
## Recognition of CLI

May 2025 the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority published the Boaters' Handbook about the essentials of informed navigation within the Port of Vancouver.

The Canadian Lifeboat Institution is recognized as being one of the emergency response organizations operating in the Port of Vancouver jurisdiction.

A lot of useful information can be found in this handbook;

https://www.portvancouver.com/article/introducing-boaters-handbook-safe-navigation-within-busy-waters-port-vancouver

**Such as:**

- **Navigating safely within the Port of Vancouver**, including safe distances and speed limits to observe, light signals to display, and how to plan for and safely pass under rail bridges
- **Special navigation areas within Burrard Inlet and the Fraser River**, and their specific requirements and restrictions
- **Efficient marine communications**, including the VHF channels to monitor to stay informed and receive navigation warnings and securité calls
- **How to help protect the marine environment**, including how to prevent pollution and how to act when encountering marine mammals
- **Essential amenities within the limits of the port**, including recreational anchorages and fuel stations
- **Who to contact** in case of emergency

## AGM 2026

On Thursday evening February 12 the Annual General Meeting was held at the Chinese Bunkhouse in Richmond BC. Traditionally the meeting started off with pizza and pop. Monika brought a very tasty Polish desert enjoyed by all. At 1900 Keith called the floor to order and society president Brian Cook started the meeting with a minute of silence to commemorate the victims of the Tumbler Ridge mass shooting that took place Tuesday February 10th.John H followed with the Lifeboat Prayer.

New this year was that members could join the meeting via Zoom. Brian shared the good news that the requested grant from the BC gaming was received.


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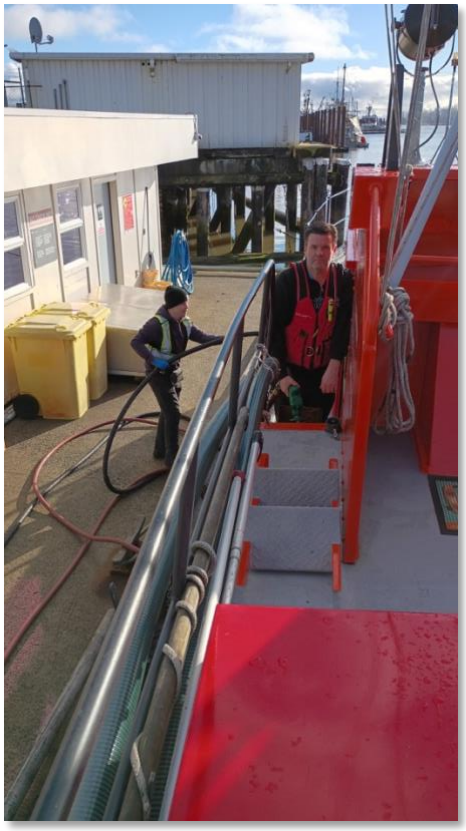
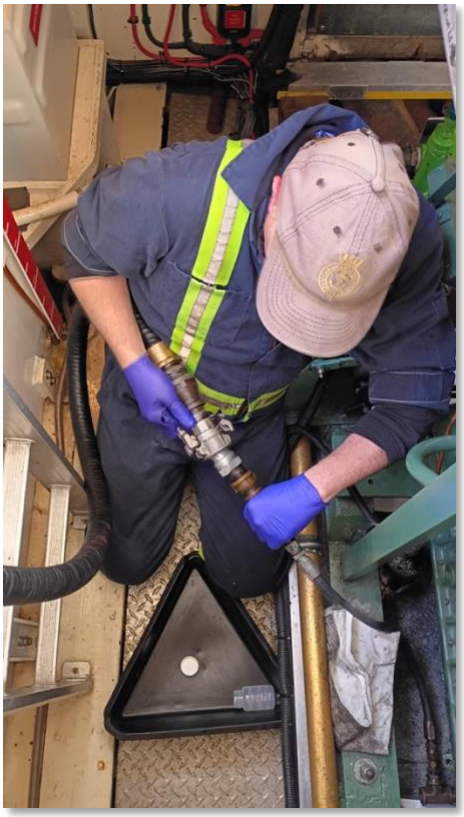
## Delta Lifeboat Engineering Day

On Valentine's Day, Saturday February 14th, Delta Lifeboat departed for Steveston with the two engineers, John O. and Andy, to do an oil change and top up all the tanks on board in preparation for the herring fishery deployment at the beginning of March. While John O. and Andy did the oil change other crewmembers topped up the diesel tanks, gas cans and water tanks. The RHIB was launched before departing back to the Delta Lifeboat Station to make sure the outboard was running smoothly as it was reported that during the last training there were some hiccups. No issues were found with the outboard.

Back at the Lifeboat Station crew ran the two fire/salvage pumps (one pump is a spare which is normally stored in the Delta Lifeboat shed but which will be taken to the herring fishery) and the generator. In the meantime, the engineers greased the engine shaft. Delta is ready to go.





## First Aid Training on the Lifeboats

On Saturday February 21 the Fraser Lifeboat sailed to the Delta Lifeboat Station in Ladner for a joined first aid training exercise.

Roz came up with different scenarios e.g. chest pain and broken wrist and the Fraser and Delta Lifeboat crewmembers had to deal with these scenarios using the equipment on board. P.J. and Art assisted Roz and the crews when necessary. For some of the (new) crewmembers it was a challenge to remember where all the equipment was stowed. Once located and brought to the incident scene the care-cards were used to treat the patients. Minor issues were encountered like a depleted battery of the Oximeter but this was quickly fixed.

One important remark was made by Art. When supplying oxygen to a patient using the mouth mask the minimum flowrate should be 6 L/min while using a nasal cannula a flowrate of

1-6L/min can be used. The tubes coming from the nasal cannula go behind the ears and not behind the head. It was also suggested to get automatic blood pressure monitors instead of the manual method currently used. The advantage is that the monitor will give the systolic, diastolic and heartrate at the same time without the need for crewmembers trying to find a pulse while under stressful conditions. The training was well received by crewmembers and coxswains and it was suggested to do this more often.

A6 The Delta Optimist February 19, 2026

# Repaired Westham Island Bridge may no longer swing open

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The Westham Island Bridge may become a much different crossing until a replacement bridge is built.

That was the message from representatives from TransLink who made a presentation to Delta council on Feb. 9 to provide an update on work underway to repair the structure damaged following a marine vessel strike on Jan. 20.

Council members conveyed appreciation for TransLink's efforts and communication with the city, but concern was expressed whether a repaired crossing should remain a swing bridge.

Kevin Quinn, CEO of TransLink, expressed similar concern,noting the structure is 116 years old.

"That's something that I've been investigating further in terms of whether that swing continues to operate. That's something we want to have some conversations about. To be quite frank, I have some concerns around continuing to operate a swing bridge on a 116-year-old bridge. I think there are some risks inherent in that and I think that we need to have some good dialogue with the port, with the federal government, with the province, with First Nations and others to explore that further," said Quinn.

DELTA OPTIMIST PHOTO

**TransLink notes that inspections found that pier five, one of the bridge's primary support structures, was severely impacted in the collision.**

"I think that we've heard loud and clear from residents of the island, the issues that swing creates when it opens, when it gets stuck open at times. And so, I think that's something we want to be sensitive to," he said.

The goal is to have the bridge repairs completed by the end of February, but the schedule may change depending on several variables.

Noting TransLink continues to refine its operations in providing service for island residents, Quinn said a damaged pier is no longer weight bearing, so a temporary pier is being built to support the west end of the damaged span.

As far as a replacement bridge, Quinn noted they have funds allocated for the design and engineering work for a new structure.

Its construction, however, is not currently funded but a new span could be built by 2030, he added.

TransLink explains that, following a barge strike in 1969, a temporary Bailey bridge was installed at the site within days.

TransLink says it evaluated using that option again, but the circumstances are different because the 1969 damage was largely limited to the bridge deck, while the underlying supports remained strong enough to carry a temporary span.

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# First signs of herring spawn spark excitement on Vancouver Island

CBC

## The herring spawn attracts wildlife and onlookers to witness an increase in marine activity

Maryse Zeidler · CBC News · Posted: Feb 25, 2026 6:00 AM PST | Last Updated: February 25

Ryan Cutler was looking out his window from his home near Salmon Beach, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, last week when he noticed the ocean looked foamy.
Cutler quickly realized what was happening — the herring spawn was finally happening.
"It's a really, really spectacular time to be around," he said.
When Cutler took out his drone, he saw it — the foamy, milky blue-green water that is the telltale sign that herring are gathering to reproduce in the shallow bays along the coast.

Ryan Cutler captured this drone image of the herring spawn near his home in Salmon Beach, B.C. (Ryan Cutler)

The herring spawn is an auspicious time around Vancouver Island and the South Coast. For some coastal First Nations, it represents the coming of spring and a time to gather food.
It's also an important time for marine conservationists to take stock of the small, oily fish that have seen their numbers dwindle due to overfishing over the last few decades.

### A 'big feast'

Herring are a keystone species that gather in large groups to reproduce.
The females lay eggs on kelp and eelgrass, and the males release milt (sperm), which creates the milky look of the water.
Cutler says the signs of staging — when the herring start to gather and get ready to spawn — were apparent for a couple of weeks leading up to that moment.
He had seen and heard sea lions gathering, dozens of eagles flying around and even humpback whales swimming about.
"The herring spawn is a really fabulous time to be out here," he said. "Literally all of the wildlife that we have on the West Coast shows up for this big feast."

This foamy, blue-green water is a sign that herring are spawning below. (Ryan Cutler)

## A turn in the seasons

Nick Chowdhury is the president of the Island Marine Aquatic Working Group, which manages a Facebook page to help people track where and when the spawn is happening.
A member of the Da'naxda'xw First Nation, Chowdhury says the spawn is an important time for coastal First Nations. "If we focus on a First Nations perspective, it's time for gathering food, it's [a] signal for a lot of turn in the seasons."

Herring are a small, oily fish that lay eggs on kelp and eelgrass. (Kevin Peters/Island Marine Aquatic Working Group)

Salmon Beach was one of the first spawns spotted around Vancouver Island.
Chowdhury says part of the excitement around the herring spawn is getting to see where it's happening each year and evaluating fish stocks.
"We have been hearing of some spawn returning to areas that it hadn't occurred in for quite a while," he said.
Tracking when and where the spawn in happening through the Island Marine Aquatic Working Group's Facebook page can help people understand the impact of the advocacy work that's being put into stock management and fishing quotas, Chowdhury says.

Nick Chowdhury is the president of the Island Marine Aquatic Working Group. (Maryse Zeidler/CBC)

"We have come a long way from the days of simply fishing to fish and thinking that there's an overall endless abundance out there," he said.

## Traditional food

Long-time fisher and Stz'uminus First Nation member Shirley Louie started learning more about herring a few years ago, when the Q'ul-lhanumutsun Aquatic Resources Society (QARS) asked her to help out with a documentary project about the fish.
QARS is a group of six coast Salish First Nations dedicated to aquatic resource management, serving Cowichan Tribes, Halalt First Nation, Lyackson First Nation, Penelakut Tribe, Stz'uminus First Nation and Ts'uubaa-asatx Nation.

"They're like, Shirley, could you find somebody to clean the fish for us?" she said.
"And so I called my aunties and my uncle and they're like, 'Yeah, we know how to clean herring. Do you want to smoke it or fry it?'"
Louie also learned to make and use a herring rake — a long pole with nails sticking out along the side that's used to catch the fish.
"I love learning about it. I think it's really valuable," she said. "We need to get back to our smokehouses, our traditional foods."

Shirley Louie is a long-time fisher who recently started learning more about catching and preparing herring. She's seen here with a salmon. (Submitted by Shirley Louie)