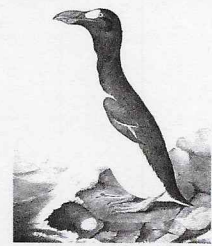


Canadian Safe Boating Council
Conseil canadien de la sécurité nautique



N. L. W. F.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CSBC & NLWF Team Up To Keep Newfoundland & Labrador Anglers Safe on the Water

June 25, 2018 – St. John's, NL -- June 30th-July 8th marks National Fishing Week in Canada. The Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC) and the Newfoundland & Labrador Wildlife Federation (NLWF) want to remind anglers that wearing your lifejacket is even more important than wearing your 'lucky fishing hat'. But they do share one trait. They both have to be worn to be effective!

According to the Canadian Safe Boating Council and the Lifesaving Society, 80 percent of recreational boaters who drown each and every year in Canada were not wearing a lifejacket or Personal Floatation Device (PFD). Most of these drownings occur in small, open power boats, accounting for 60 percent of these preventable deaths. A majority of these victims were males between the ages of 19 and 35, out for a day of fishing.

Many of those who don't wear their lifejackets or PFDs believe that, since they are good swimmers, having them onboard and within easy reach is good enough. But a lifejacket stored under a seat or up in the bow will be of no help when the unexpected happens, like falling overboard while trying to net the catch.

"National surveys clearly show that more than half the recreational boats sold in Canada are used for fishing on a regular basis," says John Gullick, Chair of the Canadian Safe Boating Council. "During National Fishing Week, the Canadian Safe Boating Council would like to remind all anglers not only to have their lifejacket onboard their boat, but to look after it and wear it. If you happen to fall overboard, it will give you the time you need to calm down, catch your breath, assess your situation and effect, or help effect, a rescue. In 2 out of 3 drownings related to boating, the victims were less than 15 meters from some form of safety."

Many of today's anglers are delighted with the models that are designed especially to suit their needs. They're rugged, allow for full freedom of movement to cast and are constructed with lots of pockets for gear. Some even come equipped with an attachment from which to hang a landing net. When choosing their lifejacket, anglers should also check the label to make sure it is Transport Canada approved, is the correct size and fits snugly.

The president of the Newfoundland Labrador Wildlife Federation (NLWF) – Andrew Bouzan wishes to take this opportunity to advise our members and the boating public to practice safe boating. Most importantly, always wear a life jacket and remember to ensure that you follow the rules and regulations that apply to boating activities. NLWF also wants to remind our members and the public to let relatives, or other responsible persons, know what your boating agenda is, in case of an emergency. Be prepared, be safe, be responsible and enjoy your boating activity.

Fishing is a part of our Canadian fabric and an activity that's easy to get hooked on. At this important time of year, the CSBC and the NLWF are asking those who fish to 'Get Hooked on Lifejackets' too.

This initiative is made possible through support of Transport Canada's Office of Boating Safety.

- 30 -

For further information contact:

Ian Gilson
Director - Canadian Safe Boating Council
Tel: (905)719-5152