before an emergency occurs. Equally important is the ability to recognize and respond to another vessel's distress.

Marine (VHF) Radios

Marine VHF radio is generally the most effective and reliable means of issuing a distress alert. If you have a marine VHF radio, keep it tuned to channel 16. Know where you are at all times and be prepared to describe your location accurately.

If you are purchasing a VHF radio, it is recommended that it include the new Digital Selective Calling (DSC) feature on channel 70. DSC is a new feature that provides automatic digital distress alert with the push of a button.

On a regular VHF radio telephone, in case of grave and imminent danger (for example, your boat is taking on water and you are in danger of sinking or capsizing) use channel 16 and repeat "MAYDAY" three times. Then give the name of your vessel, its position, the nature of your problem and the type of assistance needed.

If you need assistance but are not in immediate danger (for example, your motor has quit and you

PROPER DISTRESS COMMUNICATION CAN SAVE LIVES

are unable to get back to shore) use channel 16 and repeat "PAN PAN" three times. Then give the name of your vessel, its position, the nature of your problem and the type of assistance needed.

It is important to remember that channel 16 is used for EMERGENCY and CALLING purposes only. Once you have called another vessel on channel 16, take your conversation to a working frequency and continue.

Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)

EPIRBs are buoyant radio distress beacons that instantaneously send a signal, which is detected by satellites and relayed to Rescue Coordination Centres in the event of a distress. They can be manually activated, or automatically activated with the use of a hydrostatic release (float free) mechanism.

Vessels under eight metres (26 feet) or vessels fishing inside 20 miles (although it is recommended) are not required to carry an EPIRB. However, as of April 1, 2002, EPIRBs are required on all vessels over 8 metres fishing outside 20 miles.

To be functional, EPIRBs must be registered with the National Beacon Registry at 1-800-727-9414.

Cellular Telephones

With a cellular phone, you can contact Rescue Coordination Centres directly or by dialing *16 for the Canadian Coast Guard Marine Communications and Traffic Services Centres. Remember that a cellular phone is not a good substitute for a marine radio and it is not an approved means of issuing a distress call. Making a call this way does not alert other boats close to you that you are in distress - those other boats could be the ones to help you first if they could hear you.

*Please note that not all cellular providers offer the *16 service.*

Search and Rescue Transponders (SART)

SARTs are radar transponders used to help locate survivors of vessels that have sent a distress alert. They are detected by radar and therefore operate in the same frequency range as radar carried on most vessels. SARTs transmit in response to received radar signals and show up on a vessel's radar screen as a series of dots, accurately indicating the position of the SART. In the event that a ship must be abandoned, SARTs should be taken aboard the survival craft.

Visual Distress Signals

Visual distress signals such as flares (parachute, rocket, hand held and smoke), code flags, and dye markers can also be an effective way to communicate distress. All crewmembers should be familiar with the location and proper usage of all safety equipment onboard, including visual distress signals.

If you see a distress signal, you are required by law to determine whether you can assist those in distress without endangering your own life or safety of your vessel. Where possible, you must also contact the nearest Rescue Coordination Centre to inform them of the type and location of the distress signal you have seen.

***Remember** - Not only is it against the law to make a false distress signal, but false alarms commit search and rescue personnel, making them potentially unavailable or further away from real emergencies.*

Related Training

Proper training in marine radio communication and marine emergency duties will increase a harvester's ability to effectively respond to a marine emergency, including the proper transmission of a marine distress signal. For more information contact the Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board at 709-722-8170.

HARVESTER PROFILE

PAULA NOSEWORTHY OF HARBOUR GRACE

Traditionally, fishing has been an occupation dominated by men. However, don't try to tell Paula Noseworthy that a woman's place is not on a fishing boat! She's been around fishing boats all of her life, and that's where she plans to stay.

After finishing high school in 1994, Paula had a choice to make: pursue a career outside the fishery, or accept a berth onboard her father, Rod's, 44'11" longliner. She chose the latter, and has had no regrets about her decision. Paula admits that in the early years as a teenage crewmember she sometimes didn't take her job as seriously as she probably should have. Since then, however, what began as a summer job has turned into a serious career choice. You see, Paula is an only child, and has her sights set on (someday) taking over her father's core enterprise.

will become more commonplace to find women in fisheries training programs, and she encourages women not to be intimidated.

While she's proud of her accomplishments to date, Paula admits that she has lots left to learn. She continues to learn the "tricks of the trade" from her father, and gains valuable experience with every trip. While she truly enjoys it, fishing with her father is not always rosy. She recalls being at the wheel earlier this year off Cape St. Francis in 25-30 knot winds, when she continued through rough seas without reducing speed. "Dad climbed out of the bunk", she explained, and his first words were "didn't they teach you anything at that Marine Institute". "Father knows best", she admits with a smile, and his lecturing is all for the best!



Paula Noseworthy, onboard the family longliner "Crystal Sea V", gears-up for the 2002 crab fishery.

In the meantime, she's been busy preparing herself. In 2000, Paula completed a Class IV Fishing Masters, and in 2001 she went on to complete her Class III Fishing Masters: one of only a few female fish harvesters in the province to do so. Last fall, she began coursework toward her Class II. Paula admits that it's been a challenge, but the most difficult part was overcoming the stereotypical attitudes of some of her classmates. She hopes that it

Paula, her father, and three other crewmembers fish out of Harbour Grace, and are currently enjoying another successful season. At the age of 25, she's optimistic that stocks will stay healthy enough for her to carry on the Noseworthy family fishing tradition. With her marine-related education, Paula has given herself a backup plan, but she makes it clear that fishing is her number one career choice. And she's proud of it!

FISH FACTS

- The blue whale, the largest known animal ever to have lived on sea or land, has blood vessels so broad that a full-grown trout could swim through them, and a heart the size of a small car.
- A group of herring is called a seige. A group of jellyfish is called a smack.
- Bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) are among the largest and fastest marine fish. An adult can weigh 1,500 pounds and swim up to 55 miles per hour.
- The highest tides in the world are in the Bay of Fundy. The difference between high and low tide can reach 53 feet 6 inches, the equivalent of a four-story building.
- A fish's age can be determined by counting the number of lines/rings in its otolith (ear bone). One line equals one year, the same as counting the rings of a tree.
- A feasibility study currently underway in this province is investigating the marketability of sculpin meat. YES, sculpin meat!
- The IMO (International Maritime Organization) recognizes commercial fishing as the most dangerous occupation on the planet, accounting for more than 24,000 fatalities annually.
- Fish can get seasick if they are stored aboard a rolling ship or shaken enough in a pail of water.
- The record for the largest documented lobster goes to a lobster taken off Nova Scotia in 1977. It weighed 44 lbs., 6 oz. and was between three and four feet long. It may have been 100 years old!
- In 1914 each dory fishing from a Canadian schooner was required to have: a mariner's compass, a foghorn or trumpet, 2 quarts of drinking water and solid food for each man.
- At the deepest point in the ocean the pressure is more than 8 tons per square inch, or the equivalent of one person trying to support 50 jumbo jets.

NEW 12 WEEK TRAINING PROGRAM UP AND RUNNING

The Marine Institute, in cooperation with the PFHCB, has developed a new 12-week training program for fish harvesters interested in enhancing their skills and upgrading their certification level. The program, called Professional Fish Harvesters Program – Level I, was delivered for the first time at the Marine Institute main campus from January-April, 2002.

12 students were enrolled in the program, which included skills training in navigation, marine emergency duties (MED A1), general maintenance, fishing methods, ocean environment, net mending & repair, fish handling & holding, fisheries resource management, and communications. The first graduating class included both Apprentice and Level I harvesters, who moved to the next certification level upon completion of the program. Feedback from the class was very positive, and their recommendations were extremely valuable in evaluating the program and planning improvements for future delivery.

The Marine Institute is now preparing to deliver the program at several locations throughout the province this winter. Once again, it will be 12 weeks in duration, worth 60 credits towards certification upgrading, and open to both Apprentice and Level I harvesters. Anyone interested should contact the Marine Institute at 1-800-563-5799.

Other available training programs:

In addition to the Professional Fish Harvester - Level I program, development is also underway



Congratulations to the first graduating class of the Marine Institute's new 12-week Professional Fish Harvesters – Level I program, April 2002. Kneeling: Bronson Sweetland of Bonavista. First row (left to right): Marguerite Walsh of Witless Bay, Rita Pomroy of Placentia, and Pierre Hawkins of Brigus South. Back row (left to right): Corey Greene of Dunville, Jimmy Parsons of Torbay, Clarence Barry of Placentia, Darrell Freeman of Champney's West, Steven Hogan of Northern Bay, and Darren McDonald of Conne River. Missing from photo: Brian Careen of St. Brides and Jason Russell of Coleys Point.

on a second 12-week fisheries training program. This program will include advanced fisheries training in areas such as stability, navigation, marine emergency duties, enterprise management, and responsible fishing. These two 12-week programs, in conjunction other available training programs, will provide harvesters with a wide range of training/upgrading options.

Other currently available fisheries training programs include Fishing Masters, Nautical Science, Marine Engineering, Marine Diesel Mechanics, Pre-Sea Deckhand, Watchkeeping Mate, and more. For more information on these and other fisheries related training programs contact the Marine Institute at the number above, or the Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board at 709-722-8170.

PROFESSIONALIZATION MOVING AHEAD IN QUEBEC

Quebec was the second province in Canada to introduce professionalization legislation in the fishery when a Certification Board was established in September, 2000. In Quebec, the Certification Board is known as the Bureau d'accréditation des pêcheurs et aides – pêcheurs du Québec or (BAPAP). In 2001, there were 3,781 fish harvesters certified by the Board, and to date in 2002 some 3,579 harvesters have been registered. In Quebec, there are three levels of certification including: Fisher, Assistant Fisher and Apprentice. Sea time and training are requirements to attain these levels; for example, an apprentice requires 1,650 hours of training to reach the highest level, while an assistant fisher requires 186 hours of training. Training is also required for harvesters at the higher level, but fishers with a number of years experience and over the age of 50 may be exempted from this requirement. The Quebec government has invested over \$6 million dollars in support of fish harvesters training.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Many harvesters have inquired about the difference between “Level II” and “Core”. Since the new fish harvester certification system was enacted in 1997, this has been a very common question.

What is the difference between Level II and Core?

Level II refers to a fish harvester’s personal certification level. The PFHCB’s three levels of certification (Apprentice, Level I and Level II) replaced DFO’s personal fishing registration system (part-time and full-time) in 1997.

Core, on the other hand, refers to the status of a commercial fishing enterprise which holds key species licences. The term Core (and Non-Core) was established by DFO in 1996 to refer to the status of a fishing enterprise, following a review of all existing enterprises.

For example, we could say “John Doe is a Level II fisherman, and he is owner/operator of a Core fishing enterprise”.

How do I become Level II?

All Apprentice and Level I harvesters require a combination of full-time fishing years and land-based education credits in order to move to Level II.

Full-time Fishing Years - Before attaining Level II status, a harvester must have fished full-time for a minimum of five years.

Land-based Education Credits - Harvesters who entered the fishery from 1998 onward require 120 education credits in order to reach Level II, whereas harvesters who fished full-time prior to 1998 may require less credits. These credits can be attained through the completion of recognized courses/programs, with one credit usually being equal to one day of training.

For more information on the requirements for Level II contact the PFHCB at 709-722-8170.

How do I get a Core enterprise?

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is the authority responsible for all issues and policy related to Core enterprises and federal species licences.

Currently, the only way to get a Core enterprise is to receive the transfer of an existing Core enterprise. For example, if a Core enterprise owner is retiring, his/her Core enterprise can be transferred to an eligible fish harvester. DFO requires that a harvester be certified as a Level II professional fish harvester in order to receive the transfer of a Core enterprise.

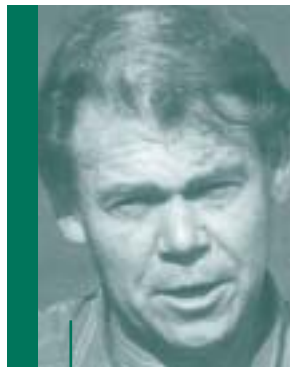
For more information on DFO licencing policy, including eligibility requirements for the transfer of a Core enterprise, contact your local DFO office, or DFO licencing division at 709-772-4406.

CCPFH APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John Sutcliffe has been appointed as Executive Director of the Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters (CCPFH) in Ottawa. John replaces outgoing Executive Director, Daniel Bernier, who held the post since the Council’s inception in 1995.

For the past three decades John has represented fishermen on the British Columbia coast and was a founding member of the B.C Council of Professional Fish Harvesters and member of the CCPFH Board of Directors. With 25 years experience as a commercial fish harvester and 13 years working with the UFAWU-CAW, John knows the industry well and will certainly provide a strong national voice for professional fish harvesters from coast to coast.

Our Board extends congratulations and best wishes to John in his new post.



John Sutcliffe, Executive Director of the CCPFH

