

on the water



The Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board Newsletter

Fall 2017

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New Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations Now in Force

Transport Canada (TC) has introduced new Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations that apply to fishing vessels that are not more than 24.4 m in length and not more than 150 gross tonnage. These regulations include new requirements for vessel stability, new carriage requirements for lifesaving equipment, and all vessels are expected to implement written safety procedures. The new regulations amend the previous *Small Fishing Vessel Inspection Regulations* and came into force on July 13, 2017. The following is a link to the federal government website outlining the new regulations: www.canada.ca/fishing-vessel-safety.

It is TC's responsibility to effectively communicate the new safety regulations, to develop and communicate national standards to achieve compliance, and to engage with fishing organizations on a regional basis to ensure harvesters have the time, skills and resources to become compliant. Thus, the PFHCB, Fish Harvesting Safety Association (NL-FHSA) and FFAW are continuing to strongly advocate for the development of a proper TC industry implementation plan to maximize the full potential of these new safety regulations.

See pg. 2 for highlights of the new Transport Canada regulations.



Seasons Greetings

Wishing all Professional Fish Harvesters and their families a safe and joyous holiday season.

From the Staff & Board of Directors

Certification Upgrading

All professional fish harvesters, including existing harvesters and new entrants, are required to accumulate a specific number of land-based education credits in addition to completing a defined number of years of full-time fishing in order to progress from Apprentice to Level I and from Level I to Level II.

To reach Level I, Apprentices are required to complete a minimum of two years of full-time fishing, and accumulate 60 land-based education credits, including five credits in Basic Safety. To reach Level II, Level I harvesters are required to complete a minimum of five years of full-time fishing, and accumulate 60 land-based education credits in addition to credits accumulated to reach Level I. Of those 120 credits, at least 10 credits must be in Navigation.

For those Apprentices and Level I's looking to upgrade their certification level, this is a good time to consider your training options. Marine Institute (MI) offers a variety of courses. Many harvesters take advantage of MI's Community Based Education Delivery. MI also offers online and classroom options.

For those wondering how many credits can be obtained from some of the courses, a Fishing Masters Class IV (FMIV) would provide 80 credits and a Marine Emergency Duties (MED) A3/A1 would provide 5 credits.

Please see inside for a list of courses and communities courses will be offered.

Transport Canada Regulatory Highlights

Safety Equipment - new and existing fishing vessels.

The safety equipment requirements are determined by the vessel's hull length, operation, and type of voyage. Personal life-saving appliances and visual signals are required for all small fishing vessels according to their hull length. Different requirements apply to small fishing vessels that have a hull length of more than 6 m, more than 6 m but not more than 9 m, more than 9 m but not more than 12 m, more than 12 m but not more than 15 m, and more than 15 m.

Life rafts and other life-saving appliances on small fishing vessels are required according to the class of voyage and hull length, and provide a range of life saving appliance choices. The requirements for firefighting equipment are based on vessel hull length. Different requirements apply to small fishing vessels that have a hull length of not more than 6 m, more than 6 m but not more than 9 m, more than 9 m but not more than 15 m, and more than 15 m.

The following is a link to the specific requirements, based on your vessel's length and type of voyage. <https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-fishing-vessels-small-menu-292.htm>

Stability Assessments – new and existing fishing vessels.

As of July 13, 2017, the following fishing vessels must successfully undergo a stability assessment by a competent person:

- A vessel that has a hull length of more than 9 m whose construction was started or that a contract was signed for the construction after July 13, 2018;
- A vessel constructed on any date that has a hull length of more than 9 m and that has undergone a major modification or a change in activity that is likely to adversely affect its stability after July 13, 2017.
- A vessel constructed on any date of any length fitted with an anti-roll tank at any time.
- A fishing vessel of closed construction, more than 15 gross tonnage and used for catching herring or capelin during the period beginning on July 6, 1977 and ending on July 13, 2017 will still need a stability assessment as per the previous *Small Fishing Vessel Inspection Regulations*.

As of July 13, 2017, a fishing vessel that is not required to undergo a stability assessment by a competent person shall have adequate stability to safely carry out the vessel's intended operations.

Written Safety Procedures - new and existing fishing vessels.

As of July 2017, the fishing vessel's Authorized Representative is responsible to ensure the creation, implementation and maintenance of written safety procedures for all crewmembers onboard each fishing vessel. Transport Canada is requiring the safety procedures to be established in writing, and put in place to familiarize persons onboard on how to safely operate the vessel and deal with emergencies. Transport Canada is requiring owner/operators to ensure each crewmember is familiar and demonstrates competency with the shipboard equipment and operational instructions specific to the vessel and their assigned duties.

Masters and Authorized Representatives must also ensure that drills on the safety procedures are held as often as necessary to ensure the crew is proficient in carrying out the procedures at all times. Written records are to be kept of every drill for seven years.

* These highlights are excerpts or summaries of the new Regulations. The full regulatory requirements can be found on Government of Canada's website by following the above links. The information is not meant to replace the Regulations. In case of disparities with the Regulations, the Regulations prevail.

For more information please contact the NL-FHSA, or your local Transport Canada office.

Ship Safety Bulletin

Since 2015 the Newfoundland and Labrador Fish Harvesting Safety Association (NL-FHSA) has been running a PFD Campaign reminding fish harvesters across the province of the importance of staying safe at sea and wearing a PFD suited to their work environment. With the Holiday Season approaching, consider giving your fish harvester family member or friend a PFD as a Christmas gift. It could be a true "gift of life"! Save a Life, Wear a PFD.



If you want to reach the NL-FHSA, please call 722-8177, or visit our new website at www.nlfhsa.com.

In Memory of a PFHCB Friend – Wayne Masters

On September 14th, the Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board lost a great supporter and colleague, Wayne Masters. Wayne, who lived in Mooring Cove and fished out of Red Harbour on the Burin Peninsula, dedicated his life to the inshore fishery and selflessly volunteered his time to see it grow and succeed. He worked tirelessly to make a difference in the lives and welfare of fish harvesters and had an unwavering commitment and love of his family and community.



Wayne was a strong supporter of professionalization, and understood the value of education and training. In the 1990's he travelled the province delivering the Lifeline safety course to his peers. Wayne played a key role in advancing the concept of professional certification of fish harvesters and the establishment of the PFHCB in 1997. He was a certified Canadian Red Cross First Aid instructor, and from 2002-2016 he delivered Marine First Aid and Marine Emergency Duties courses to his fellow fish harvesters on behalf of the PFHCB. Passionate, dependable and committed to his industry - Wayne truly personified what it means to be a professional fish harvester.

We have certainly lost a great advocate, mentor and friend at the PFHCB. Our condolences go out to his wife, Phyllis, his family, friends and fellow fish harvesters.

PFHCB Scholarship

PFHCB was very honored to be presenting a scholarship again this year at the Fall 2017 scholarship presentation at Marine Institute (MI). Christopher Robinson, son of Janice and Robert Robinson of Middle Arm was this year's recipient. Christopher is a third year Marine Engineering student who is enjoying his studies at MI.

The PFHCB Academic Scholarship was established in 2006, and is awarded annually to an eligible certified professional fish harvester, or dependant, who is enrolled in a diploma granting program at MI.



Hon. Al Hawkins, Dept. Of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour, Velma Pike, PFHCB, Christopher Robinson, Glen Blackwood, MI

Basic Safety Training

Since 2000, the Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board has provided Basic Safety Training (BST) to over 9,000 fish harvesters. As a condition of registration with the Board, all Apprentices and New Entrants are required to complete a recognized BST prior to beginning their second fishing season. Fish harvesters who have completed a Marine Emergency Duties (MED A1 or equivalent) are exempt from BST requirements.

PFHCB has developed a 5-day BST course (including MED A3) that is delivered throughout the province by other certified professional fish harvesters. Included are two days of General Seamanship and Stability, one day of Marine Emergency Duties (A3) and two days of Marine First Aid. For fish harvesters who fish outside 25 miles, MED A1 can be completed through Marine Institute or other training institutions.

Communities are selected based on numbers registered. We do not determine where and when the course will be located until we have all registrations in, so it is important to get applications submitted in a timely manner.

Completion of MED A1 or the PFHCB 5-day BST provides the fish harvester with five educational credits towards certification upgrading.

First Aid Recertification

When we delivered our BST in 2017, we offered registered fish harvesters the opportunity to attend the First Aid portion of the course and update their Marine Basic First (which is now the minimum Transport Canada requirement to be held by at least one person on all fishing vessels). With an expiry of three years, we want to provide certified fish harvesters the option to recertify and refresh their first aid knowledge. Many of our harvesters took advantage of this opportunity and during the 2018 course offerings, we plan to offer the same. Dates and locations will be emailed and posted on the PFHCB website once they are determined.



MARINE INSTITUTE Course Offerings Fall/Winter 2017/2018

The Marine Institute (MI) of Memorial University has made the FMIV and other programs more accessible, flexible and affordable for fish harvesters. MI is offering Community Based Education Delivery to communities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. The programs and courses offered can be completed in the community, classroom or

online. Please contact **Craig Parsons, Director at 778-0447** or via email at cbed@mi-mun.ca for more information.

Did you know that you may be able to access funding for these courses through your local Department of Advanced Education and Skills (AES). Contact them to determine eligibility.

Community Offerings

Locations	Course Offerings	Delivery Dates
Lewisporte	Fishing Masters Class III	November 14, 2017 – March 29, 2018
La Scie	Fishing Masters Class III	November 14, 2017 – March 29, 2018
Port Hope Simpson	Fishing Masters Class III	November 14, 2017 – March 29, 2018
Bay of Islands Area	Fishing Masters Class IV	January 8 - March 29, 2018
Northern Peninsula	Fishing Masters Class IV	January 8 - March 29, 2018
Old Perlican	Fishing Masters Class IV	January 8 - March 29, 2018
Lewisporte	SVOP	February 26 – March 1, 2018
Lewisporte	Domestic Vessel Safety	March 13 - 16, 2018
Lewisporte	ROC-MC	March 21 - 23, 2018

Online Delivery

Course	Delivery Dates	Last Day to Enroll
Chartwork & Pilotage Level I (CP1)	October 10, 2017- June 15, 2018	April 6, 2018
Navigation Safety Level I (NS1)	October 10, 2017- June 15, 2018	April 6, 2018
Ship Construction & Stability Level I (SCS1)	October 10, 2017- June 15, 2018	April 6, 2018
General Seamanship FMIII	October 10, 2017- June 15, 2018	April 6, 2018
General Seamanship FMIV	October 10, 2017- June 15, 2018	April 6, 2018
Chartwork & Pilotage Level II (CP II)	October 10, 2017- April 6, 2018	January 26, 2018
Ship Construction & Stability Level II (SCS2)	October 10, 2017- April 6, 2018	January 26, 2018
Communications Level I	October 10, 2017- April 6, 2018	January 26, 2018

St. John's

Course Offerings	Delivery Dates
SEN Limited (SEN-L)	November 20 – December 1, 2017
Small Vessel Operator Proficiency(SVOP)	December 4 – 7, 2017
Small Non-Pleasure Domestic Vessel Safety	December 8, 2017

Safety Association Launches New Website

As part of its ongoing effort to more effectively distribute safety related information to fish harvesters throughout the province, the Newfoundland and Labrador Fish Harvesting Safety Association (NL-FHSA) has recently launched its new website at www.nlfhsa.com.



This new website, which is designed to be user friendly and easy to navigate on a desktop or mobile device, is intended to be a safety "tool box" for fish harvesters and those interested in fishing industry safety. It includes information on all areas of fishing industry safety, including applicable regulations, training, safety alerts, safety tips, safety research, relevant reports, industry injury statistics, best practices, safety promotion, and more.

If you have questions about any of the information on the website, or have suggestions on information or resources that you would like to see added, please reach out to us using the CONTACT section of the website. Enjoy!

Fish facts

- Whales have bellybuttons – true fact. As whales are mammals and give birth to live young, feeding is done through the Umbilical cord.
- Electric fish & Electric rays have enough energy to kill a horse
- Most fish have little salt in them, however sharks have meat as salty as the ocean they live in!

Fishing for photos

We would love to see any commercial fishing-related photos you may have! The PFHCB is always searching for good quality fishing photos to use for our newsletters, webpage, and other publications.

We are looking for any photos you may have taken of yourself or your crew at work – setting gear, hauling gear, repairing equipment, offloading catch or anything fishing related! These types of photos are not easy to find, especially of fish harvesters on the water working onboard their vessels.

So take your camera or iPhone on your next trip! Send us your photos, and we will submit your name in a draw for a PHFCB prize.



Whelk fishing. Submitted by Jim Chidley, Renews.

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

- Eels can swim backwards, most other fish cannot!
- A fish does not add new scales as it grows but its scales increase in size. Growth rings on its scales tell age.
- You can find a replica of the largest giant squid ever found at the Glover's Harbour Giant Squid Interpretation Centre. The original was captured in 1878 in Glover's Harbour.

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