



FALSE CREEK TIDINGS



FCHA Board of Directors 2017

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President’s Message

Greetings, and happy Spring to all our Fishermen’s Wharf members and harbour users. It’s been a very different start to the season than last year, when I commented on the great weather and all the early activity among our members. Currently our Herring fishermen are returning to port and cleaning up after a season that saw cold winds and even a bit of snow on the decks. As gear gets stowed, the docks will soon get busier with the prepping of Prawn traps and salmon gear and we all need to be aware of the shared and limited space we all have to work with.

Around the docks, work will continue this Spring on both structural maintenance and upgrades, as well as aesthetic improvements. We have received positive feedback about the branded Fishermen’s signage that has gone up on the docks over the past couple of years and are looking at ideas to keep creating a less grey and drab look for our highly visible location. If you have any thoughts on colours you would like to see please let us know. As well, Mike Loy and the Harbour staff continue to keep work focused on more mundane projects such as dock upkeep and replacement, and the replacement of our decommissioned dock crane with a larger 2.5 tonne unit. Our facility should be looking good and running smoothly as we near Prawn season and our busiest time on the sales float.

We are, of course, expecting big crowds again for our biggest single day of the year! This year’s 11th annual Spot Prawn Festival will be taking place on May 13th. Prawn Fest continues to be the best example we have of fishermen and harbour members taking initiative and working with the greater community to celebrate our local resources and working people. Well done Prawners, for creating and maintaining an event that excites the public and cements a positive impression of the fishing community, and our harbour’s important role, in the city. I’m sure I will see many of you on the day, enjoying the food and festivities.

It may be a few weeks late, but the cherry blossoms are coming out, along with the pressure washers and deck brushes, and I wish you all a safe boating and prosperous 2017 fishing season.

Shaun

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Harbour Manager's Report

Hello Harbour Members and Users of the False Creek Fishermen's Wharf!

I'm extremely excited to put this past winter behind us and I'm looking forward to warmer days and extra daylight. Over the past number of months, we felt that the winter season was never going to come to an end. We've heard of the shifting weather patterns and know that things vary year to year but this past February was the 5th snowiest month in BC's recent history and I can tell you that our tired muscles and aching backs can verify how much snow fell here at the Harbour. Some day's it felt like losing battle by getting the parking lot and docks cleared of snow to only to have it dump down twice as hard leaving more for us to shovel the following day. We made a concerted effort to not only provide vehicle access and keeping the ramps shoveled but also to keep a path on the main dock open for access.

As the spring season has arrived (at least on paper), hopefully the weather will cooperate in order for us to spruce up the Harbour for the summer season as we expect another busy year. Not only will we be doing the usual stuff like the pressure washing of the docks and painting all things that need to be touched up but we'll also be undertaking a few large capital projects that will definitely benefit the Harbour. These large capital projects include a new 2.5 tonne jib crane that will replace the aging 1.5 tonne yellow crane. With the new 2.5 tonne jib crane we will be increasing the boom reach to make it easier for our boats with a larger beam to load and unload safely. We will also be replacing our tired brow/fender logs along the wharfhead. These old brow logs have been in service for over 13 years but are not really that stable and are made of steel which has some severe corrosion and required a fair amount of annual maintenance. The new style of brow logs that we'll be looking into will be constructed from High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) and will include a safe walkway for the users.

We have a lot of festivals and events planned for the year starting with the Spot Prawn Festival, followed by the Blessing of the Fleet/Harbour Appreciation Day, FraserFEST and may also look at adding another event to continue to create a place where the local community can come down to our amazing facility and get to see how a working Commercial Fishing Harbour operates. A lot of work goes into hosting events like these at our facility but with the involvement and support from the Board of Directors, User Group and Staff, it makes it easier to have these events be as successful as they are.

I'm pleased to announce that we've just completed our 3rd audit for the Clean Marine BC Program which evaluates and recognizes facilities through an eco-certification process. An independent auditor assesses each Clean Marine BC participant's "Environmental Best Practices". Based on the results of the audit, facilities achieving a minimum standard will rate at least one of 5 Anchors; 5 Anchors representing the highest level of best practices in place to reduce environmental impacts. With the assistance and buy-in from our user group, we're proud to say that the recertification was another success and have once again been awarded the same anchor rating of 5 Anchors, making us BC's only 5 Anchor Clean Marine rated facility! Thank you to the harbour users for helping us achieve this goal.

As we head into another busy boating season I would like to introduce the current Harbour Staff that help keep the Harbour moving forward. Assistant Harbour Manager – Michael Turkington, Office Manager – Nicole Persak, Accountant - Maribel Steffl, Wharfinger II – Dylan Craig, Wharfinger I – Morgan MacMath and our part-time weekend Wharfinger I – Tian Fowler. At any point throughout the year please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the staff about any issues or concerns regarding you or your boat. Remember, we're here to help you!

As most of you who have spoken with me know, I am open to all suggestions or comments, whether in the form of positive feedback or constructive criticism. The input from our Harbour Users plays a significant role in helping us plan for the future, and hopefully, we can build on this spirit of collaboration, and make the Fishermen's Wharf a destination for all.

In closing, False Creek Fishermen's Wharf is committed to preserving the Fish Boat Facilities as a valuable asset for the citizens of Greater Vancouver by providing long-term, affordable, safe and secure moorage and services for Commercial Fish Boats in an environmentally responsible manner.

False Creek Tidings

11TH Annual Spot Prawn Festival @ Fishermen's Wharf

Spot Prawn Season is nearly upon us! We invite you to come and join us for this year's festival, which is turning into a great event each and every year. This year's festival will be taking place on **Saturday, May 13th 2017**. There will be a prawn boil hosted by local Chefs to add a little flavour to the event, so get your tickets before they sell out! Tickets available at: <https://spotprawnfestival.com/tickets/>

The boats will be heading out early in the morning and returning around 12:30-1pm to offer live prawns for sale to the public. ***Price to be determined***

This festival is a great family fun event, so don't miss out. Come down and see what all the fuss is about and peruse the booths. We have a ton of stuff for the kids to enjoy along with a little something for the adults, too. Since the event is becoming larger every year, we are recommending that guests leave their furry friends at home for this one.

In the past, there had been no issue with dogs at the festival, but as the event has grown, this is becoming troubling for the event organizers. There is limited space and usually a press of people and kids about, and it is a food preparation event with live seafood present. With all these sights, sounds, and excitement it can be overwhelming for your pooch and they may interfere with the festivities. We want everyone to have a good time, leave the stress behind and enjoy some delicious PRAWNS!



5th Annual Blessing of the Fleet & Harbour Appreciation Day

Join us for our annual event, the Blessing of the Fleet & Harbour Appreciation Day. This is an event to help grow our community, a day to celebrate all this Harbour offers and to give back to the people that make this place great, you! We will have seafood fresh off the BBQ and live music along with a few guest speakers to touch on what commercial fishing means to this coast.

Father John will once again bless the fleet before they leave for the season, a long standing nautical tradition meant to bring a safe and bountiful season to the hard working men and women who ply their trade on the unpredictable seas. Salmon and Tuna burgers will be served up to all harbour members and users free of charge, with a \$10/per option to purchase additional burgers for any guests you'd like to bring down to join the fun. Last year we got rained out, but we managed to have fun in the locker bay anyways, so come down rain or shine for a good time.

This year, the event & blessing will be taking place on **Saturday, May 27th** and runs from **11am until 3pm**. We encourage everyone to come down for a salmon or tuna burger and see the Harbour gearing up for the upcoming fishing season.

Join in the fun and enjoy a tasty treat on us!

Calling all Members! Help us go PAPERLESS!

We would like to extend an invitation to all Members & Users to send us your email addresses so we can put them in your file as another means of contacting you regarding your vessel or account. It is also a 'paperless' way to correspond with our clients regarding invoices and mail-outs, and our list is nearly complete. Help us reduce costs and waste!

If you're interested, please send an email to: office@falsecreek.com

Be sure to include your Name + Vessel so we can identify you! Ps. We promise, NO spam!

The Pacific Herring Recovery Project

The False Creek Fishermen's Wharf, in partnership with the Squamish Streamkeepers Society, are working towards enhancing the spawning potential of the Pacific Herring in local waters. False Creek was once teeming with these fish as they came to spawn in the millions in the area once known as 'Snauc' to the local native tribes, but decades of industrialization in the creek drastically affected the ability of Herring to spawn by removing and contaminating their natural habitat.

The Herring kept returning to spawn, though without a suitable environment for the roe to mature, their numbers slowly dwindled to near non-existence, a dangerous proposition for a food-fish that serves as a vital link in the ocean food chain. In recognition of this, the Squamish Streamkeepers have worked on a number of suitable alternatives over the last few years to draw the Herring away from contaminated pile surfaces here at Fishermen's Wharf where hatch out was believed to be below 5%.

We first wrapped a number of piles with enviroliner to protect the roe from the harmful chemicals contained within the wood piles, which resulted in an approximate 50% hatch-out, mostly due to surface contamination in the inter-tidal zone of the pilings. With limited success through this endeavour, it was back to the drawing board and a new method was devised to use weighted nets to keep the roe below the surface at all times, trying our best to mimic natural habitat for spawning like eel grass or a kelp bed, and we had a near perfect hatch-out estimated to be around 95% from this second effort! Each net is estimated to hatch out approximately 2 million Herring larvae.

2017 is the first cycle of returning Herring from year 1 of our efforts, so we expected a healthy number of fish ready to spawn and we were not disappointed! In anticipation of this, we doubled the amount of nets in the water to encourage the best possible number of roe to reach maturity, and we still didn't have enough. Check out the video on our Facebook page to see the spawning in action here at Fishermen's Wharf and for more herring info. We can't wait to see what happens next year!

Boating Resources

There are a number of resources available on-line these days designed specifically for the boating public. Some we have talked about before, some that we have yet to discuss and I am sure there are others we have never heard of before. Here are a couple websites that have crossed our desks in the past few months we'd like to pass along to you as we feel they bring something to the table for all our user groups.

<http://www.nauticapedia.ca/> - Run by a group of volunteers who produce this nautical heritage site with information on Canada's Pacific nautical history and heritage and other topics of general maritime interest.

<http://www.sailorfriend.com/> - A website and database where worldwide sailors can stay in touch, exchange crucial information, and get easy access to their mobile sailing apps.



A school of herring in the deep blue sea



Herring spawning on nets - A-Dock



A close up of fresh herring roe

False Creek Tidings

Sea to Fork?!

Do you ever think about selling your catch directly to market, but get bogged down considering all the running around you'd have to do to make that happen? What if you could just make a phone call, or spend a couple of minutes on a website and reach dozens of buyers right here in Vancouver? And what if there were a place you could take your fish to have it custom processed for that buyer and delivered?

That's what the Living Oceans Society has been working on as part of their Sea to Fork project that aims to develop the Vancouver market for local, sustainable seafood. The new, free website www.seatofork.org lists buyers who care about buying local and connects them with you. You advertise your catch, they call you and make the deal. Sea to Fork is trying to see where they can fit in to help fishermen connect directly with the market. The Board's new "Fishermen's Village" project is being designed to create the facilities you need to sell direct to both the public and businesses. Let Sea to Fork be another tool to help you move your product.

Visit www.seatofork.org and see how easy it is to set up your own page, where you can enter your contact info one time and then always have quick access to offer seafood for sale.

Any questions? Call Claude Tremblay @ [604-728-0341](tel:604-728-0341).



Parking Lot Etiquette

Be aware that the number of people using this site daily grows exponentially with the warmer weather. Keep your speed down when driving in the parking lot and into the locker bays. We know you're in a rush, but kids, pets, and forklifts are everywhere when the sun is shining, so please be mindful of your surroundings and slow down. Thanks!



Swab the Decks

The time is here to wash away the winter grime and get everything clean and shiny for the new boating season. Staff will be spending the next little while pressure washing the docks and ramps around the Harbour as we know there are a few spots that really need it! Let us know if there are any particularly bad spots we've missed or have yet to get to.

If you are interested in some help getting your vessel ready to go for the warm weather, the office has a number of cards from local companies that can help detail your vessel. If you like to do it yourself, the office rents out our gas-powered pressure washer for \$55/4hrs including gas. It is rented on a first come/first serve basis, but please let us know ahead of time if you intend to rent it from us and we'll be sure to have it ready to go.

Boating Safety

When heading out to enjoy some time on the water, please remember these important items to ensure everyone makes it home safe and sound.

- **Marine First Aid Kit** – Better to be safe than sorry in the event of an unforeseen emergency.
- **Flares and Emergency Beacon** – These can make the difference between hours and days when stranded at sea. Plan accordingly.
- **Float Plan** – Make sure someone knows where you are going and when you should be home.
- **Emergency Supplies/Rations** – A necessity for any boater to have on board. Check supplies at least once per season for condition. Replace back-up batteries regularly and ensure the pack stays free from moisture.
- **PFDs/Life Jackets** – The best way to prevent accidental drowning. Stay safe on the water!

Please remember to wear your PFDs!

False Creek Tidings

Payments and Charges

This is a reminder to all vessel owners that if your account is **in arrears** when monthly charges are processed, the higher **Daily Rate will apply**. We will do our best to remind and give advance notice to all Harbour

Users when their moorage is due, however **it is ultimately up to the vessel owners to be responsible for their own accounts**. The Harbour is also set up to receive payments over the phone to help simplify the payment process as we understand that some Harbour Users live out of town or work during regular business hours. For any account inquiries please contact Nicole at the Harbour Office or email: office@falsecreek.com



Pump Out

The sewage pump-out system is located at the end of the Fish Sales Float, is staff operated and is **FREE to ALL Annual Harbour Users**. The charge for non-annual harbour users is

\$6 per cycle of the pump-out. Each cycle runs approx. 4 minutes and pumps around 35 gallons. We currently have a number of boats using the pump out on a regular basis but want to encourage more vessels to use this service and assist us in keeping the waters of False Creek clean and healthy.

FCHA has a policy in place to **not allow vessels to pump out sewage in the harbour** which is now made stronger by the revisions to the Canada Shipping Act. The Harbour will be taking a hard line approach to enforcing this regulation, meaning that anyone caught depositing sewage into the FCHA water lot will be reported and dealt with accordingly. This will benefit not only our Harbour Users, but all boaters and marine life throughout False Creek.

Parking

The new 2017 annual parking passes are available at the Harbour Office for all homeport vessels. We appreciate everyone's cooperation with the Harbour's parking restrictions, and hope that all Harbour Users understand the **Harbour only has 75 parking spaces with 250 annual vessels**, which limits parking availability. During the busy cruising season we will be restricting annual vessel owners to have only 1 vehicle onsite whether it's an annual pass or a temporary pass. The Harbour will post the peak season parking restrictions as we approach the summer. Please ensure that when you or your guests are onsite with their vehicles that a proper valid parking pass is displayed.

All vehicles parked on Harbour property must carry valid Road Insurance, we do not authorize un-insured vehicles or those with storage insurance to be left on site at any time.



The pump-out station is operated by Harbour staff and the hours of operation are **7 days a week from 8:30am to 3:30pm**. For use of the Pump-Out System please inquire at the Harbour office.

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Go Fish - Seafood Shack

Go Fish Seafood Emporium continues to draw visitors to the False Creek Fishermen's Wharf, serving up Vancouver's finest Fish 'n' Chips. They also offer a wide variety of grilled seafood creations and inviting house-made soups. Are you in a rush? No need to stand in line, phone in your order @ **604-730-5040**.



Public Fish Sales Float & Courtesy Customs Dock

The Fishermen's Wharf - Fish Sales Float is provided for the benefit of the community and the fishers who sell their catch. Today, the Sales Float is carefully regulated to ensure that the general public receive top quality product. Commercial Fishing Vessels using the facility may only sell species which they are licensed to catch. In addition, they must hold a Provincial Fish Vendor License obtained through the Ministry of Agriculture. We would like to encourage any and all Commercial Fishing boats who are thinking about selling at the Fish Sales dock to do so. The Harbour also provides a pamphlet which covers regulations, guidelines and standards for freshness. Members of the public are encouraged to visit the Public Fish Sales Float. Nowhere else in the city can you obtain truly "fresh" seafood, meet the Fishermen, see the boat that caught the product, find out where the product was caught and handle the gear responsible for harvesting such a fine assortment of seafood products.

For any information about Canada Customs please call Them directly at 1-888-226-7277 or 604-666-0272 or visit their website at www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca



Inspection Day @ FCHA

The time has come again to prepare ourselves for the coming boating season and the warm weather that comes with it. The FCHA is once again hosting a small event to help our boaters ready their vessels by bringing in some industry professionals to answer questions and check your gear. We managed to get a couple new participants for this year's edition of Inspection Day:

- **DNA Fire Doctors** will be here again offering half-price inspections for your fire extinguishers @ **\$5.00/extinguisher.**
- **Mill Log** will be back offering twin disc gear inspections and advice on options for powering your vessel. Contact Sandy - bourquin.sandy@milllog.com for more info.
- **Federal Battery** has stepped up to the plate to join us on-site and offer tips and advice on maintaining your battery and prolonging its life.
- **St. John Ambulance** will also be joining us to offer safety tips, advice on first aid equipment to keep on board along with information regarding classes and seminars.

Don't miss this opportunity to speak with industry professionals face to face. It only comes once a year...



St. John Ambulance

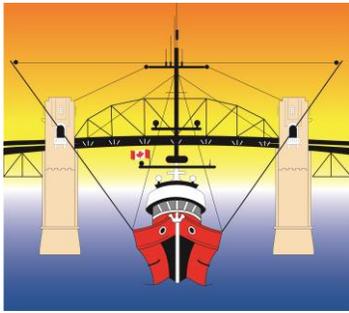
SAVING LIVES
at work, home and play



False Creek Tidings



What a Winter we had... Welcome back Spring!



**LOCK IT OR
LOSE IT!**

How do our gardens grow?



We can all thank Karyn for the lovely ambiance created by her "green thumb". With help from Steve on the "Long Trick" these two are always looking for new ways to spruce up our Harbour. They do a great job with the limited funding provided, so please take the time to thank them for their hard work!

Fish For Sale Page on the FCHA Website

As some of you are already aware, we have placed a number of our local Independent Fishermen's "Direct to Market" business ventures up on the 'Fish for Sale' page of our new website. We receive a number of calls every month from customers looking to get in touch with someone to buy fresh fish and it is a very useful reference tool to quickly send these interested buyers to a source with an array of options from which to choose. We would like to expand this list and include any interested party here at Fishermen's Wharf.

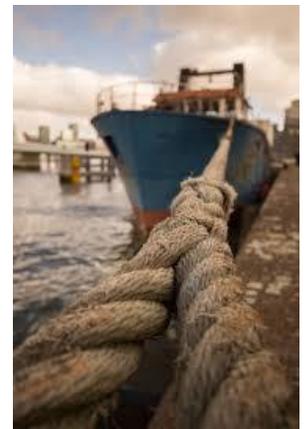
If you would like to see your fishing company profiled on our website, we would love to help you out. In order to qualify for this service, you must have an active website we can link to on our page. Other than that, you must be a Commercial Fisherman that Home Ports here at Fishermen's Wharf or do business directly with our Home Port Commercial Members.

Interested parties should contact Turk at the office or email: turk@falsecreek.com

Chartering @ FCHA

We would like to remind all Users that chartering activity is not permitted on-site here at Fishermen's Wharf. We do have a few vessels and captains that do charter work but they are restricted from picking up and dropping off guests at our facility.

Anyone thinking of chartering their vessel must be aware they need to make alternative arrangements for loading/unloading guests or risk the forfeiture of their moorage contract.



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Fishermen's Wharf

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