



Delta LB Roe Herring Fishery Patrol by John Horton

The 2022 fishery was predicted to be very different from previous years. DFO and industry had agreed to a total catch of 8,000 tons down from nine 18,000 tons the previous year. It would be mainly gillnet fishery. The 'Delta lifeboat' departed from Ladner on Monday 28th of February with a crew of four under the command of Ken Lewis. With rising percentages being found by test boats, an opening could happen at any time.

'Delta' anchored in Deep Bay for the night following a choppy transit. The next day 'Delta' ran up Lambert Channel to Comox taking stock of where the fleet was gathering. Brian Cook joined in Comox where cleaning and maintenance was carried out and gear checked over including a review of all medical equipment. On 3 March a seine opening was announced and 'Delta' slipped to monitor and be on standby. With only 850 tons of allowable seine catch it was all over in 24 hours.



On Friday 4 March Brian Cook left 'Delta' in Comox and John Horton joined. As a gillnet opening might happen quickly, possible in Lambert Channel of Qualicum Beach, 'Delta' repositioned to Deep Bay after dark to await an announcement. This is always a case of listen to reports and watching vessel movements and making an educated guess. It's always up to the fish on the fish. On the 5th it appeared that an opening might be announced for upper Lambert Channel. 'Delta' moved up to join the gathering fleet as an opening was in fact declared.

'Delta' maintained a patrol from the Comox Bar South to the ferry crossing finally coming to anchor amongst the Packers as they started to receive fish from the gillnetters. At 1640 'Delta' was hailed by the 'Viking Leader' which was crossing the Comox Bar. They reported a sailing vessel possibly in trouble. 'Delta' weighed anchor, advised JRCC, and proceeded to investigate. Soon sighted approximately half miles away, it was clear the Yacht was sailing well and in no distress. JRCC was advised and 'Delta' still down returning to her previous anchorage. Fishing continued through the night, but by dawn the fish began to disappear.

As the morning past it became clear that fishing in that area was over. 'Delta' proceeded into Deep Bay to reassess. After lunch it was decided to move south to French Creek while a lot of boats had already gone. Off French Creek the RHIB was deployed and sent in to find a Berth. However, no berth could be found. While waiting for the RHIB to return the French Creek CGD 47 lifeboat came close for a great chat. It was decided to go down to Northwest Bay for a protected night anchorage, but still in striking distance if another opening was announced.

While in Comox days before we had met the unit leader of RCMSAR 60 who declared interest in conducting some joint training. And so with no fish found 'Delta' transited back to Comox to conduct a Towex with unit 60 during the evening.





Moving out at 1900 'Delta' positioned 2 miles south of Comox. Both RCMSAR boats closed to investigate and take 'Delta' in tow. We gave them 2 problems to deal with. First a jammed rudder (30° to port) followed by a M.O.B. Following standard protocols, they handled both and then transferred to an alongside tow for docking. Several of the RCMSAR personnel were under training and none had much experience at manoeuvring a vessel as large as 'Delta' and so this opportunity was very much appreciated. Following securing the exercise 'Delta' hosted the very good debrief on board. Hot tea, coffee and biscuits we enjoyed while 12 lessons were discussed and exchanged. A delightful exchange of ideas culminated in the hope for future exercises together.

Wednesday 9th dawned clear and bright but today 'Delta' had to return to Ladner extra 3 crewmembers had to get back. Enroute the fishery continued to be monitored but a phone call with Canfisco made it clear that the fish had, at least for now, disappeared. And so a transit was made in lovely weather. Back to Ladner where 'Delta' secured at 1757. For 10 days the fishery had been monitored 24 hours a day and 'Delta' spent 56 hours underway. No accidents occurred during 'Delta's' deployment. The crew all performed your duties with dedication and professional efficiency.

CLI thanks all the volunteers for their time and dedication. Owing to COVID we were short of volunteers who could be available for this type of deployment. We had to come home before the fishery was declared over. Normally if 3 crewmembers have to leave the ship we are able to have others join, but unfortunately not this year.



Order of British Columbia investiture.

Thursday March 4. Today John Horton received the "Order of British Columbia" from the Premier of British Columbia John Horgan and Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia Janet Austin. John's citation is being read while pictures of him and his accomplishments are shown (picture on left). Centre picture with her honour Janet Austin and the Aide is David Valentine. He is the Commissioner for the St. John Ambulance and works with us on the Delta Lifeboat when we attend the Classic boat festival in Victoria. Picture on the right with her honour the LG, Janet Austin and the Premier John Horgan.





Delta's Horton receives Order of B.C.

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Two years after receiving the nomination, Delta's John Horton has finally received his Order of British Columbia.

The province's highest form of recognition was finally bestowed to Horton at a ceremony at Government House in Victoria last week.

Horton was among 31 others from 2020 and 2021 to receive the award from Premier John Horgan and lieutenant governor of British Columbia Janet Austin.

"It was very humbling because you look at all the other people who received it and listen to all the other things that other people have done and you wonder why I'm here," Horton said. "It was a very lovely event. We were able to interact with the other recipients. I got to know some of them and hear about the wonderful things that they have done."

"One could not be impressed with everyone...many medical people who have come up with scientific breakthroughs right here in B.C. It was quite remarkable."

When the *Optimist* spoke with Horton on Monday morning he was on the *Delta Lifeboat* in Comox supporting the roe hering fishery.

"It is going well. There are quite a few Delta boats here for the fishery," he said. "I expect to be here supporting the boats from a safety perspective for the remainder of the week."

Horton, a celebrated marine



GOVERNMENT OF BC PHOTO

John Horton, centre, receives the Order of British Columbia from lieutenant governor Janet Austin, left and Premier John Horgan, right.

artist, has made significant contributions to the appreciation and safety of B.C.'s coastal history and its waters through his paintings showcased in collections across Canada, commemorative coin designs for the Canadian Mint, and a lifetime of volunteer service to keep mariners safe.

In 2019, the City of Delta presented Horton with its Delta Friends of Heritage award. Horton was recognized for promoting awareness of Delta's maritime heritage through art, specifically his painting *Arrival at Port Guichon*, which was

gifted to Delta, following a year-long fundraising campaign. The painting will be on permanent display at the Doug J. Husband Discovery Centre.

Equally significant is his long-time volunteer work in marine search and rescue.

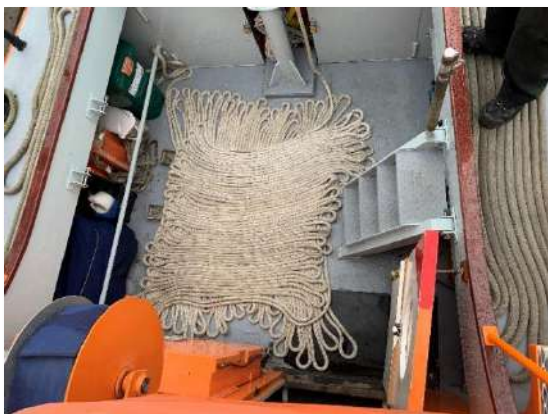
Over the years, Horton has been active in the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, Canadian Lifeboat Institution, Royal Naval Sailing Association (B.C.), Royal Canadian Sea Cadets, and the Naval Officers Association of B.C. He was instrumental in the development of the Lifeboat Institution

and used his own vessels to respond to 600 incidents.

Since joining the Canadian Marine Rescue Auxiliary in 1979, his focus has been on assisting the native and commercial fisheries in B.C. along with any other mariners in distress. Volunteering under the auxiliary flag, he has assisted in the rescue of hundreds of vessels either in distress or disabled.

In 1988, Horton began volunteering with the Canadian Lifeboat Institutes' Search and Rescue service (SAR), a not-for-profit registered charity that provides non-government supported search and rescue assistance in the Lower Fraser River and Gulf of Georgia waters. From its base in Steveston, Horton has trained volunteers to be competent crew members. As well he has devoted thousands of hours and his own money to maintain its 52-foot *Delta Lifeboat*, formerly the *Steveston Lifeboat*. To date almost 900 incidents have been attended by Horton aboard the *Delta Lifeboat*.

In recognition of his marine art he is the only Canadian artist mentioned in the late Dennis Brook-Hart's definitive book, *Twentieth Century Marine Painting*. He is a founding member of the Canadian Society of Marine Artists and member of the Federation of Canadian Artists, the Naval Officers Association of B.C. and the Honourable Company of Master Mariners. Through his art, he has supported many schools, museums, hospitals and community-based charities.



Towex by John Horton

On Saturday 12 March the 'Fraser' and 'Delta' lifeboats conducted a joint Towex in Ladner Reach. Two exercises were conducted where 'Delta' took 'Fraser' in a standard stern tow and then changing to an alongside tow for docking.

Crews learnt correct laying out and deployment of all gear and proper leads and rigging of fenders prior to passing the tows. For several new crew members this was their first Towex and vital training.

Following securing alongside figure of eight turns emphasized the need for tautness of all lines to reduce movement between vessels when manoeuvring. A very useful and informative exercise.



Remembering that sometimes we have to perform these manoeuvres in bad weather, darkness and restricted sea room. It is essential we are all well prepared and know what can go wrong before it does. This exercise also emphasized the need for good comm's and leadership from one delegated senior hand on deck.



Delta Lifeboat batteries replacement

On Saturday March 19 crewmembers were scheduled to do maintenance on the Delta Lifeboat. During the fisheries deployment it was noticed that the house batteries didn't keep their charge and we had to keep the generator running through the whole night to in order for the batteries to be topped up. When the Delta was back in Ladner, Andy tested the batteries and concluded that they needed to be replaced. Today was scheduled for replacement. The 4 batteries and in a plastic box, weigh about 130 pounds each, are 16 inch high and the room above the box is about 12 inch. This presented Andy, David, Nick, Richard and Ron with some challenges but after some deliberations, tries and perserverance we were able to remove the old batteries and replace them with the new ones without damaging anything.



Safety patrol Fraser Lifeboat

The Fraser Lifeboat conducted a safety patrol towards Shelter Island Marina and the back channel towards the Alex Fraser approaches. We saw several homeless encampments under the bridges, as well as boats in various stages of disrepair or possible abandonment. On the way back in the main channel we met a deep-sea vessel coming upriver. 2 fishing vessels were also engaged in a tow.



Local knowledge by Ron van der Zwan

Tuesday March 22. While walking the dog it was noticed that in Captains Cove Marina during low tide some of the boats were laying high and dry on the mud. Some of the sediment was stretching out into the boatslip access channels. This means that if one of the lifeboats are requested to support vessels in the marine we need to be aware of this local hazzard.