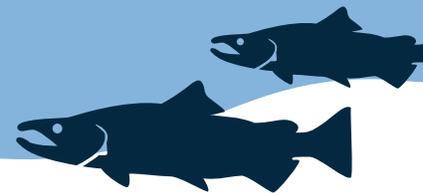


BC YOUNG FISHERMEN'S NETWORK GATHERING 2023

A Collaborative Celebration of Commercial Fishing's Next Generation

About the Network

The BC Young Fishermen's Network (BCYFN) is a supportive space for the next generation of BC's fishing fleet. We foster learning and networking among young fish harvesters by creating connections to the people and resources they need to succeed. We believe that supporting young fish harvesters means supporting the health and well-being of our coastal communities.



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Schedule

March 22

📍 The Match Eatery

March 23

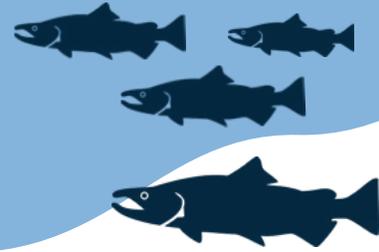
📍 Maitime Heritage Centre

March 24

📍 Maitime Heritage Centre

8:00am			Breakfast & Registration
9:00am			Welcome Back & Housekeeping
			Marine Protected Area Updates
10:00am		Kickoff Speech	Developing BC's First Coastal Marine Strategy
		Fisheries Update Session	Mutual Marine: Insuring your Fishing Business (Thulin Room) Native Fishing Association: Business Growth and Opportunities
11:00am			Coffee & Snacks
		A Buoyant Future: Collaborating to Reach Our Common Goals	Empowering Indigenous Women in BC's Fishing Industry
12:00pm		Guided boat tours	Grab & Go Lunch
		Lunch	Parting Words
1:00pm			
	Gear Up! - in Lower Workshop Hall	BC Fisheries Management 101 with DFO	
2:00pm		Fish Safe MythBusters	
		Coffee & Snacks	
3:00pm		Out of Sight, but Not Out of Mind: Helping Fishers Reclaim Lost Gear in BC and Beyond	
4:00pm		Money Talks - Financing your Fishing Business with BMO	
5:00pm		Day Wrap Up	
		Guided Boat Tours	Reception
6:00pm	Shore Leave Networking Night	Gathering Feast	
7:00pm			
8:00pm			

Agenda Details



March 22nd The Match Eatery

■ Shore Leave Networking Night - 6:00pm-8:00pm

Join us to kick off the Gathering with a night of catching up with old friends and networking with new ones at the Match Eatery! You'll enjoy a selection of appetizers and a drink on us. Cash bar and full menu available. Stick around to test your tune knowledge for Music Bingo at 7:00pm.

March 23rd Maritime History Centre - Rotary Hall

■ Kickoff Speech - 9:30am

Mark Urwin - This New Zealander turned BC prawner is a 5th generation harvester and fishmonger, and is actively involved in The BC Seafood Alliance, local harbour authority board, and contributes to several other organizations. When he's not knee deep in prawns, elbows deep in running 46 South Fish Co., throwing hands advocating for the industry, or he's sharing knowledge with the next generation to help equip them to successfully navigate both the calms and the squalls that come with a future in fisheries.

■ Fisheries Update Session - 10:15am

This session brings together harvesters and industry experts to provide info on various BC fisheries to young harvesters, people newly exploring their opportunities in the industry, and for those already involved to find out what's new in other fisheries outside of their focus. You'll hear from:

- Mike Atkins, Pacific Prawn Fishermen's Association
- Chris Sporer – Pacific Halibut Management Association
- Megan Eadie – Area A Crab
- Melissa and Joel Collier – West Coast Wild

Scallops

- Grant Dovey - Underwater Harvesters Association

■ A Buoyant Future: Collaborating to Reach Our Common Goals - 11:15am

Fisheries in BC are facing some dicey waters, but by approaching our collective challenges from a creative, solutions-oriented mindset we can bring a positive and hopeful perspective to the vision of our industry's future.

In this panel discussion we'll hear about the power of our greater network and how we can support each other to rise together; featuring Sonia Strobel of Skipper Otto, James Lawson, President of UFAWU-UNIFOR, Melissa Collier of West Coast Wild Scallops, Dawn Webb of UFAWU-UNIFOR, and Jim McIsaac from The Canadian Independent Fish Harvesters Federation.

■ Lunch – Museum and Historic Boat tours available - 12:15pm

Did you know a fishing seiner once adorned the back of the Canadian 5-dollar bill? Climb aboard the real thing on a power tour of the original B.C.P. 45. Museum guides will be offering guided walk throughs of the vessel throughout lunch.

■ BC Fisheries Management 101 with DFO - 1:00pm

Get the facts from DFO fisheries management experts Ge Li and Maureen Finn in this comprehensive session packed with need-to-know tips to make your season successful and safe.

■ Gear Up! - 1:00pm-5:00pm (Lower Workshop Hall)

Get your hands on nets, traps, and all manner of gear with tips and tricks from the seasoned pros. Presented by Tim Hobbs of Redden Net Co, Campbell River. Dive into the rope and knot niche, with splicing and rope making machine demos and a chance to try your hand at some advanced knotwork with local knotmaster Reudi Pletscher.



March 24th

Maritime History Centre - Rotary Hall

■ Fish Safe MythBusters - 2:00pm

Safety at sea is the #1 priority: True or False? Bust through myths and get the facts with Fish Safe BC experts Harolf Wulff and Ralph Roberts in this lively and engaging session.

■ Coffee & Snacks - 2:45pm

■ Out of Sight, but Not Out of Mind: Helping Fishers Reclaim Lost Gear in BC and Beyond - 3:00pm

Join Caitie Frenkel and Megan Eadie as they present their research on solutions to lost gear management. Followed by a panel discussion with Ashley Tapp and Jeremy Browne, project managers at The Ocean Legacy Foundation on current strategies and efforts to reclaim lost gear locally and globally.

■ Money Talks - Financing your Fishing Business with BMO - 4:00pm

Get down to brass tacks with Katie Carter of BMO, a fisheries financing specialist with a wealth of knowledge on how to build, grow, and sustain your fishing business.

■ Day Wrap Up - 5:00pm

■ Light Reception - 5:10pm

Contemplate the day over BC beers, wines, cider, and handcrafted mocktails made with ingredients from local Comox Valley farms by Wild Coast Cocktails. Drinks on us. Take in a quick guided tour of the historical B.C.P. 45 and network with new friends before settling in for the Gathering Feast.

■ Gathering Feast - 6:00pm-8:00pm

Brought to you by the fun loving, darkly humorous, creative style of Amber Assu, Executive Chef of The Good Wife Gourmet. Here are just a few of the locally sourced delights you can expect to partake in

- a variety of cheeses from Little Qualicum Cheeseworks in Parksville;
- wood smoked bacon from Smith & Lee Local Butcher; and
- Sockeye salmon caught in Area 13 by local Indigenous hereditary chief Brian Assu, processed into filets and lox at St. Jean's Cannery.

■ Big Breakfast - 8:00am

Refuel for the day with a sweet and savoury breakfast fit to prepare you for a day at sea!

■ Registration - 8:00am

■ Welcome Back & Housekeeping - 8:50am

■ Marine Protected Area Updates from the Marine Planning Team - 9:00am

The development of Marine Protected Areas will impact the future of how we fish. Learn more about MPAs from local Marine Planning Team members Mike Atkins, Grant Dovey, Brian Mose and Bruce Turriss.

■ Developing BC's First Coastal Marine Strategy - 9:30am

Managing the ocean is complex. Overlapping jurisdictions govern marine activities, conservation initiatives and ocean-based industries. A Coastal Marine Strategy will look at the full picture of ocean ecosystem health and community well-being. Hear about the opportunities for this strategy from Stephen Hextall, Policy Analyst with Government of BC, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.

■ Native Fishing Association: Business Growth and Opportunities - 10:00am

The Native Fishing Association fosters and supports the success of First Nation men and women in the commercial fishing industry dealing with everything from loans and grants to licenses and quota. Brilliant business experts Natasha Marshal Gallic and Chelsea Lesner from the Native Fishing Association will give us the ins and outs of navigating business opportunities.

■ Mutual Marine: Insuring your Fishing Business - 10:00am (Thulin Room)

Run by Fishermen for Fishermen, Pacific Coast Fishermen's Mutual Marine Insurance Company has provided quality, affordable marine insurance to British Columbia commercial fishermen since 1945. Keith Chauvel - Managing Surveyor and Treasurer has worked with Mutual Marine for 36 years while also fishing the Coast of BC.



■ **Coffee & Snacks - 11:00am**

■ **Grab & Go Lunch - 12:15pm**

■ **Empowering Indigenous Women in BC's Fishing Industry - 11:15am**

Time to celebrate the incredible Indigenous women of the West Coast commercial fishing industry and examine ways to create space and opportunities for Indigenous women to continue taking on powerful roles in fishing. On this panel we'll hear from Natasha Marshal Gallic of the Native Fishing Association, and harvesters Linda Thomas, Ashley John, and Mercedes Marshall.

■ **Parting Words - 12:45pm**

If we don't see you on the water or on the dock, we'll see you at BC Young Fishermen's Gathering 2024...

Remembering Helen-Anne Beans



This past year we lost an incredible member of our community. Helen started fishing when she was just three years old with her family out of Alert Bay. She participated in a variety of fisheries, from salmon to herring to prawns and halibut, and was proud to have achieved the position of Vessel Master. In 2019 we had the honor of interviewing Helen about her experience seining salmon on the West Coast, which as she said is "kinda like magic". (If you'd like to read her story [you can find it on our FishTales blog.](#)) Helen was also a powerful advocate for harvesters up and down the coast. She was the Vice President of UFAWU-Unifor, and a member of the BCYFN Steering Committee. Her enthusiasm and positivity for life and the coast was absolutely contagious. Helen made a deep impact on the communities that surrounded her, and she is lovingly remembered. Although we miss her presence with us today we hope to bring her vivacious energy to the gathering and beyond.

