

A photograph of a fishing boat on a river. The boat is white with a blue stripe and has two large red buoys hanging from its side. The river is blue with white-capped waves. In the background, there is a steep, forested hillside under a blue sky with some clouds. The text "The British Columbia Young Fishermen's Network" is overlaid in white on the right side of the image.

# The British Columbia Young Fishermen's Network

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Communities, Conservation & Livelihoods. May 30, 2018



# British Columbians are a Coastal People

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- Over 70% of the population lives near the coast
- The ocean provides food, recreation, transportation, a sense of place, and so much more
- The ocean helps define the economic, social and cultural fabric of many coastal communities



# BC Fisheries: Tangible Values

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- Seafood & agrifood GDP \$4.5 billion (2016)
- Seafood & agrifood exports \$3.8 billion (2016)
- Landed value of \$392.8 million (2015)
- 5600 licenced commercial fish harvesters
- 4500 shore workers

# BC Fisheries: Intangible Values

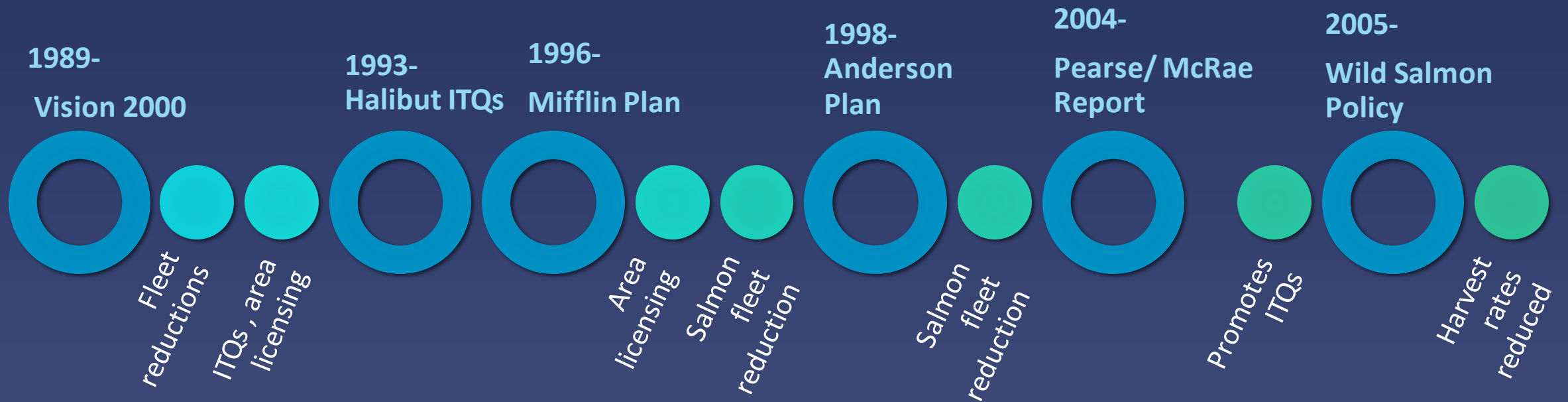
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- Cultural ecosystem services
- Seafood gifting
- Knowledge systems
- Stewardship
- Intergenerational transfer
- Connection to ecosystem



# Changing Tides

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# Barriers to Entry

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*“There is a saying on the Pacific that if you want to make a million dollars in fishing, you should start with two.”*  
- 4<sup>th</sup> generation fisherman

## Example Entry Costs:

- Halibut dock price: \$7/lb
- Quota lease price: \$5 – 5.50/lb



# BC's Greying of the Fleet

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- Average age of a BC commercial fish harvester- 62 years old
- 695 of a total 3,890 (18%) fish harvesters are under the age of 30
- Youth are not entering at a rate sufficient enough to replace those retiring



# Coming Together: Taking Action

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# BC Young Fishermen's Gathering

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*"After attending the first gathering, I felt empowered as a brand-new business owner...I walked away with a much deeper understanding. The knowledge and connections I gained at the gathering have provided me with confidence as we navigate our way to success."*

- 2017 BCYFG Participant



# Coming Together : Sharing Solutions

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Experts from across British Columbia, Alaska, and New York.

- Financial & business advisors
- Local business owners
- Chefs
- Non-profits
- Industry associations

# Young Fishermen

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**B.C. Young  
Fishermen's  
Network**



# BC Young Fishermen's Network

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Linking young fishermen to the people and resources they need to plan successful businesses, and engage in their communities.

- Education & Support
- Community Building
- Representation



# BCYFN Knowledge Transfer

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*“In BC, independent multigenerational family fishing operations have become the exception rather than the norm.”*

*- 5<sup>th</sup> generation fisherman*

- Informal – socials, meet ups, gatherings
- Formal- workshops, mentorship programs

# Engagement

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*“If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu”*

*- East Coast fisherman*

- Workshops – provide an understanding of decision-making processes & opportunities to engage
- Network- offers space to discuss issues, share solutions and opportunities





# Sustainability

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We cannot talk about the future generation of fish harvesters without talking about sustainability of the industry- environmental, social, cultural & economic.

- Encouraging Stewardship
- Community Access

# BC's Young Fishermen



Sarah during the 2018 crab season-photo by Duncan Cameron



Neil & Owen onboard the MV Dual Venture, average age is 22- photo by Alistair Bryce



Melissa Collier and kids sitting on a box of their West Coast Wild Scallops- photo by Danika McDowell



A photograph taken from the perspective of someone on a boat. The boat's cabin and steering wheel are visible on the left. The boat is moving through a river with white-water rapids. The background features a dense forest of evergreen trees on a steep bank, with a mountain peak visible in the distance under a blue sky with some clouds. Two large red buoys are attached to the side of the boat.

Thank You

[www.bcyoungfishermen.ca](http://www.bcyoungfishermen.ca)

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