



# Fisheries Safety Association

## OF NOVA SCOTIA

### **Fisheries Safety Association of NS Set to begin Operations**

The Fisheries Safety Association of Nova Scotia is getting geared up to start offering services to you, their clients as early as January 2010. The Association is governed by a volunteer board of directors (see page 2). This board will oversee the activities and staff of the safety association. There is also an open membership to those firms/individuals in the harvesting, processing and aquaculture sectors registered with the WCBNS. To reduce overhead costs, the Association will be housed within the Nova Scotia Fisheries Sector Council. The full membership will come together once a year for an annual general meeting. The first AGM will take place in March, 2010.

The Board held its first meeting on September 17 and worked on developing an operational plan for the Association. They also focused efforts on developing a job description for the new Safety Association employee and discussed timelines for hiring and commencement. This full time safety employee will focus efforts on Prevention, Increasing Safety Awareness, Developing a Safety Culture and Education & Training. Emphasis will be on helping the fishing industry to reduce accidents and injuries thus making it more attractive to new entrants and will help to keep existing employees safe and healthy.



**Other services that could be offered by the Association include:**

- Communication and Awareness functions
- Offer programming for employers around accident prevention
- Develop industry specific training
- Safety Advocate for Industry
- Offer training at a reduced rate



Generally it takes 3-5 years to influence change in WCB rates. Three years for an individual company's experience rating and five years for the industry rate. A safety association formed today may take a few years to effect rate change. The safety association would however, have the ability to analyze accident costs and trends which would help to predict if the rates will fall within 3-5 years. The goal is to reduce accidents and injuries and ultimately reduce WCB rates.

Membership to the Association is mandatory for those companies paying into the WCB system.

Membership fees vary from \$50-\$200 per year are based on the following:

0-\$1000 of WCB premium	\$50/year
\$1001-\$2000 of WCB premium	\$100/year
\$2001 and above of WCB premium	\$200/year

For more information on the Safety Association visit the Fisheries Safety Association of Nova Scotia website at <http://www.nsfsc.ca/safetyassociation/> or contact the Nova Scotia Fisheries Sector Council office at 902-742-6167.

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## Shouldn't the WCB Pay for this Association?

No one wants to have another bill to pay. We all understand that only too well. One question that has been asked is why doesn't the WCB pay for this new

Association instead of making industry pay? What many people don't understand is that the WCB is funded 100% by employers. It is not a government funded program.

Employers across the province are billed according to their industry sector and are required by law to submit payment to the WCB. If the WCB was to pay for the safety association, employers would essentially still be paying for it. That is one reason why it is so important to create a Safety Association and attempt to reduce WCB premiums.

The Workers Compensation Board of Nova Scotia recently announced the rates for the 2010 year.

Congratulations to the Processing Sector on reducing their rate for 2010. The processing rate as gone down by a margin of 12%.

NEW RATES	2009	2010	Change
SIC 311	\$7.48	\$7.55	↑ 1%
SIC 312/321	\$4.18	\$5.01	↑20%
SIC 1021	\$5.19	\$4.55	↓12%

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### Inaugural Fisheries Safety Association of NS Board of Directors 2009-2010

The following persons represent the inaugural Board of Directors of the Fisheries Safety Association of Nova Scotia.

**Chair- Nathan Blades**- Sable Fish Packers (1988) Ltd.

**Vice-Chair-Lionel Enslow**- Pierce Fisheries

**Treasurer-Doug Bertram**- Innovative Fishery Products

**Secretary-Leonard LeBlanc**- Gulf NS Fishermen's Coalition

**Mike MacLean** - Clearwater Seafoods Limited Partnership

**Gina Symonds** - Make n Break Fisheries

**Douglas McLeod** - Mime'j Seafoods Ltd.

**Kay Wallace** - Gulf of N.S. Bonafide Fishermen's Assoc.

**Janet Trider**-Seafood Producers Association of N.S

**Noel Despres** - Comeau Seafoods Ltd.

**Bernard Kennedy** - JK Marine

**Dick Stewart** - Atlantic Herring Cooperative Ltd.

**Sherri Deveau** - Cooke Aquaculture Ltd.

**Marilyn Crook** - CAW Local 1944

**Brian Muise** - Aquaculture Association of N.S

#### Ex-Officio's:

**Tommy Harper**- Workers Compensation Board of Nova Scotia

**Geordie MacLachlan**- Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture

**Charles Pothier**- Nova Scotia Department of Labour & Workforce Development

## Contact Us

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