

# WorkSafeBC-The Business of Safety

Patrick Olsen & Bruce Logan  
Occupational Safety Officers

WorkSafeBC

The Workers' Compensation Board of  
British Columbia

CFE Networking: “Sharing Insights”

Osoyoos, BC

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# Overview

- A Brief History
- Board Mandate
- Responsibilities
- Role of the Board
- Fishing Focus
- Assessments

# Why WorkSafeBC

- An historical compromise
- 1917 WCA came into effect
- Workers gave up right to sue employers in exchange for compensation benefits
- Fishing Regulations into force in 1995

# Our Mandate

- Promote the prevention of workplace injury, illness, and disease
- Rehabilitate those who are injured and provide timely return to work
- Provide fair compensation to replace workers' loss of wages while recovering from injuries
- Ensure sound financial management for a viable workers' compensation system

# General Responsibilities

- Provide Safe Workplace
- Provide a Training System
- Maintain OH&S Program
- Identify/Correct Unsafe Acts / Conditions
- Ensure workers follow procedures and use PPE

# Prevention Division

- Injury and Disease Prevention
- Officer roles
  - Inspection
  - Education
  - Consultation
  - Investigation
  - Enforcement

# Marine Strategy

Industries inspected by Officers with a fishing and marine background include:

- commercial fishing, both inland and coastal
- aquaculture
- commercial sport fishing operations
- tug and barge
- commercial diving
- seafood harvesting by dive

Focus on serious injury /fatality reduction.

# Fishing Focus

There are four main focus areas for commercial fishing:

- Cold Water Immersion
- PPE Use (PFD, Immersion Suit, Hard Hat, etc.)
- Vessel Characteristics Documentation, Including Stability
- Emergency Preparedness
  - Training and Procedures
  - Drills
  - Equipment

# Commercial Fishing/Owner

- Ensure that machinery and equipment on board a fishing vessel is capable of safely performing the functions for which it is used.
- Ensure that major modifications to a fishing vessel do not adversely affect the stability of the vessel.
- Provide vessel operating instructions

# Commercial Fishing/Master

Instruct crewmembers in the operational characteristics of the fishing vessel including:

- engine room components and controls,
- deck equipment and rigging,
- navigation equipment and electronic aids,
- fishing equipment and its use,
- procedures for anchoring the vessel,
- the location and use of safety/emergency equipment

# Achieving Compliance

- Initial Inspection Occurs
- WorkSafeBC Inspection Report Issued
- Deficiencies addressed through orders
- Follow-up Inspection to verify compliance

# ASSESSMENTS

WorkSafeBC is a not-for-profit organization.

Employers pay assessments which fund the system

Assessments are collected for commercial fishing operations by the first purchaser of the fish or, the person who engaged the services of a master or crew

# Contacts

WorkSafeBC Marine Group currently has 3 full time Officers available to assist employers.

Shane Neifer – North Coast(250) 615-6640

Bruce Logan – Lower Mainland (604) 244-6477

Pat Olsen – Vancouver Island(250) 334-8777

**[www.worksafebc.com](http://www.worksafebc.com)**

# QUESTIONS?

