



FALSE CREEK TIDINGS

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Message from the Board

It’s spring again at the False Creek Fishermen’s Wharf, but this year is very different than any we’ve seen before. Like everyone else, we are adapting. Those of you who have spent time around the harbour lately have noticed the signage and orange cones placed strategically by the staff to minimize unnecessary pedestrian traffic in the parking lots and around the docks. We want to facilitate social distancing while keeping the facilities open. This is in keeping with our mandate: The Fishermen’s Wharf is many things to many people, but our primary purpose is to facilitate prosperous commercial fisheries.

Commercial fishing, as with other food production, is an essential service and its importance is made more evident in times of disruption. Empty store shelves have shown us the vulnerability of long supply chains and import dependent food systems. Though essential, fishing has never been an easy or predictable way to earn a living. This year, the BC fishing industry felt the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic before it became a health threat to Canadians. In January, prices for crab fell dramatically when exports to Asia all but stopped as restaurants closed and Chinese New Year celebrations were cancelled. Dive harvesters also had markets for export-dependent products, such as geoduck, disappear. This year’s Georgia Strait herring fishery featured good weather and strong returns, but the prices that the fishermen will be paid remains to be determined.

Successful fishing depends on adaptation. It’s all fairly easy out there until things break, and the wind starts blowing. Our fishing community will weather this storm, and hopefully find some new opportunities as well. Our local fishermen and businesses that sell to restaurants have had to find new customers, while those that sell to retailers have seen orders increase. Farmers markets have found ways to remain open. Home delivery programs are being started to cater to a grateful public. The population in general is thinking about where their food comes from, and how their shopping habits can help keep local food production strong. As the spring and summer fishing seasons ramp up, we will all find ways to continue to supply healthy seafood to our communities. Spot prawn season is as exciting for home cooks as it is for fishermen. When Prawn season does get underway, we will find a way to safely let our fishermen sell their catch to their dedicated customers, and many new ones as well. How? We’ll adapt!

Oh, and to our pleasure boat fleet: we hope you are staying safe and healthy, too! Thank you for being part of our community and for helping keep our facilities running smoothly. And if you don’t catch quite as many fish as you’d hoped to this season, there are lots of us who’d be happy to sell you some!

Wishing you smooth sailing and prosperous fishing,

Shaun Strobel – Past President

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Harbour Manager's Report

Hello Harbour Members & Users,

Wow...what a year 2020 has been so far, and like most of you, Covid-19 has forced us to rapidly adjust how we live and conduct our lives. I hope that everyone has been able to reasonably adapt to these changes and wanted to express my gratitude to each of you for your understanding and cooperation during these unfortunate times.

In January I attended the Harbour Authority Association of British Columbia's (HAABC) annual conference which was held in Parksville. At the conference I was recognized and awarded the Department of Fisheries & Oceans/Small Craft Harbours Pacific Region Individual Commitment Award. It was a huge honour and a proud moment in my career to receive this prestigious award from the Director General of the Small Craft Harbours Program Nationally. It's been quite the journey from my first day back in 2005 and this July marks the completion of 15 years of service to this amazing Fishermen's Wharf community and I wanted to thank you all for assisting and supporting me along the way.

Along with the 15 years that I've been here at Fishermen's Wharf, I've been fortunate to give back to the industry by serving on the HAABC Board of Directors for the past 3 years as the Lower Mainland representative. At the recent conference my term was up and I was unsure if I was going to continue on but decided to commit to another 2-year term, and was subsequently elected as the Vice President. I'm also still on the Board of Directors for the Pacific Coast Congress of Harbormasters & Port Managers for another year, currently in the role as the Immediate Past President. Whatever role I'm in or hat I'm wearing, I strive to make the False Creek Fishermen's Wharf the best place to moor your boat and will continue to work with our amazing Staff and Directors to do just that.

Many of you know Robin Richardson and for those of you that don't, Robin has been working for Small Craft Harbours (SCH) for the past 20 years supporting many of the Harbour Authorities. Robin also has a direct connection to False Creek being a Harbour Manager here prior to his role with SCH and as his career is starting to wind down and starts to think about retirement, the HAABC awarded Robin a Lifetime Membership award. With me being on the Board of Directors for the HAABC representing the Lower Mainland as well as being the Harbour Manager at the Harbour Robin used to manage, I was asked to present this award to Robin, in which I graciously accepted.

From the reports in the news, I'm sure everyone is already aware that there will be no large gatherings anytime soon and as such we've already been forced to cancel the annual Spot Prawn Festival and Blessing of the Fleet/Harbour Appreciation Day events and will most likely have to cancel the Wild Salmon Celebration that usually takes place towards the end of August. We're all frustrated by this but at the same time, look forward to once again hosting events like these and welcoming our friends and the community back down to the Harbour.

With the cancellation of the Celebration of Light Fireworks, the current border closure, and the expectation of limited travel this summer, we're expecting the transient boats to be down this year. However, we'll be looking at offering more monthly moorage to locals to help offset some of the lost revenue.

We are still planning to complete some capital projects this year although be it a little slower than we'd like them to go but we have to unfortunately work with what we've got. I am still in communication with SCH regarding the replacement of the watermain and wharfhead repairs, which will be a massive undertaking but due to things out of our control it has taken longer than expected to get started. We've purchased material and installed the new HDPE dock water system on E-Dock and although we have made some minor tweaks to the system, we're ready to continue on with the project throughout the rest of the harbour. We'll also look at other projects and improvements throughout the harbour like a more reliable Wi-Fi system, a commercial sweeper to deal with the dust and debris in the locker bays and parking lot, a new pop vending machine which will give us the option to sell other items like bottled water and Gatorade, new fire extinguisher and life ring cabinets, a new transformer, electrical kiosks and LED lights on E-Dock and at the same time, we'll be replacing the noisy transformer at the end of C-Dock. Our capital project wish list is long, but we'll stay the course and take things one step at a time.

On a final note, at the AGM this past February we mentioned that we were close to releasing the RFP for the food kiosk project that we've been working on. With the unfortunate impacts that Covid-19 has had we've decided to back away from the project until things settle down and stabilize. We'll keep everyone informed as to when we're comfortable enough to resume the project.

Stay calm, stay kind, stay safe!

Mike Loy – Harbour Manager

The Lock-Down

What interesting times... Who could have seen the world coming to a halt in a few short weeks, with the light at the end of the tunnel still little more than a pin prick in the long dark uncertainty of tomorrow. We are trying to stay positive here at the Harbour, maintaining some form of regular operations as we soldier on as safely as we can. Staff had been broken into skeleton crews to reduce exposure risks while still being able to offer you the services you need here on-site. We were only maintaining 2 staff members in the office during regular hours, and have since returned to full staff complement now that the quarantine measures are beginning to ease off. We appreciate your patience through these unsettling times and we are here to help if you need us!

On that note, let me tell you that our services are still in operation and we have put basic measures in place to reduce staff involvement and to reduce exposure to our users. The on-site washrooms are remaining closed to the public and accessible only by Harbour Users. We still maintain a daily cleaning and have taken additional steps to regularly sanitize the access pad and door, though we of course recommend you take your own precautions when using the facilities and wash your hands thoroughly as the facilities still see regular use. Disposal facilities are still open though are another area of potential contamination, you may choose to wear gloves when interacting with any containers, equipment, or doors at the docks.

As mentioned elsewhere, the office remains open for any needs while on-site or to check in from afar. We have locked the front door and ask that you communicate with us via phone or email for any non-emergency purposes and payment inquiries or come see us at the side window next to the entrance for more pressing items. We ask during this time that you keep any in-person communications with staff brief and maintain a respectable "social distance" for their health and yours. Forklifts are still available as well as the welding shed and crane with all still seeing much use as CFV members are readying for the coming seasons, unsure of what the market will bear but serving a vital purpose as food producers with historical and cultural importance to the people of BC and Canada.

The security staff are still working their regular shifts. Our commissionaires are important members of our staff and we hope all our members respect them at all times, and to again maintain your distance when communicating with them while on-site. Avoid unnecessary chit-chat and do not enter the office, under any circumstance, until we have enacted the necessary safety measures to maintain an effective quarantine inside the building. Phone the office or come to the side window to communicate with the guards after hours. We are working on ways to reduce the on-site presence of those with no business here but please be courteous to our guests and bring any issues to the notice of Staff or Security rather than engaging them yourself.

Be mindful of each other. Maintain your distance and avoid entering the personal space of other members unless invited to do so. That means staying out of lockers and off of vessels that you are used to visiting, whether frequent or not, unless expressly invited into these spaces. While we reduce the number of people that access the site, we are still accessible by the public and we recommend all users avoid interacting with any strangers to the site and inform staff/security if a concern is noted and we will address it as appropriate. As the Province has been holding its own in this war against a silent, invisible enemy, it is important for us to continue to do our part until we can all start getting back to normal.

Tidal Grid vs. Haul Out

With extra free time, now can be a good time to get some work done on your vessel. The tidal grid is a useful tool to inspect the bottom of your vessel and do some minor repairs like zinc replacement and prop work, but this is not a suitable location for doing any type of painting or hull work. Environment Canada strictly enforces regulations surrounding the use of Tidal Grids. We want to remind our users that we take our environmental responsibilities seriously and suggest you make the appropriate arrangements for vessel repairs based on the nature of the work. Any hull work and bottom painting must be carried out on land at an approved haul out facility like Granville Island Boatyard to prevent hazardous waste from entering the water table. For more info or to make a booking on the grid, contact turk@falsecreek.com for an agreement form.



Vessel Repairs & Maintenance @ the Dock

With marine contractors still working during this health emergency, and time on our hands, many people are using this opportunity to see to some much-needed repairs to their vessels in preparation for another enjoyable cruising season. While we do allow minor maintenance on the docks, we want to remind our users of the type of vessel maintenance that is suitable for the dock and what might be best suited to take place at an approved facility. We also want to remind our users to take extra caution when interacting with contactors and to provide your neighbours with enough room to safely access their vessels.



Minor Repairs	Major Repairs
Low impact	High impact
Short time frame	Longer time frame
Easily contained	Hard to contain
Larger project done in stages	Multiple contractors involved
Low level of hazard	Med to High level of hazard

This is a generalization of what may constitute a major or minor repair, but it can be useful to consider where your project falls and if we will allow it to continue on-site or whether a ship yard is the appropriate place to see to your repair.

Please dispose of all waste responsibly!

Socially Distant

I think we have all learned what “Social Distance” means, but how does it apply to us here at the docks?

The most important element to consider when talking about social distancing is personal space, but here at the dock, that space extends past the 1-2meter bubble recommended by the health authorities. With vessels being cramped spaces by nature and commercial lockers piled high with gear, these spaces provide a myriad of potential contamination zones. As such, we should be treating these areas as off-limits unless invited into them by the owner.

Everyone is taking their own personal measures and it is difficult to avoid some risk in these uncertain times, but each person should respect the wishes, and health, of their fellow Harbour Users. Seek permission before entering the locker or stepping on board the vessel of a fellow user, be they a neighbor, business acquaintance, or a long-time friend. Be safe and be sensible.

Please notify staff of any issues that arise so we can address the problem and take any necessary steps to keep our users safe.

Parking Lot Etiquette

As the crowds have thinned, there are still many people working at the harbour and checking on their vessels. Watch your speed and pay attention to avoid any incidents.

As more business is conducted on-site everyday by our commercial members, please be courteous to our site visitors and remember to keep a social distance when dealing with people on-site.



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.

- **COVID-19** – As smaller communities have taken various measures to protect their citizens, be sure to come ready with a mask and a good stock of gloves if planning to make a visit to your favourite spots this summer, even if restrictions begin to ease.
- **Marine First Aid Kit** – Better to be safe than sorry in the event of an unforeseen emergency.
- **Flares and Emergency Beacon** – Don't forget to check the expiry dates and ensure your emergency equipment will work if needed.
- **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!



**KEEP
CALM
AND
DON'T
SPEED**

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Payments and Charges

We are still accepting payments for moorage and power during the various stages of these quarantine measures.

The best ways to contact us for payment are over the phone via credit card or through email with an e-transfer to maintain your account in good standing. We are still taking in-person transactions at the side window of the office if necessary but best to try and avoid this means, if possible, to keep everyone safe until we can get back to normality.

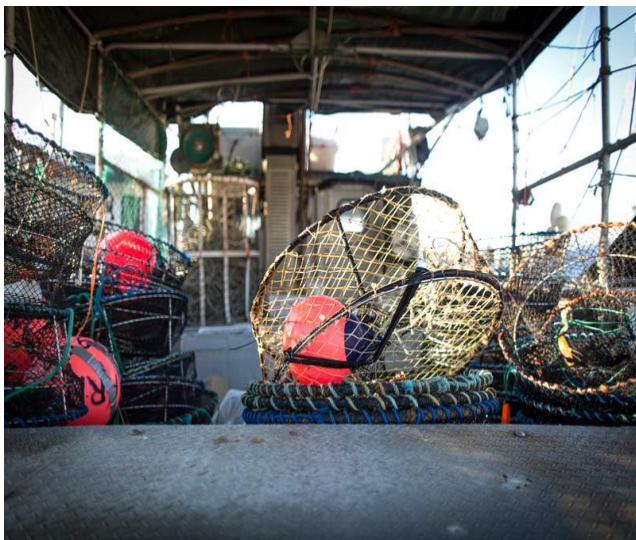
For questions or concerns regarding your moorage, reach out to turk@falscreek.com. For any account inquiries please contact Nicole at: office@falscreek.com



Parking

We have paused distributing parking passes while the quarantine measures were in full effect. Now that measures are starting to ease off, we are evaluating how and when to re-start the issuing of passes to keep control of the site. With summer on the horizon, we will be looking to get passes to our users looking for their annual 2020 decal and figuring a way to minimize contact with staff in order to continue issuing temporary passes as we have for these past many years. Keep an eye on your inbox for a notice of when parking passes will be re-instituted in full and we are ready to work with all our Users to ensure compliance without fear of being towed if a vehicle is on-site without a pass from that point forward

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



Pump Out

The pump-out station is still operational during regular hours 8:30am-3:30pm. We are trying to keep a hands-off approach and will open the equipment and turn on the pump but it will be up to the boater to handle things on the vessel side as staff should avoid boarding your vessel to maintain a safe “social” distance.

The service remains free of charge to all annual users of Fishermen’s Wharf and costs \$6.00/cycle (approx. 35 gal) for any guest boaters. to reduce the reliance on your holding tank, but we are here to help if needed.

The mobile pump-out operated by Skookum and the CoV has been put on hold this season for obvious reasons and we expect a slight uptick in service to the boaters of False Creek as a result, so check ahead to ensure the dock is open and ready to receive you and your vessel.



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Go Fish - Seafood Shack

Go Fish Seafood Emporium continues to operate during this quarantine, serving up Vancouver's finest Fish 'n' Chips. They also offer a wide variety of grilled seafood creations and inviting house-made soups. Call ahead to place an order

@ **604-730-5040**. ****DINE-OUT ONLY****



The Fishermen's Wharf - Fish Sales Float is provided for the benefit of the community and the fishers who sell their catch. During this current crisis, fish sales will still be permitted at the dock in limited capacity. We will be placing signage and info regarding social distancing procedures and do our best to maintain a minimum distance and encourage people not to gather in crowds while looking to purchase fresh seafood direct from the boats that caught it.

Any vessel looking to sell fresh seafood to the public in 2020 will be subject to strict handling and sanitation procedures and this activity may be stopped at anytime if given direction to do so by Health Canada, CDC, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority or any relevant agency concerned with Public Health/Policy

The Courtesy Customs Dock will be closed during this period of quarantine to non-essential vessels. No recreational vessels entering from US waters will be authorized to tie at Fishermen's Wharf until further notice.

For any information about Canada Customs please call them directly at 1-888-226-7277 or visit the website @ www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca

Public Fish Sales Float & Courtesy Customs Dock



Safety at Sea for Working Fishermen



We want to remind our CFV members of the changes to safety regulations that came into effect last year. WorkSafe BC expects that anyone working on the water "must wear a PFD or Life Jacket at all times while on-deck".

Whether the vessel is under way, or at the dock whenever work is being performed, a PFD must be worn while on-deck or the worker risks a fine. This went into effect on June 3rd, 2019, so be safe out there and avoid getting caught without a PFD! A fine is one thing, but your life is worth a lot more.

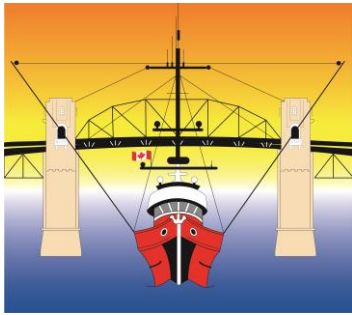
Other changes have come into effect regarding vessel stability. Any vessel modifications that might affect the stability of the vessel are now subject to new conditions under the Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations. For more information, follow the link to make sure you are compliant with these new regulations.

https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1486/page-7.html#h-26

False Creek Tidings



A nice shot of Sooke HA in the sun. Living the good life...



How Do Our Gardens Grow?



Please remember to take a moment and thank Karyn for the hard work she puts in to keep our green spaces healthy and beautiful. With help from Steve on the Long Trick, these two put in a fantastic effort with limited funds and deserve our thanks. We get numerous compliments throughout the year and are always excited to see what comes up next.
Thank you both!

Recreational & Commercial Boating Info During Quarantine

Here at Fishermen's Wharf we are committed to remaining open while still taking as many steps as possible to protect our Employees and Users from harm. While here in the big city, this may seem natural, but in our smaller and more remote communities, each facility has had to take a long hard look at how they operate and what services they can offer to the boating public while preserving the health and safety of their communities. As such, you should expect that this cruising season will not be like the many that came before and extra work will be required to see if you will be welcome at your favourite stop on the coast. Currently, the US border is closed to all recreational travel until further notice. Plan accordingly and be safe out there.

Here are a few links to some resources regarding facilities on the coast for both recreational and commercial boaters and what to expect when out on the water or selling your catch this summer:

- Facility access restrictions - <http://waggonerguide.com/covid-19/>
- Fish Safe update for CFV Industry - <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5589d8a7e4b0a831f83c5c45/t/5e8b864b41eeac39f0f0e43c/1586202190462/COVID-19+-+Fish+Safe+Statement+%28April+1%2C+2020%29.pdf>
- Updates from Ministry of Agriculture - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/covid-19-response>

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