

on the water



The Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board Newsletter

Winter 2019

inside this issue



In Need of
Marine First Aid?
page 2



Prior Learning Assessment
and Recognition (PLAR)
page 3



Roadmap for
New Entrants
page 4



NL-FHSA
Safety Message
page 5



As 2018 draws to a close, I would like to send greetings to all Newfoundland and Labrador professional fish harvesters on behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the PFHCB. We wish you and your families a joyous holiday season and a safe and successful 2019!

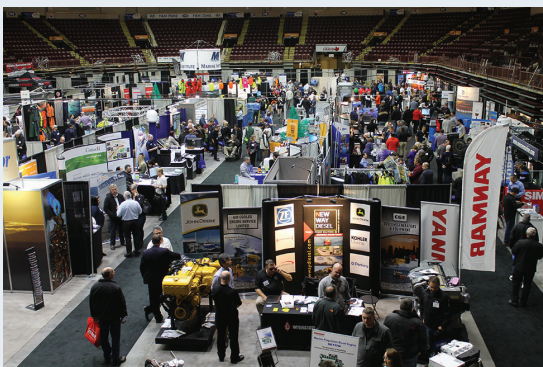
I would also like to take this opportunity to commend fish harvesters throughout the province for their commitment to training/certification, regulatory compliance, safety, and overall professionalism! Our fisheries labour force is second to none -

the best trained and most professional in the country, and a model that others strive to achieve.

As always, we are here to assist you with your certification and professional development. Whether you are a long-standing Level II enterprise owner or a New Entrant to the fishery, PFHCB staff members are always available to answer any questions you may have about certification and/or training, and we are committed to helping in any way possible.

Sincerely,
Mark Dolomount, Executive Director

The North Atlantic Fish & Workboat Show 2018



The 6th edition of the North Atlantic Fish & Workboat Show was held on November 16th & 17th at Mile One Centre, St. John's. Over 100 exhibitors showcased their products and services with nearly 3,500 visitors attending the show. This marine show is always popular as many in the industry stop by to network; check out the latest in boats, engines, safety gear, fish processing and other suppliers.

Thank you to all those who made time to stop by our booth. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to discuss the industry and questions related to PFHCB certification. For any harvester who didn't get to the show, but would like to discuss their certification status or any other PFHCB matter, you can reach us anytime at pfh@pfhcb.com or by calling 709-722-8170. You can also find information about the PFHCB at www.pfhcb.com.



In Need of Marine First Aid?

Both provincial and federal regulations now require at least one person on every fishing vessel to hold a valid first aid certificate. With emergency services sometimes hours away, being trained in Marine First Aid could be the difference between life and death if an accident occurs at sea. It's definitely a regulation worth complying with, as the training provides knowledge and skill that can prove invaluable when you least expect it.

If you are interested in taking a Marine Basic First Aid course for the first time, or if your current first aid certificate is expired, the PFHCB can help. Every winter/spring, the PFHCB offers Marine Basic First Aid Courses in fishing communities throughout the province. The cost of the 2-day course is \$150, and is offered on a first-come first-serve basis as seats are limited. This training meets the provincial and federal requirements noted above.



For more information on Marine First Aid requirements, or to place your name on our list for 2019 courses that may be offered in your area, please contact the PFHCB office anytime at pfh@pfhcb.com or by calling 709-722-8170.

Marine Institute – Winter 2019 Fishing Master Courses



MARINE INSTITUTE

Not only does completion of a Fishing Master Class IV (FMIV) provide valuable and internationally

recognized nautical certification that meets Transport Canada crewing requirements, it is also worth 80 credits toward PFHCB certification upgrading. The Marine Institute (MI) offers the FMIV program and it has become more affordable, accessible and flexible for fish harvesters. Not only can harvesters access it at the main campus in St. John's, they can complete it through community-based delivery throughout the province where registration numbers

warrant. In addition, harvesters can choose to enroll in the online Fishing Master program, and complete most of the coursework from the comfort of their home.

This winter MI is once again offering Community Based FMIV courses throughout the province. If you are interested in completing a Fishing Master IV, please see the list of communities and dates for these offerings below. **For more information or to register for a course, contact Sherry at the Marine Institute at 778-0623 or email cbcd@mi.mun.ca.**

Coast of Bays Region	Fishing Masters Class IV	January 7 – March 29, 2019
Lewisporte	Fishing Masters Class IV	January 7 – March 29, 2019
Bay St. George Area	Fishing Masters Class IV	January 7 – March 29, 2019
Northern Peninsula	Fishing Masters Class IV	January 7 – March 29, 2019
New-Wes-Valley	Fishing Masters Class IV	January 7 – March 29, 2019

- Depending on demand, exact course locations could change, and extra courses may be added.

Tuition and Funding Opportunities

The cost of the FMIV is very affordable at \$690 (plus approximately \$275 for books and materials). Students can touch base with their local Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour office about funding opportunities. FMIV students are eligible for extension of EI benefits while in school, tuition assistance, and other related financial support.



Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

The PFHCB introduced the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) program in 2000. The purpose of this program is to provide fish harvesters with another tool to acquire credits toward certification upgrading. Through PLAR, fish harvesters have an opportunity to demonstrate their prior learned fishing skills and knowledge. PLAR assessors conduct one-on-one interviews with the fish harvester to determine their level of knowledge/skill, and education credits are awarded accordingly.

To participate in PLAR a harvester must be registered with the PFHCB and fish full-time for a minimum of five seasons, and must communicate their interest by contacting the PFHCB office. The harvester is expected to have experience, knowledge and skill



in the areas selected for assessment. If eligible, harvesters can select the number of assessments to undertake. Currently, there are 10 assessment areas available, each have a credit value of 5 or 10 and cost \$50 per assessment. Harvesters can accumulate up to 75 education credits through PLAR.

The PLAR program has undergone very little change since its introduction in 2000. However, we are currently in the process of reviewing our PLAR program – making improvements to the existing assessments, and identifying possible new assessment areas. This is an ongoing endeavor, and we will update harvesters when we have more details to report. In the meantime, current assessment areas available are (education credit values are in brackets): Fishing Techniques: Trap Fishing (5), Gillnetting (5), Longline Fishing (5), Pot Fishing (5); Maintenance and Repair: Hydraulic Systems Maintenance (5), Diesel Engine Repair, Maintenance and Lay-up (10), Small Engine Repair and Maintenance (10) and Basic Netmaking and Repair (10); Management: Fish Handling and Holding (10) and Navigation and Safety: Basic Navigation and Safety (10).

If you are an Apprentice or Level I fish harvester interested in upgrading your current certification level, PLAR could be an option for you. For more information, contact us anytime at pfh@pfhcb.com or by calling 709-722-8170.

PFHCB Photo Contest & Calendar

In September, we launched a Photo Contest via our website and email, with hopes of receiving quality photos for our 2019 calendar. You answered the call and we were very impressed with the number and quality of the photos received. It was a difficult decision to choose the 14 calendar photos! Harvesters who contributed were eligible to win a PFHCB prize pack, and those whose photos were used in our calendar were entered to win one of two - \$250 Mercer's Marine gift cards. This proved to be a popular prize, as our inbox filled up with some great photos from all over the province. Thanks for all your submissions!

The two lucky \$250 Mercer's Marine gift card winners were Elaine Alcock of Leading Ticks, and Lee Tremblett from Bonavista. Congrats to those lucky winners – please continue taking photos at work, and watch for next year's Photo Contest.

If you'd like a 2019 PFHCB Calendar, featuring a variety of quality photos submitted by harvesters from all over the province, please contact us anytime at pfh@pfhcb.com or by calling 709-722-8170.



PFHCB Scholarship Awarded



Congratulations to Korri Tuck of Hants Harbour, Trinity Bay, recipient of the PFHCB Scholarship for the 2018/2019 academic year. Korri received the \$1,000 academic award during the Fall 2018 scholarship presentation at Marine Institute (MI) on November 21st, as she enters her third year of the Ocean Mapping Program. Korri is the daughter of Kim and Jeff Tuck, who are both Level II fish harvesters and former graduates of the Marine Institute.

The PFHCB Academic Scholarship was established in 2006, and is awarded annually to an eligible certified professional fish harvester, or dependent, enrolled in a diploma granting program at MI. For more information contact the MI Student Affairs Office at 709-778-0310.

Roadmap for New Entrants

If you are a New Entrant to the fishery contemplating the commercial fishery as a career, the Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board (PFHCB) is here to help you on your journey.

First thing you must do is register with PFHCB as a New Entrant. The New Entrant application can be accessed on our website www.pfhcb.com or you can contact our office to have one mailed, faxed or emailed to you. Please note, New Entrants must be sponsored by a Skipper/Owner/ Operator. The annual fee for certification is \$75, and can be paid by credit card, cheque, money order or cash (if you visit our office). Once your application is submitted and processed, a Professional Fish Harvester certification card will be issued. This allows you to fish your first season.

Before registering for your second year, all Apprentices/ New Entrants are required to complete a recognized basic safety course. If you fish inside 25 nautical miles, you can complete the MED A3 (Small Domestic Vessel Safety – SDVS), offered each winter throughout the province by the PFHCB. If you fish outside 25 nautical miles, contact the Marine Institute for information on the MED A1 (Domestic Vessel Safety – DVS). This is a requirement of Transport Canada as well as the PFHCB.

PFHCB will send out information on the basic safety training requirement (and registration forms for the MED A3) to all New Entrants early in the New Year. It is important that you determine



which course you require, and register for a course accordingly. It is possible to access funding to cover the cost of your training through the Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour in your area – please check with them.

A basic safety course (MED A1, A3 or equivalent) is the only mandatory training requirement to renew your annual certification as an Apprentice. Some harvesters may wish to remain as an Apprentice, and continue fishing in crew positions. However, in order to be the designated operator of a fishing enterprise (Level I), or to own your own fishing enterprise/licences (Level II), you must upgrade your PFHCB certification level accordingly. If you are interested in upgrading to Level I or Level II continue reading *“Calling All Apprentices or Level I’s”*.



NL-FHSA
FISH HARVESTING
SAFETY ASSOCIATION

Safety Message

In 2019, a goal of the Newfoundland & Labrador Fish Harvesting Safety Association is to educate fish harvesters on the process of conducting vessel specific risk assessments. A comprehensive risk assessment is the basis for producing written safety procedures now required in the Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations, and will help your enterprise achieve and maintain compliance.

What is a Risk Assessment?

A risk assessment is a thorough look at your workplace to identify hazards (those things, situations, processes, etc. that may cause harm, particularly to people). After identification is made, you analyze and evaluate how likely and severe the risk is. When this determination is made, you can next, decide what measures should be in place to effectively eliminate or control the harm from happening (CCOHS, 2018). A “control” refers to a procedure put in place to reduce the possibility that a hazard could turn into an incident. By implementing these procedures, you are *controlling* risk.

Why do I need a Risk Assessment?

As an integral part of an occupational health and safety management plan, risk assessments help to:

1. Create awareness of hazards and risk.
2. Identify who or what may be at risk (e.g., employees, visitors, the public, environment, etc.).
3. Determine whether a control program is required for a particular hazard.
4. Determine if existing control measures are adequate or if more should be done.
5. Prevent injuries or illnesses.
6. Prioritize hazards and control measures based on severity and probability.
7. Meet legal requirements where applicable.

(Source: **CCOHS website**)

How does it help me?

By completing a risk assessment, you bring awareness to hazards that might otherwise be missed or unspoken in the workplace. It often provides perspective by engaging owner/operators and crew members in a process of analyzing the tasks they carry out each day, and considering how things might go wrong. In completing the assessment you can start to eliminate hazards that might be avoidable, as well as develop controls to minimize risk.



Is it required by law?

Risk Assessment facilitates the development of safe work practices which are required by law as outlined in the *Newfoundland and Labrador Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations*, and the Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations (Section 3.16). By complying with legislation, you demonstrate due diligence in managing the risks associated with your operations. Should an incident occur, you are able to demonstrate that you took appropriate measures to identify, eliminate and control the hazards associated with your work where reasonably practicable.

For more information or assistance with the risk assessment process, please contact us at info@nlfhsa.com or by phone at (709) 722-8177.

Corey Cooper
Health and Safety Coordinator

Calling All Apprentices and Level I's

If you have aspirations of owning your own fishing enterprise, or at least being the designated operator of an enterprise, it is important that you understand the process for PFHCB certification upgrading. It is also important that you understand the connection between DFO licencing policy and PFHCB certification.

DFO licensing policy in the NL region requires that a harvester hold (minimum) Level I certification in order to be designated as the substitute operator of a fishing enterprise, and Level II in order to own (receive the transfer of) a fishing enterprise. With the average age of enterprise owners currently between 55-60 years of age, there will be many opportunities for younger harvesters - but you need the required PFHCB certification level in order to be eligible.

LEVEL I - To upgrade to a Level I fish harvester you must have a combination of two years full-time fishing and 60 education credits. Five of those credits must be from the completion of a recognized basic safety course (MED).

LEVEL II - To upgrade to a Level II fish harvester you must have a combination of five years of full-time fishing and 120 education credits, with a minimum of 10 of those credits in Navigation. (Please note that the five years and 120 education credits includes the two (years and 60 credits needed for Level I.)

Any previously completed courses/programs from a recognized training institute may be submitted for review for education credits. These education credits will be added to your file and count toward your certification upgrading. While fishery related courses will generally provide you with more education credits, non-fishing related training will also be considered for credit toward upgrading. As an example, a Fishing Master IV counts for 80 education credits.

In addition, once you have registered and fished for five years, you are eligible to register for Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR). PLAR is not a course; it is an assessment of knowledge and skills you have acquired from "hands-on learning" in the fishery. An assessor will meet one-on-one with the harvester to determine their knowledge in the chosen assessment area(s). Harvesters can currently accumulate up to 75 credits from PLAR. See the article on PLAR for more information.

If you are unsure about your current certification status, or have questions about how to pursue Level I or Level II certification, please do not hesitate to ask us for help and guidance. We will work with you individually to help you achieve your desired goals! Contact us anytime at pfh@pfhcb.com or by calling 709-722-8170.



Pat Lewis of Conception Hr. with his son Darryl. With many enterprise owners nearing retirement, there will be opportunities for young harvesters – but you must have the required PFHCB certification.

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

Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board

368 Hamilton Avenue

P.O. Box 8541, St. John's, NL, Canada A1B 3P2

Telephone: (709) 722-8170

Fax: (709) 722-8201

Email: pfh@pfhcb.com

Office Hours: Monday to Friday - 8:30am to 4:30pm

www.pfhcb.com

on the water

