

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fisheries Safety Association of Nova Scotia now in Operation

Yarmouth, NS - February 12, 2010 -

In an effort to address rising Workers' Compensation rates in the fishing industry in Nova Scotia, a Fisheries Safety Association has been established and has begun full operations.

The Fisheries Safety Association of Nova Scotia is pleased to announce that it has secured Mr. Tommy Harper as its Executive Director. Tommy comes to the Association with a wealth of knowledge from past positions with the Forestry Safety Association and most recently with the Workers Compensation Board of NS (WCBNS).

While employed in the forestry sector, Tommy was the driving force behind a huge reduction in accidents and injuries in the industry and the subsequent reduction in WCB rates in that sector. Under Tommy's direction the forestry sector saw their WCB assessment rates **drop by 40 percent** resulting in **\$4,000,000 savings** for forestry employers and many fewer accidents.

The Association head office is located in Yarmouth, NS with the Executive Director centrally based in the Halifax area.

"I am very excited to take on this new challenge. I have seen proof in my past roles that safety associations do work and the fishing industry has the opportunity to receive the benefits from working collectively on this issue" Tommy Harper, Executive Director, Fisheries Safety Association of NS.

The goal of the Fisheries Safety Association of Nova Scotia is to reduce accidents and injuries and ultimately reduce WCB rates in the fishing sectors. The association's membership is made up of companies/firms in the harvesting, seafood processing and aquaculture sectors currently paying into the WCBNS system.

For more information on the Safety Association visit the Fisheries Safety Association of Nova Scotia website at www.fisheriessafety.ca, phone the office at 902-742-6167.