



Spring 2026

FALSE CREEK TIDINGS



FCHA Board of Directors 2026

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Vice-President – Tim Hagberg – Leena V

Secretary /Treasurer – Samuel Gartside - Royal Crown

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Message from the President

Happy Spring to all Members and users of the False Creek Fishermen's Wharf,

Spring has officially arrived, and it's great to see the harbour coming back to life. With longer days and some welcome sunshine over the past few weeks, there's been a noticeable return of activity on the docks as people are working away getting their boats and gear ready for another busy summer on the water.

As you all will have noticed, we have had some major work being done on the South end of our seawall, this first phase is a huge upgrade to our waterfront and I'm sure we are all excited to see the finished product. Major construction is looking to be wrapped up around mid-May, importantly our Wharfhead and sales float areas will be completed sooner to ensure safe access for spot prawn season. A big thank you to all harbour members who have been inconvenienced by the construction, soon it will be behind us and we can enjoy the new upgrades.

The spring fishing season got underway in March with halibut and herring boats out on the grounds and back again. Spot prawn season is coming up quick with an opening day of May 13th and crab season will follow in mid-June. As always, this is an exciting time of year for the Wharf, and things will quickly pick up around the sales float in mid-May. With any luck we might even have some Fraser River sockeye coming to the sales dock in August. I encourage everyone to come down, support our fleet, and enjoy the incredible local seafood our homeport boats bring in each day.

I'd like to extend my thanks to our harbour staff and management for their continued hard work over the Winter months. Their efforts behind the scenes ensure that the harbour is well-maintained, safe, and ready for the busy season ahead. The Board looks forward to another productive year working together in support of the Wharf and everyone who depends on it.

Be sure to mark your calendars for some of our upcoming events:

Spot Prawn Festival – May 31st, 2026

Blessing of the Fleet – June 6th, 2026

False Creek Crab Festival – July 26th, 2026

These events are always highlights of the season and a great opportunity to celebrate our working harbour with the community.

Enjoy the Spring weather, stay safe on the water, and I wish you all a prosperous and enjoyable Summer.

See you on the dock,

Fraser MacDonald

President

False Creek Harbour Authority – Fishermen's Wharf

Harbour Manager's Report

Hello Members, Users, and friends of the False Creek Harbour authority - Fishermen's Wharf.

I want to start by thanking everyone for their understanding and support of the invasive bulkhead replacement project. It has been one of the most challenging projects we have had to date but our resilience will carry us into and through our busy transient and event season. We can't wait to showcase the positive changes that have occurred. This project has enabled the Harbour to be structurally sound while creating a safe walking path for pedestrians as we strive to be more user friendly and welcoming to the local community and visitors alike. This is another step towards making the False Creek Fishermen's Wharf a must visit Vancouver destination, and a go to place to purchase Wild Seafood.

Regarding the National small Craft Harbours 2024 Budget announcement, we are in the final year of the 3 year commitment where \$463m was allocated nationally, of which the Pacific Region received \$32m. this is where the funding came to support our current bulkhead project and we're hoping to obtain further funding to replace our dryline fire suppression system on the docks. If we can't secure project funding from this announcement, we should be at the top of the list for next year's fiscal budget.

A quick update regarding the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI). 2026 marked the end of the 5 year program which saw 31 boats surrender for demolition, over 670kg of gear disposed of, and dozens of licenses being retired. I can only imagine the tough choices decided on by our fishers and want to thank them for informing the Harbour that they have taken part in the license retirement program. If you have sold your license through PSSI and have not yet spoken to the harbour Office, please do so at your earliest convenience to ensure you are aware of the Harbour's rules and eligibility moving forward.

The Abandoned and Wrecked Vessel Removal Program (AWVRP) is a government led program to assist vessel owners and Harbour authorities in addressing Vessels of Concern in our Harbours. This is a national program which has an operating budget of 250K annually. If you have a vessel of concern (currently located within our waterlot) and are interested in taking part in this opportunity, please reach out to harbour Management for assistance. More information can be found here: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sch-ppb/vessels-bateaux/index-eng.html> We are not Sure how long this opportunity will be available for, so it is best to utilize it while it is still available to us.

You may have noticed a new logo on the front of the newsletter, or in a recent email we've sent out. We have updated our logo and have started to incorporate it into our daily usage. We wanted to officially announce it here. The old logo was iconic for us, so you will note many similarities between the old and new logo. With this update, it enables us to both embroider and direct film transfer giving us more branded apparel options and a cleaner, more modern look. Keep an eye out for new merchandise in the coming months and grab your newly branded False Creek Fishermen's Wharf gear!

In closing, I wish our fishers a safe and prosperous commercial fishing season, and that our recreational fleet enjoys calm seas and fair winds this boating season. Staff and I take a great deal of pride working for our Harbour Community and look forward to continuing to serve the False Creek Fishermen's Wharf. If you require and assistance for anything, just ask, we are here to help!

Mike Loy
Harbour Manager

Oil Recycling Program & the Bilge Tank

FCHA Fishermen's Wharf has always striven to provide a wealth of recycling services to our Users. We have many ways to ensure products find the proper waste streams. Due to a lack of available resources for the greater community around us, we agreed to sign up for the Interchange Oil Recycling program. We accept waste oils and related products from the community at large and the harbour receives a small reimbursement through the program for our trouble. We have the facilities, so it made sense to open the door and allow the community to access these facilities rather than see them dispose of oil products irresponsibly and damage the environment around us.

We are happy and open to supporting our fellow mariners from other docks, allowing them to come and access our services free of charge, so long as they use the facilities respectfully. However, this program does **NOT** include Oily Bilge Water. There is unfortunately a significant cost for us to dispose of oily bilge water, which we are happy to pay for our users to ensure they have a means of dealing with their maintenance issues here on site without having to worry about disposal. Use of the Bilge Tank does not extend to our fellow mariners from other facilities in the creek due to the high cost of disposal. Please do not invite them to do so. Other oil related products are still welcome.

Upgrades to Site Facilities

The Harbour has been working on a major facelift along the waterfront, and we have been slowly modernizing the office with some new displays, new windows and front entryway, new address decals, as well as replaced some older office furniture and more. That said, it's been over 10 years since we had the office and washrooms painted and we felt it was time for a new look and a fresh start.

We feel now is the time to repaint the office to go with our new logo and to revisit the public washrooms and give them a facelift as well. We receive many glowing compliments throughout the year on the condition of our washrooms, and we want to ensure that continues to be the case. False Creek Staff take pride in keeping our facilities in great condition for our boaters, restaurant patrons and the general public.

Bear with us this spring as we look to see to these improvements get underway. We'll be hiring a contractor to take care of the work to a professional standard. The colour schemes are going to change as well, it's time for something different. We will try to keep the impact to a minimum as the work is underway.

False Creek Walking Game

A friend of the Harbour has partnered with a few businesses along the False Creek south seawall to have an active and interactive game to help build local awareness about the area and its importance to Indigenous Peoples and is also intended to start future conversations about sustainability. If you're interested in going for a leisurely stroll to learn more about False Creek, then click the link for more info. FYI, our station is located down on the fish sales dock.

<https://falsecreekcc.ca/the-true-or-false-creek-walking-game-has-new-questions-true-or-false/>



False Creek Tidings



18th Annual Spot Prawn Festival @ Fishermen's Wharf

Spot Prawn Season is almost here! We invite you to come and join us for this year's return of our celebrated festival. This year's Prawn Fest will be taking place on **Sunday, May 31st, 2026**. The event is free to attend, however there is a Prawn Bisque, and a Brunch option available for purchase, hosted by local chefs to add a little flavour to the event. If you are interested in either of these for the event, get your tickets before they sell out! Chowder is \$12 +tax a ticket in advance or \$15 at the wharf and the Brunch will be \$85+ tax per ticket, available through the Chef's Table Society at: <https://spotprawnfestival.com/> The event is family friendly, but pets are not permitted at the Brunch section, so make sure you select the appropriate option for your situation. Don't forget to dress for the weather!

The boats will be heading out early in the morning and returning around 1pm to offer live prawns for sale to the public. ***Price will be Market Rate***

Spot Prawn Season opens May 13th.

12th Annual Blessing of the Fleet & Harbour Appreciation Day

Come and join us for another round of our Blessing of the Fleet & Harbour Appreciation Day. This event helps to grow our community and celebrate all that this Harbour offers, and to give back to the people that make this place great, you!

We will have seafood fresh off the BBQ and live music along with a few guest speakers to touch on what commercial fishing means to this coast. A local Deacon will visit the Harbour to bless the fleet before they leave for the season, which is a long-standing nautical tradition meant to bring a safe and bountiful season to the hard-working people who ply their trade on the unpredictable seas.

Salmon and Tuna burgers will be served up by Staff to **all harbour members and users free of charge**, with a \$20/per person option to purchase additional plates for any guests you'd like to bring down to join the fun. This year, the event & blessing will be taking place on **Saturday, June 6th** and will run from **11am until 3:30pm**. We encourage everyone to come down for a salmon and tuna burger and to see the Harbour gearing up for the upcoming fishing season. Join in the fun and enjoy a tasty treat on us!

4th Annual False Creek Crab Fest

Crab Fest returns once again! The Harbour is proud to see this event get off the ground and we hope the success of this festival will see it continue to grow. We believe this will be another avenue for our commercial fishers to connect the community with product direct from the fishermen, just as Prawn Fest has done for our Prawners. Details are still being finalized but the event will be taking place on Sunday, **July 26th, 2026, from 12pm-4:30pm**.

This will be a ticketed event, so keep your eyes peeled for notice once sales go live. Pricing and options are still being determined and will likely end up similar to last year's event. You can expect a Crab Boil, with a healthy dose of fresh crab meat and some wonderful sides crafted by local top chefs, supported by the Chef's Table Society, who have stepped in to help us grow this festival into something truly wonderful.

We hope to see you there!

Harbour Governance

If you've ever asked yourself how we are governed here at Fishermen's Wharf, we wanted to take a moment to share that with you all. We are first and foremost a Commercial Fishing Harbour, set as a Schedule I Harbour under the Fishing and Recreational Harbours Act. This is the document that we build all our rules and regulations from as it forms the foundation of how we are regulated Federally and sets our mandate to service the Commercial Fishing Fleet.

This Act, and the ensuing regulations, gives us the power to govern the harbour in a fashion as described within and sets boundaries on what can and should not take place. The Act empowers the Harbour Manager to regulate and enforce the Harbour's Policies and procedures via direction from the Board of Directors and has the full backing of the Federal Government. It also sets duties and responsibilities for Harbour Staff and boaters to adhere to and creates provisions for things like rafting vessels and the semantics that goes with it.

If you are interested in learning in more detail, follow the link: <https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/f-24/>

DFO and the Tidal Grids

Every 5 years on a rolling schedule, DFO-SCH does an in depth in-water survey of our infrastructure to build a health map of our site. As our "Landlord" they are responsible for our property and infrastructure. This means major works and repairs are where they focus their attention, whereas minor repairs and maintenance are the responsibility of the FCHA Staff and we try to budget accordingly.

During our last inspection, it was determined that one of our tidal grids had decayed beyond its safe useful life and the other grid was right on the border. Some further testing is required to see if both Grids will be condemned for all future use, or if we can sustain one of the grids for a while longer. In the interest of public safety, we have closed both grids to wait for a determination to see if there is anything we can do to save the second grid.

The problem lies in the condition of the existing timbers, not the ancillary equipment like the grating or ladders. The timbers in the mud are at the end of their life and the pilings are not far behind. This makes the grids potentially unstable and therefore unsuitable for use. Remember, these grids are well over 50 years old in the unfriendly environment of the salty ocean shore. If the grids are both determined to be unsafe, they will both be permanently closed.

These grids have been grandfathered into service, but they no longer meet the environmental standards required by the federal government. We cannot replace them as is, only maintain them until they are no longer serviceable. In the future we may look at other options for replacement, but with Granville Island Boat Yard next door, we are not sure.



Boating Safety

When heading out to enjoy some time on the water, please remember these important items to ensure everyone makes it home safe and sound.

- **Marine First Aid Kit** – Better to be safe than sorry in the event of an unforeseen emergency.
- **Flares and Emergency Beacon** – Don't forget to check the expiry dates and ensure your emergency equipment will work if needed.
- **Float Plan** – Make sure someone knows where you are going and when you should be home.
- **Emergency Supplies/Rations** – A necessity for any boater to have on board. Check supplies at least once per season for condition. Replace back-up batteries regularly and ensure the pack stays free from moisture.
- **PFDs/Life Jackets** – The best way to prevent accidental drowning. Stay safe on the water!

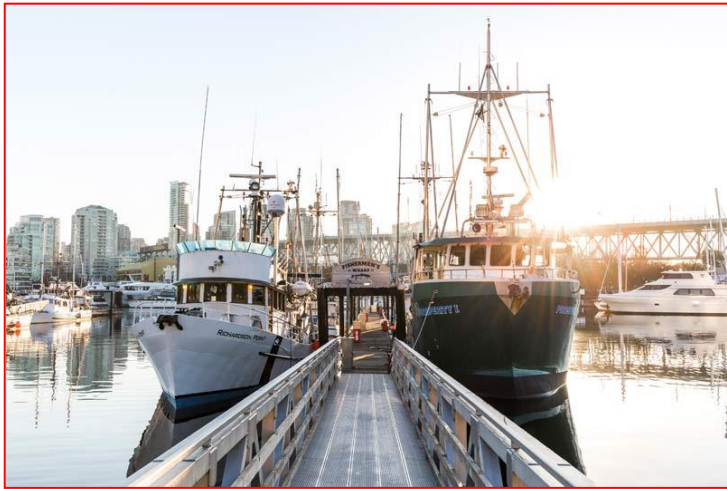
Please remember to wear your PFDs!

False Creek Tidings

Payments and Charges

The office is open and ready to receive you with your questions and payments towards moorage and power. The easiest ways to contact us for payment are in person at the office, over the phone via credit card, or through email with an e-transfer to maintain your account in good standing. We always want to remind our Users that there are many ways to catch a fish!

For questions or concerns regarding your moorage, reach out to turk@falscreek.com. For any account inquiries please contact Nicole at: office@falsecreek.com



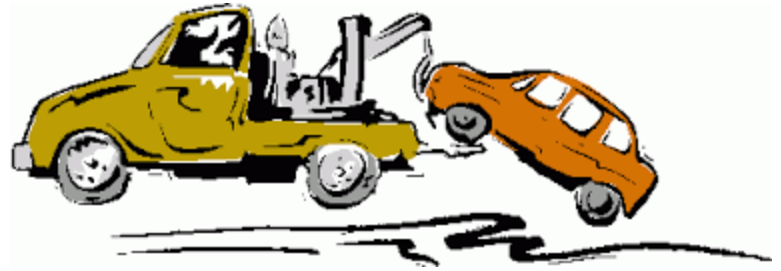
Pump-Out (re-opening soon!)

The sewage pump-out system is located at the end of the Fish Sales Float, it is staff operated and is **FREE to ALL Annual Harbour Users**. The charge for non-annual harbour users is \$10 per cycle of the pump-out. Each cycle runs approx. 4 minutes and pumps around 35 gallons. We currently have several boats using the pump out on a regular basis but we want to encourage more vessels to use this service and assist us in keeping the waters of False Creek clean and healthy.

FCHA is committed to the following:

Not to allow vessels to pump out sewage or waste water in the harbour.

The free mobile pump-out operated by Skookum and the CoV will be active this Spring, usually around the May long weekend, through late Fall. Please call 778-683-7868 or email them pumpout@skookumyachtservices.com and more info is available at <https://vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/sewage-pump-outs.aspx>



Parking

All vehicles on-site should hold a valid parking pass or risk being towed. Traffic in the lot is picking up and space is a valuable commodity with only 100 parking spaces to accommodate our 250+ vessel slips. Multi-vehicle boaters are asked to keep their second vehicles off-site unless absolutely necessary. We can offer some flexibility, but only for short durations to ensure everyone has access to the site. Come see us in the office for a parking pass or if you have any questions or concerns.

Please keep in mind our Commissionaires are not authorized to issue passes for extended stays. Please see office staff for any requests beyond a day or two.

All vehicles parked on FCHA property must carry an up-to-date parking pass and valid Road Insurance, we do not authorize uninsured vehicles or those with storage insurance to be left on site at any time.



Go Fish - Seafood Shack

Go Fish Seafood Emporium continues to draw visitors while



Public Fish Sales Float & Courtesy Customs Dock

The Fishermen's Wharf - Fish Sales Float is provided for the benefit of the community and the fishers who sell their catch. Today, the Sales Float is carefully regulated to ensure that the general public receive top quality product.

Commercial Fishing Vessels using the facility may only sell species which they are licensed to catch. In addition, they must hold a Provincial Fish Vendor License obtained through the Ministry of Agriculture. We would like to encourage any and all Commercial Fishing boats who are thinking about selling at the Fish Sales dock to do so. The Harbour also provides a pamphlet covering regulations, guidelines, and standards for freshness.

Members of the public are encouraged to visit the Public Fish Sales Float. Nowhere else in the city can you obtain truly "fresh" seafood, meet the Fishermen, see the boat that caught the product, find out where the product was caught and handle the gear responsible for harvesting such a fine assortment of seafood products.



For any information about Canada Customs please call them directly at
1-888-226-7277
or visit the website @ www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca

Seafood Sellers at Fishermen's Wharf

We are here to support our commercial fishers in a myriad of fashions. One of the ways we help is by connecting people looking to buy fish direct from the source to people looking to sell their catch, whether that is via their boat during live sales on the dock, or through their lockers via a commercial business. There are a variety of ways you can connect directly with their products, and here is a list of the various companies you can access directly here at Fishermen's Wharf.

Whether through a direct sale here at the locker, an on-line order, or a meet up at a local farmers market, check out our fish for sale page to learn how to connect with our local producers and get your hands on some delicious fish, ready for your table.

We also have a hand-out sheet in the office with more info to help you connect with them directly.



False Creek Tidings



FIFA world Cup 2026 is just around the corner. Are you going to a game? The first match is set to be played at BC Place on June 13th and the last match locally will be held on July 7th. We welcome you to use your vessel as a place to stay while taking in the games but want to remind our Users that we do not permit rental activity to take place here on site. Renting your vessel as an AirBnB @ Fishermen's Wharf is strictly against harbour policy and this will be enforced if necessary.



Address:
1505 West 1st Ave.
Vancouver, BC V6J 1E8

Phone:
604-733-3625

E-mail
Manager@falsecreek.com

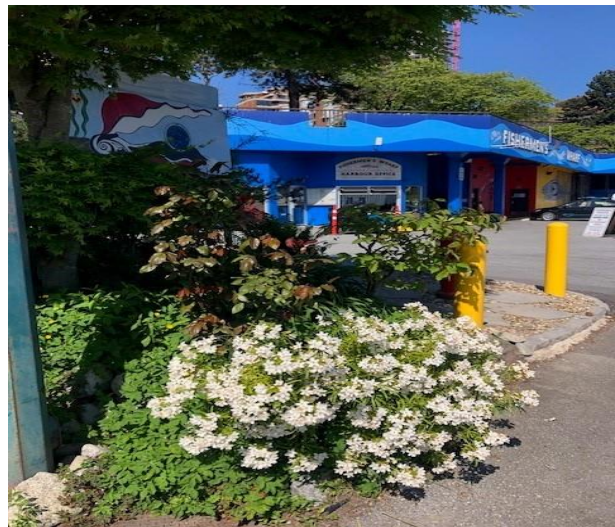
Account Inquires:
Office@falsecreek.com

Moorage Information:
Info@falsecreek.com

How Do Our Gardens Grow?

Please remember to take a moment and thank Karyn for the hard work she puts in to keep our green spaces healthy and beautiful.

We are always excited to see what comes up next.



DNA Fire Extinguisher Inspections: Sat, May 23rd from 10am - 1pm

DNA Fire Doctors will once again be coming down to the site to offer Mandatory Fire Extinguisher servicing right at the Harbour. They will be visiting us on a Saturday again, so hopefully people will be able to access this service without too much hassle. Keep in mind with it being the weekend, we will only have 2 staff members on hand so it will be a bit overwhelming for them to keep the harbour running while dealing with a bunch of drop offs, but we will do our best to help our customers with their needs.

Pricing is as follows: ***CASH ONLY***

- Annual Inspection - \$5.00 per FX**
- 2.5lb 6 year service - \$20.00**
- *2.5lb 12 year hydrostatic test - \$40.00 (new \$65.00)**
- 2.5lb recycle - \$5.00**
- 5lb 6 year service - \$25.00**
- *5lb 12 year hydrostatic test - \$55.00 (new \$85.00)**
- 5lb recycle - \$5.00**
- 10lb 6 year service - \$35.00**
- *10lb 12 year hydrostatic test - \$85.00 (new \$126.00)**
- 10lb recycle - \$10.00**

6 year services and 12 year hydrostatic tests cannot be done onsite, they will get taken back to the shop in North Vancouver for service and the customer will get a call to pick up once complete.

New 2.5lb and 5lb FX's will be available to purchase.

Recycling Program – Recycling is the environmentally recommended practice, and the charge is for the time it takes to remove all powder and separate the parts. (Recycle fees are waived if a new FX is purchased)