

IFISH 6 Conference – Rome, Italy
January 11, 2024



SAFEST CATCH

FISHERMEN HELPING FISHERMEN

THE SAFEST CATCH PROGRAM

Fishermen HELPING Fishermen

PRESENTED BY



Capt. Barbara Howe, M.Ed.

FISH SAFE BC HISTORY



Transportation Safety Board of Canada Recommendations 2002:

- Best practices for fishing vessels
- Stability and loading
- Education and awareness program
- Promote a safety culture



(Capsizing and Loss of Life - Fishing Vessel
Cap Rouge II, August 13, 2002)



FISH SAFE BC

Formed in 2004

VISION

Fishermen will take ownership of safety

MANDATE

Promote a safe working environment in an industry that has historically suffered an above average number of accidents and fatalities



FISH SAFE BC STRATEGIC PLAN

Advisory Committee and Mandate Objectives



Education and
Mentoring



Regulatory and
Policy Reform



Communication



Inter-agency
Coordination



Funding

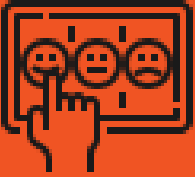
FISH SAFE STABILITY EDUCATION PROGRAM



- Funding from Transport Canada 2005
- Designed by fishermen for fishermen
- Best principles of adult education:
 - ✓ Authentic examples
 - ✓ Immediately useful
 - ✓ Build on experience
 - ✓ Real life problem solving
 - ✓ Relevant
 - ✓ Engaged in learning
 - ✓ Social learning
 - ✓ Variety of methods



STABILITY COURSE - EVALUATION



1. *What was best part of the course?*

- ✓ Easy to understand
- ✓ Real life examples
- ✓ Class discussions
- ✓ Relevant
- ✓ Relaxed atmosphere



2. *What else to add to the course?*

"More information on emergency procedures"

3. *Would it be helpful to have a fisherman safety mentor to help with regulations, emergency drills and safety procedures?*

(Applied Research
and Evaluation
Services, University
of British Columbia
2008)

132

RESPONSES

81.8%

ANSWERED YES!

SAR-NIF FUNDING PROPOSAL 2007

Fish Safe takes up the TSB safety culture challenge

Submitted a proposal titled:

CREATING A SAFETY CULTURE IN THE BC FISHING INDUSTRY

- Fishermen as Safety Advisors
- \$767,550 over three years

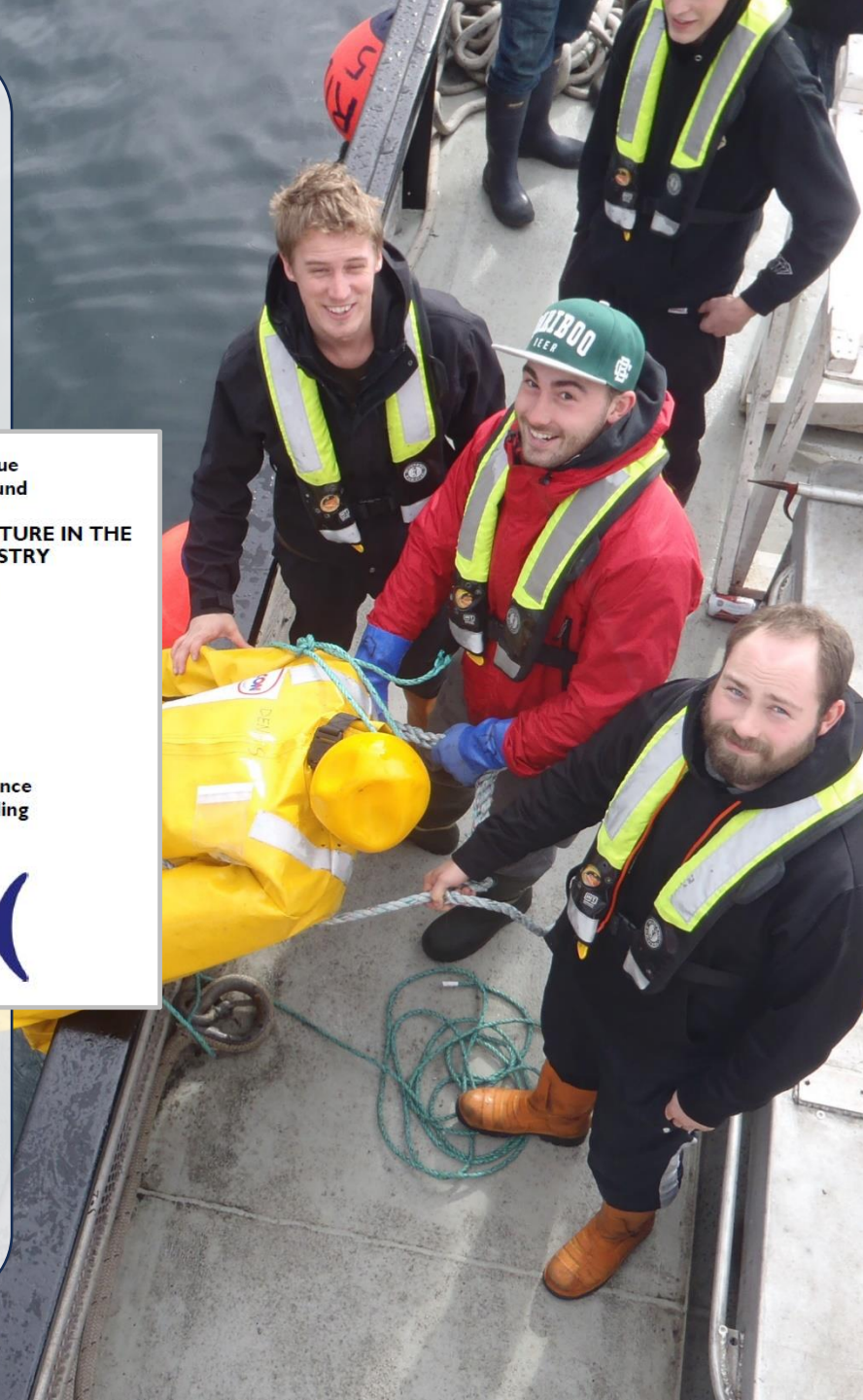
Search and Rescue New Initiatives Funding

Search and Rescue
New Initiatives Fund

CREATING A SAFETY CULTURE IN THE
BC FISHING INDUSTRY



B.C. Seafood Alliance
Proposal for Funding
June 2007



HOW DID THE ***SAFEST CATCH*** GET ITS NAME?



Fishermen **HELPING** Fishermen

A photograph of three men on a fishing boat. The man on the left has a beard and is wearing sunglasses and a red hoodie under a yellow life vest. The man in the middle is older, with grey hair, wearing sunglasses and a plaid shirt under a black life vest. The man on the right is wearing sunglasses, a black hoodie, and a yellow life vest. They are all smiling. The background shows the ocean and a cloudy sky. A blue diagonal banner is in the top left corner.

**THE FUTURE OF
FISHING IS SAFE**

**Today, we will go on a
Safest Catch vessel visit...**

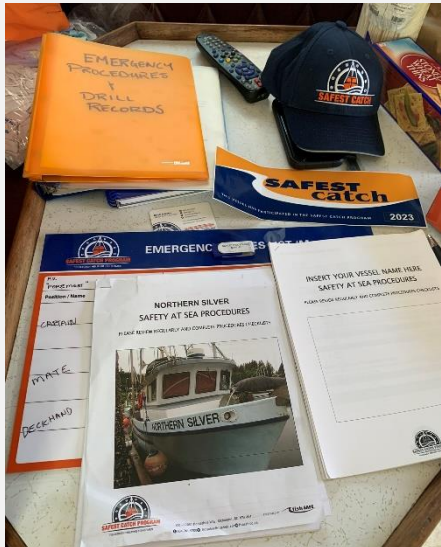
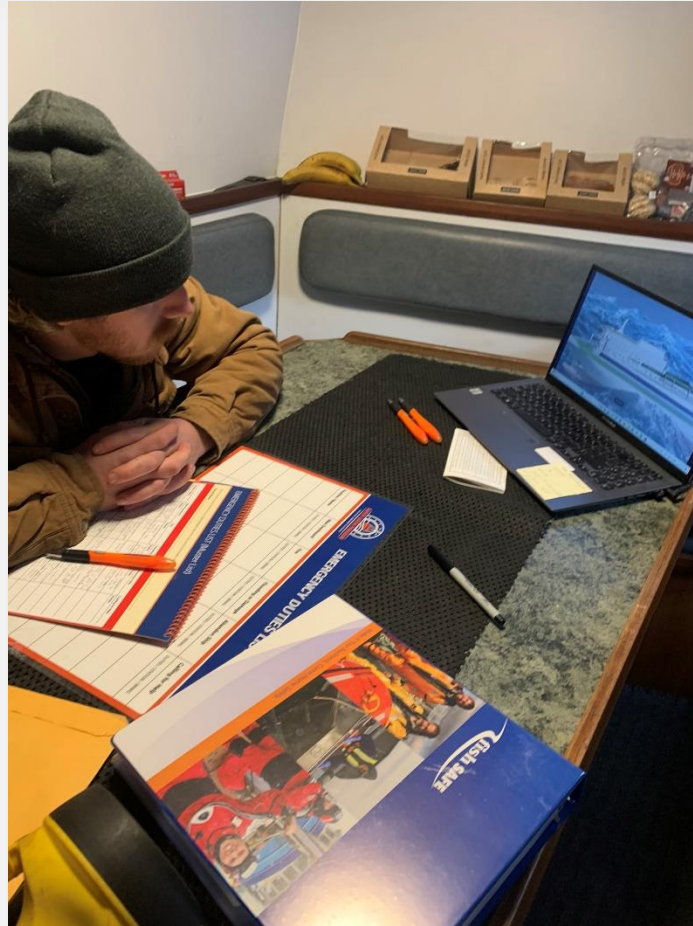


SAFEST CATCH PROGRAM

FISHERMEN HELPING FISHERMEN

SAFEST CATCH

SAFE PROCEDURES



SAFETY BINDER



COLD WATER SURVIVAL



**REMEMBER:
1-10-1**



SAFETY QUIK

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REFERENCE GUIDE

Safety Quik

This guide has been prepared as a reference to assist you in developing an emergency drills program for your vessel.

Add your vessel specific information and review with your crew regularly.



Emergency drills should be performed:

- At the start of each fishing season
- When there is a change of crew
- At regular intervals to ensure crew are familiar with emergency procedures

Name of Vessel

Vessel Master

Crew List



Why do drills?

Fishermen that have survived tragic circumstances attest to the importance of having a vessel specific drills program.



The Marine Emergency Duties training that I took helped to keep me calm. When our boat capsized, all that training and practice came back to me. I was able to get into my survival suit and swim to a nearby vessel so we could save my dad who was in the water without a survival suit. This

Having spent thirty years on the water, I never expected to deal with less of life or loss of any crewmember. The tragic loss of the Galaxy and three crewmembers will remain embedded in the minds of all commercial fishermen. According to U.S. Coast Guard, it was a miracle that 23 people survived. As the Captain, I can emphatically state that survival is the direct result of knowing what to do prior to the incident. There is no time to think about "what now". 23 survivors was the direct result of knowing what to do prior to this catastrophic incident. I will forever maintain that Unconscious Competence is your only means to survive. Drills are imperative on a regular basis.

Dave Shoemaker, Master, Survivor, FV Galaxy



We received an onboard orientation from the vessel owner representative prior to leaving for our herring trip. The things we learned in that one hour are what helped us survive when our vessel capsized. "If you have to go into the water, make sure you take a deep breath first" came to me as we had to leave the overturning boat. This water and diesel and my life.

How To Do Effective Drills

CONSIDER: HOW LONG CAN YOU SURVIVE?

On your vessel _____ days

In your life raft _____ days

In your survival suit _____ hours/days

In your lifejacket/PFD _____ hours

In your clothes _____ minutes

Reflecting on this will inform your choices in an emergency.

1. Know what you want to happen as a result of your training
 - The crew will be knowledgeable, ready and able to confidently and effectively deal with a sudden emergency
2. Know what you want to communicate
 - Techniques and drills that cover a wide variety of emergency scenarios
 - Teamwork
3. Believe that drills will improve the safety of you and your crew
 - Share meaningful experiences and stories that highlight this belief
4. Take an inventory of the resources you have available
 - Document where your life saving equipment is located.
5. Consider and discuss with your crew the different types of drills and what their role would be in an actual emergency.
 - Document this on your Emergency Duties/Muster List.
6. Be a good example, listen as well as talk
 - Explain, do a walk through, instruct and correct
 - Get input from the crew
 - Acknowledge good performance, offer praise and constructively critique mistakes
 - Debrief and discuss alternative scenarios for next drill
 - Log the drill

Man OverBoard/Retrieval Procedures



It happened so fast... I was in the water for about an hour and a half and after some time your fingers are not workable and you try to stay in the fetal position with your knees up and your arms down.

I had a lifejacket on underneath my rain gear called a Stormy Seas, the one with a blow up, and it was so old that I just blew it up a little bit to make sure it wouldn't pop.

It was the fact that I was wearing a PFD that I am here today. No question in my mind. You have to have something that floats and you can work in it so that the person will wear it all the time. I think that is the key.

Lloyd Webb, Fisheries Observer, Survivor, FV Pacific Chatter

You may only have minutes to save someone from cold water immersion. Know what the man overboard procedure is on your vessel.

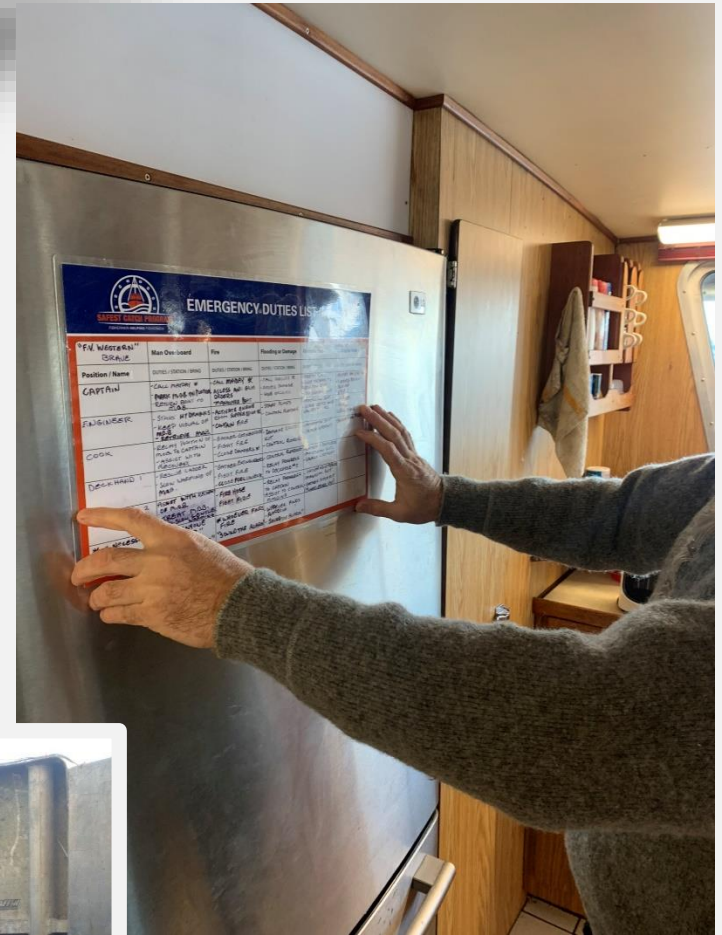
SOUND THE ALARM

- IMMEDIATELY throw a life ring, life jacket or brightly coloured floating object or marker as close to the victim as possible (make sure you know where these are located)
- Point and keep your eye on the victim at all times
- Tell the wheelhouse what has happened (what side of the vessel the crew man fell from) and continue to verbally direct the vessel operator to the overboard crew member
- Mark man overboard on navigational aids such as plotter, electronic charts, GPS
- Carefully manoeuvre the vessel to pick the crewman up
- Have a means for getting the crewman back on board such as a sling, ladder or tires
- If possible have another crew member don an immersion suit or lifejacket and attach a safety line to assist in retrieval.
- If the man overboard is not immediately located, notify the Coast Guard and other vessels in the vicinity



SAFETY QUIK

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



MUSTER LISTS



SAFETY QUIK

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



**MAN OVERBOARD
DRILLS**

SAFETY QUIK

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



FIRE DRILLS



SAFETY QUIK

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



FLOODING DRILLS



SAFETY QUIK

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



**ABANDON
SHIP DRILLS**



SAFETY QUIK

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



**CALLING FOR
HELP DRILLS**

SAFEST CATCH DECAL

PROGRAM COMPLETION



- ✓ Knowledge & tools to conduct safety equipment orientation
- ✓ Knowledge & tools to conduct an effective drill
- ✓ General knowledge on regulatory requirements
- ✓ Take ownership of safety
- ✓ Possess vessel specific documented Safety Procedures Manual on board
- ✓ Have immersion suits & PFDs on board



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

1

SAFETY ADVISORS

2

FISHERMEN

3

SUSTAINABILITY

4

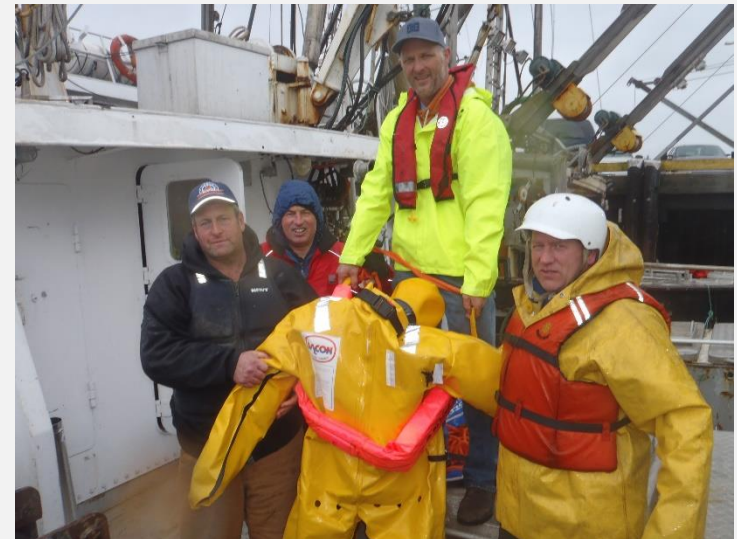
EVALUATION



SAFETY ADVISORS – TIPS!



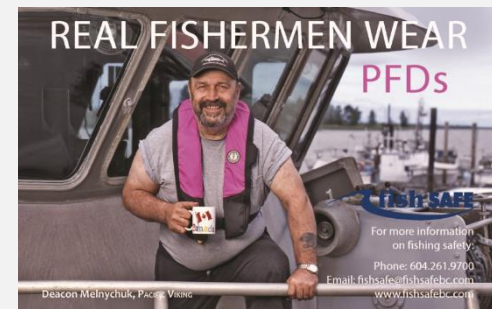
INDUSTRY OUTREACH EVENTS



FISHERMEN – TIPS!



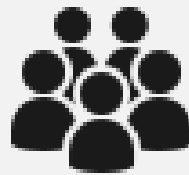
SAFEST CATCH – SUSTAINABILITY



What's in a name?



Advisory
Committee



Funding



Pictures &
Record Keeping



Partnerships



Reporting



SAFEST CATCH - EVALUATION

1

**TRANSPORT CANADA
APPROVAL AS MED-A3**

2

FORMATIVE

3

SUMMATIVE

- **QUALITATIVE**
- **QUANTITATIVE**



SAFEST CATCH PROGRAM

FISHERMEN **HELPING** FISHERMEN





STORIES

Stories are authentic

The idea of authenticity has to do with realness and truth, "telling it like it is". An authentic story is told with integrity, is intimate and personable - and makes a human connection, if we listen.

“...it happened so fast, 90 seconds, that's all, and she rolled over. My crew they knew exactly what to do, they launched the life raft and got aboard. It was that drill you made us do, it saved our lives...”



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD - 2002

- Initiatives have sparked a safety culture in the fishing industry
- Fishermen are taking ownership of safety
- Stability guidelines, PFDs, immersion suits, emergency signaling, and safe work procedures

**Transportation Safety Board of Canada,
*Watchlist 2022***



SAFEST CATCH PROGRAM REFLECTIONS



(Capt.) Barb Howe, M.Ed.
Program & Education Consultant



John Krgovich
Program Coordinator & Safety Advisor

“

*It's all about fishermen coming home
safely...that's the **Safest Catch!***

- John Krgovich

”



FISHERMEN **HELPING** FISHERMEN

THANK YOU



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