



**Fisheries Safety  
Association**  
OF NOVA SCOTIA

## 2011 Year-End Report

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***[www.fisheriessafety.ca](http://www.fisheriessafety.ca)***



The Fisheries Safety Association of Nova Scotia (FSANS) is a not-for-profit association funded solely by employers in their respective sectors. FSANS is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors who are responsible to all stakeholders in SICs 311, 312, 321, 1021. The Board is the safety champion for the fishing industry, who promote communications within the industry by utilizing the FSANS website and newsletters on activities of the association and distribution of best practices.

The Association's mandate is to:

- Enhance safety in the workplace, making the industry more attractive for new employees and keeping the existing employees safe and healthy
- Focus on reducing workplace illness/injury and associated cost

Specifically, the FSANS has focused efforts on facilitating a culture change in OHS within the represented sectors of the industry by enhancing awareness, promoting education, and developing prevention and return to work systems utilizing industry best practices.

The FSANS service delivery is directly aligned with the goals of its partners in the Workplace Safety & Insurance System through:

- Working with others through collaboration and consultation, including stakeholders and System agencies, government departments and educational institutions
- Utilizing existing tools developed by WCB/Dept of Labour, supplemented by industry Best Practices
- Making use of existing resources, networks and channels to deliver programs, and, if not currently in place, working to develop Standards for delivery by competent professionals (community college, training service providers, etc.)
- The use of technology for stakeholder outreach (web site, social media, training)

From its inception and carrying forward to 2012, the FSANS is working with stakeholders to identifying opportunities to improve safety in the workplace. Included in this activity has been the development of a five-year strategic plan for the Association, newsletters and communication to the industry, and negotiated discounted equipment, services and training opportunities through reputable delivery organizations.

The FSANS also communicated with its members throughout the province on the status of the fishing industry safety performance; worked closely with the WCB to provide current relevant information to industry on trends regarding injury incident frequency and severity, costs and assessment rates.

Several of the key activities for 2011 – many of which will continue to evolve over the coming years – include;

- Communications
  - Continued development of the website [www.fisherinessafety.ca](http://www.fisherinessafety.ca)
  - Assorted ads in various periodicals
  - Newsletters distributed by direct mail
  - Radio interviews; CKBW, CJLS
  - Social Marketing
    - facebook page
    - YouTube channel
  - Dealing with challenges and resistance to the Association
- Member benefits
  - Negotiated discounts on training
  - Reduced prices on products and services
  - Issuance of membership cards
- Programming, generic and specific
  - Template OH&S Program for industry
    - OH&S Policy
    - JOHSC terms of reference
    - Duties, rights, responsibilities
  - Written safe work practices
    - Familiarization checklist for fishing vessels
    - Use of personal protective equipment/flotation devices, condition of employment
  - Workplace violence, workplace harassment
  - Ergonomics assessment/study aboard a lobster fishing vessel, with WCB
- Outreach to members and to the industry
  - Our first Annual General Meeting was held March 2011
  - Established manageable membership database and mailing list
  - Visited workplaces including fishing vessels, processing plants
    - Targeted firms with DOL orders/warnings or in a WCB surcharge position
  - Eastern Canada Fisheries Exposition display



- Attended and presented at sector association meetings
  - Lobster Fishing Areas
  - Scotia Fundy Professional Fishermen's Registration & Training Association
  - Gulf NS Fishermen's Coalition
  - NS Fish Packers Association
- Working with our partners
  - Participations in the safety association/WCB group meetings
  - Held information meeting with WCB front line staff on the benefits of the FSANS
  - Participation in DOL/WCB/Transport Canada task force
  - Meeting with government partners, e.g. Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture
  - NS Trucking Safety Association to identify and service mutual members/clients
  - Related association involvement: Safety Services NS, CSSE, BCRSP, Transportation Safety Board, etc.

The years ahead will continue to bring about positive results as the FSANS enacts its Operational Plan and 5-Year Strategy and to work in collaboration with stakeholders to create a safety culture to promote safety and to protect workers in the industry.

The ongoing dedicated support and assistance of the Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia – at all levels of the organization – is greatly appreciated as the FSANS continues to fulfill its mandate.