

The latest news, views, and announcements

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HARBOUR AUTHORITY ASSOCIATION

OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

HAABC Update

Fall Zone Meeting Dates

At this point we are planning on hybrid live with a virtual zoom option. Location, zoom links and agenda's will be sent 2 weeks prior and again 2 days prior as a reminder and to accommodate any agenda changes. We will be keeping a close eye on Public Health Orders in various regions and changing as needed. Despite being groups under 50, we will still do our due diligence and host at 50% room capacity or less and have a Safety Plan and supplies in place. We will ask you to RSVP if you are attending live to ensure we have the capacity needed and know how many we will be providing lunch for.

Thank you!

September 28th – North Coast Zone

October 5th – North Island Zone

October 7th – Mid Island Zone

October 13th – Sunshine Coast Zone

October 18th – Lower Mainland Zone

October 19th – South Island Zone

Tidal Currents

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello members and friends of the HAABC,

What interesting times, to say the least. I'm sure most of us feel like managing our HA's during the pandemic has been a constant battle against the ever-changing rules and regulations while adapting to the "new" way of conducting business. I commend all of you for taking this challenge on, as it's been such a delicate balance of pushing through, continuing to move our facilities forward while keeping everyone safe at the same time. I know we have all had our obstacles to overcome, and with perseverance, we have been able to tackle these challenges and be a support system for our members, users, and our communities.

Although these times are a bit unusual, I hope everyone was able to take advantage and enjoy the beautiful stretch of weather we've had. The summer is always a juggling act for us between the increased boating traffic, large capital projects that are underway, and continuing with a regular preventative maintenance schedule to keep our Harbour in the best position possible to be successful. A skill which I've been able to hone during my time with the HAABC!

Thanks to the efforts of Darlene, our website has received a much-needed refresh and update, including a new logo. There is a wealth of resources and information throughout the website designed to assist in managing our facilities, so I suggest spending a few minutes on a rainy day clicking through as I'm sure you will find something useful. To access the members only section of the website, please contact Darlene or your Zone Director to obtain the password.

With the constant change surrounding Provincial Health Orders, our mentoring opportunities have been few and far between and we've unfortunately had to postpone a few sessions. However, we were able to conduct a few in between all the restrictions. If you would like to receive mentoring or feel that you could be a mentor offering a particular skillset that others could take advantage of, then I encourage you to reach out to your Zone Director. We want to hear from you!

The dates for the Zone Meetings have now been set and your participation is greatly appreciated. Zone meetings provide an excellent opportunity to not only talk about what's happening at your HA, but to also receive important HAABC & SCH updates while networking with the fellow Harbour Managers in your local area.

I'm sure most of you have heard about the Salmon closures earlier this summer, affecting over 60% of the salmon fisheries. There is no question this will impact our fishers and facilities. We have already had some preliminary discussions with SCH about what this could mean for our HA's from an operational standpoint. We will be having more meetings as decisions are still yet to be determined about the buy-back program and will keep the membership informed the best we can.

It truly is a rewarding experience for me to serve as your President, and to be able to give back to this organization that has provided me with so much over the years. To that, if I can be of any assistance to any of you, at any time, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Mike Loy

HAABC President



Mike Loy – HAABC President



**HARBOUR
AUTHORITIES**
*our harbour,
our community*



Tidal Currents



Gear and Net Recycling in BC

We are STILL in need of your assistance!

As many of you know, the HAABC has been working with various individuals and organizations over the past number of years, in particular, former HAABC President Joel Baziuk, about the recycling of old fishing gear. The program is at a very important stage and in order to ensure its viability for the future, we need some valuable information from both Harbour Authorities as well as Commercial Fishers.

Steveston Harbour Authority and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans are currently conducting a feasibility study to expand the current fishing gear recycling program based in Steveston Harbour to other areas in British Columbia. The purpose of this study is to determine the need for a gear recycling program at Harbour Authorities along the coast of BC with the intention to provide a cost-free option for Fishers to responsibly dispose of their gear at the end of its life, with a focus on re-use and recycling options. To the extent possible, the study will include the entire coast of British Columbia and allow for future scalability and collaboration with similar environmental initiatives.

As part of this study, a pair of surveys will be conducted this spring, summer and fall to collect data from Fishers and from Harbour Authorities on the current methods for end-of-life gear disposal; approximate quantities of gear in storage around the Province; and to gather feedback from Fishers and Harbour Authorities on specific requirements for such a program to be successful in large and small communities alike across the coast. Feedback will be sought from Fishers, Harbour Managers, First Nations communities, NGOs and other stakeholders to ensure an inclusive and effective program with solid industry buy-in. The primary focus will be on providing options for Fishers to dispose of end-of-life fishing gear, including recycling where possible/feasible depending on local conditions. The Fisher survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete, and the Harbour Authority survey should take approximately 5 minutes. If you would like a printed version of the survey for your fishers, please call or email the HAABC office and we will send.

[Fisher Survey Link](#)

[Harbour Authority Survey Link](#)

As an additional incentive, please find following the comment from Michelle Young at Clean Marine BC.

This is such an important initiative, given the negative impacts on marine life from gear that ends up in the ocean. Thanks to everyone for your hard work on this project.

In recognition of the environmental importance of this project, Georgia Strait Alliance's Clean Marine BC program would like to add an incentive for any Harbour Authorities that are wanting to become Clean Marine BC certified, or for recertifications. HAs participating in the survey will be awarded points towards your CMBC anchor rating for your participation. The level of your participation will determine how many points will be awarded (eg HA survey vs collecting surveys from fishers, or both), so be sure to note your participation in the surveys on your CMBC self assessment form when the time comes for you to fill it out.

Thank you in advance for gathering those surveys!
Michelle

Tidal Currents

Dick Maughan Scholarships

The HAABC is proud to announce two scholarships awarded this year.

Emily Armstrong – Originally from Lloydminster, AB, and having grown up with many visits to Vancouver Island, Emily fell completely in love with the ocean and all the organisms within it. She was a summer student at Comox Valley HA and is attending UVic studying Marine Biology, pursuing a career in marine animal rehabilitation.

Amelia Gray – Amelia grew up in Egmont on BC's Sunshine Coast. This has led to a deep connection to our oceans and a passion for marine environment. She is also attending UVic, focusing on Marine Biology and Environmental Studies for the sole purpose of saving our oceans. This past summer she worked at Sonntag Marine Education Centre as a Marine Education Ambassador.

It was so very refreshing learning about these two remarkable young women, in an otherwise trying time. We wish them the very best in their future endeavours!



University
of Victoria



SCH Update – Budget 2021

As part of Budget 2021, the Government of Canada will invest \$300 million over the next two years in the national Small Craft Harbours Program. This funding is in addition to the \$70 million regular program funding that small craft harbours received annually to keep our national network of harbours safe, accessible and in good operating condition to support the commercial fishing industry and local communities.

Of the \$300 million from Budget 2021, the Government is directing a total of \$50 million to our small craft harbours here in British Columbia. This funding will support important improvements at some sites in Pacific Region through dedicated projects, which will complement regular and ongoing repair, maintenance and construction initiatives for various other small craft harbours along our Pacific coast.

