



## **WHAT IS A YOUNG FISHERMAN?**

The average age of a BC fisherman continues to climb, and 'young' may not mean what it used to. We define a young fisherman as anyone new to the fisheries or under the age of 55.

## **WHAT IS THE BC YOUNG FISHERMEN'S NETWORK?**

The BC Young Fishermen's Network (BCYFN) is a network for emerging commercial fishermen. The network provides a supportive environment to foster learning, networking and growth in the next generation of BC's fishing fleet. We create connections- linking young fishermen to the people and resources they need to plan successful business and engage in their communities.

## **WHAT DO WE DO?**

### **EDUCATION & SUPPORT**

We provide skill building opportunities and access to industry experts, and support resources, events and opportunities across the coast. These include: the BC Young Fishermen's Gathering, workshops, growing a resource directory, and updates of meetings, events, relevant opportunities.

### **COMMUNITY BUILDING**

The network provides a space for young fishermen to network and connect with each other, and with folks across the industry.

### **REPRESENTATION**

We highlight the rich history and culture of BC's fishing industry, by profiling young fishermen and connecting with seafood consumers online and at community events.

## **WHY DO WE NEED YOUNG FISHERMEN?**

Fisheries have historically provided a consistent economic base and strong community cohesion across coastal BC. Yet shifts in management, resource availability and distribution of access has led participation in the fishing industry to decline over the past thirty years.

In 2015, the average age of a commercial fish harvester was 62 years old. The fleet is "greying," meaning that the average age of a fisher is increasing – fishermen are growing older without being replaced by young folks beginning their careers. In 2016, only 14% of BC's fish harvesters were under the age of 30. As BC continues to lose our intergenerational connection to fishing, we erode the cultural and economic integrity of our coastal communities.

Fisheries have the potential to provide meaningful livelihoods, contribute to sustainable food systems & local food security, and to support vibrant and resilient coastal economies. We believe educating and empowering emerging fishermen will help keep BC's coastal communities thriving, and maintain our centuries-old connection to the ocean.



# BC YOUNG FISHERMEN'S NETWORK

## **NETWORK SUPPORT**

TBuck Suzuki Environmental Foundation provides backbone support for the BCYFN. The BCYFN is a fisher to fisher network, and we recognize the importance of placing fishermen at the center of the decisions that affect them. The network's direction comes from a steering committee of young and experienced fishermen.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Capacity Building  
Engagement  
Sustainability

Stewardship  
Community  
Collaboration

Mentorship  
Knowledge Transfer

## **JOIN**

If you are a West Coast fisherman and share our vision and principles, we invite you to join. Please contact [bcyoungfishermen@gmail.com](mailto:bcyoungfishermen@gmail.com) and specify if you are just starting out, or an experienced fisher!

Find us on Facebook & Instagram: @bcyoungfishermen  
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