

THE WHALER

September 2025

Message from the Commodore



Ahoy CFSA members!

I hope you all had an excellent summer season, below is an update about our marina, so I will get right to it.

We have received stamped drawings from Herold Engineering which will allow us to now move forward with placing piles in the marina and completing the administration required to procure the required material and services for shore access.

My sincere hope is that we will be able to start driving piles in 2026. This fall, I also expect that we will be able to install the fingers on the western side of A dock. In addition, we have received approval to transition our website and email to new software which will allow improved communication within the club. There has been much work to get us to this point and I am very grateful to the volunteers who have and continue to contribute.

After a number of meetings with CFSA Executive, current volunteers and members it has become very clear that we do not have the number of volunteers required to sustain the current marina and club operations, let alone continue to build the marina infrastructure we all want and deserve.

We are at a point now where we need all CFSA members to step up and recommit to the spirit of volunteerism that has been the foundation of success for the club since its inception. In order to achieve this we are asking all CFSA members to find volunteer opportunities that match their skill sets. To that end, we will be holding a “volunteer fair” which will allow us to meet and discuss what is needed to support the club today and move these critical marina projects forward. As part of the volunteer fair, the executive will help you to identify and match your abilities with ongoing or new tasks. There is much to do and everyone can contribute.

Please bear with us as we continue to move forward and look forward to seeing you soon.

Mike Wills, CFSA Commodore

CFSA Volunteer Fair

Date: October 19, 2025

Location: Pacific Fleet Club, Naden Building 40

Time: 4:00 - 6:00

What to expect?

Prepare to find out what types of volunteer opportunities currently exist at CFSA and what we will need as we continue to build the marina. This is an opportunity to match your skills with volunteer duties to support the club. The intent is to get those curious about getting involved aware of the tasks at hand without committing them or throwing them into the deep end with power tools and no direction.



Saturday Work Parties

CFSA is now in receipt of a finalized drawing for the marina plans. This is a big step as we're now nearing the end of marina design and we can start the implementation of construction. Don't get your shovels out just yet, as we need to tidy up some details on the environmental documents that limit how construction can happen before we put the plan out for people to bid on. This news might mean that work may commence in the Winter piling period and would allow for the major changes to the marina to start happening. It is exciting to see progress on the slow bureaucratic parts of the marina development plan, but it doesn't actually change the tasks that we have at hand now. There are three efforts that we hope to achieve before the new year.

1. Modification of the connection between the two pieces of D dock
2. Fabrication/Installation of rock anchors to support installation of fingers on A dock.
3. Completion of all work on spine pieces

With the end of summer cruising and return to work we intend to resume the regularly scheduled volunteer efforts in support of those three objectives above. The weekday foreshore crew will continue to meet on Tuesday/Thursday, and their efforts will center on the D dock construction and some work on the spine. The remainder of volunteers who wish to contribute their physical labour or tool skills will meet Saturday mornings.

There are also volunteer opportunities for those who don't have mechanical skills or aren't as physically capable as other club members, and we need those people to step up. To support those objectives above, as well as to maintain regular club functions, there are a variety of different tasks available, and we understand it can be overwhelming for people to throw their name forward for a generic event.

The Saturday following our volunteer fair will be the first work party in a series of targeted efforts that should see the three major tasks above completed as best possible before Christmas. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Tom Eagle, Vice Commodore

Dormant Boats at CFSA



Dormant boats are vessels left in a state of disrepair or neglect for extended periods of time which can become a hazard to the marina, fellow CFSA boats and the environment. Boat owners are responsible for maintaining their vessel and including not leaving boats unattended for a long period of time.

The Dormant Boat Policy (see below) states boats need to be in good repair, clean and have left the dock under their own power within the past year. It has been a year since the policy was added as Annex L in the constitution and the CFSA Moorage Chair has recently completed a review of all boats at the Marina and identified a number of dormant boats. Owners will be notified by mail if their boat has been identified as 'dormant' and to identify a plan to rectify their boat including working with other CFSA members who can advise on how they may be able to maintain, sell or dispose of their vessel.

If you have any questions,
please contact moorage@cfsaesq.ca.

Ben Sproule
Moorage Chair



Dormant Boat Policy (Annex L)

1. CFSA Dormant Boat policies help ensure that vessels at CFSA are active, maintain an acceptable appearance and are not a risk to the environment.

Dormant Boat Identification

2. Dormant Boats will be identified in the moorage area by the moorage chair. The criteria for determining a dormant boat will include but not limited to:
- a. The vessel not being used routinely for recreational boating;
 - b. The appearance of the vessel indicates a lack of use or maintenance; and
 - c. The vessel is an environmental or safety concern.

Process for Designation

3. The moorage chair will bring forward a potential dormant boat to the moorage committee. If the moorage committee agrees that a vessel is dormant, the vessel owner will be contacted and will be instructed to provide a plan to use the vessel appropriately and or conduct the required maintenance.
4. Once the representations from the owner have been obtained, the executive committee will determine if the boat is to be designated as dormant. The executive committee may also place conditions which must be met by the vessel owner.

Moorage Approval Cancellation

5. If the executive committee determines that the representations of the vessel owner have not been satisfactory or no representations have been received, the vessel will be designated as dormant. Cancellation of moorage approval will then be sent to the owner by appropriate means. The executive committee will determine appropriate notice for the owner to vacate CFSA (minimum 30 days) based on the circumstances of the case to secure moorage elsewhere.

Cruising in our backyard



CFSA Members: Bjarne & Barb, S/V Hoku Pa'a

Barb & Bjarne circumnavigated Vancouver Island this summer aboard Hoku Pa'a. We left near the end of May, going counterclockwise, and arrived back in Esquimalt 18 July, for a total of 8 weeks underway and just under 1000 nautical miles distance. Folks who want to see a map of the spots we anchored at can check out

Wildlife certainly counts as one of the highlights of our trip. We spotted plenty of black bears and three grizzlies, puffins, sea otters, and several species of whale. We were happy to note that the sea otters seem more numerous and much wider ranging than in 2009 when we last sailed around VI. An orca passed close by us (and 4 other boats) while we were transiting Dodd Narrows. One humpback whale near the Bunsby Islands treated us to a 45-minute show of breaching, tail-slapping, and fluke-waving; we eventually tired of standing on the foredeck in the rain watching and sailed on.



The weather had a lot of variety, as one would expect over 8 weeks. We sat out quite a few gales in various anchorages, particularly in the Broughton / Johnstone Strait area. Fog and rain made an appearance, but there were also fabulous sunny days with perfect sailing, sometimes even downwind. Overall, we sailed more often than we motored, using a total of about 115 litres of diesel. Ocean temperatures ranged from a low of just under 8°C to 20°C; on the hot days, particularly in Barkely Sound, we went swimming.



Cruising in our backyard cont.



We packed a lot of provisions before leaving so didn't stop in any towns along the way, except for two nights in Port Hardy, where we met up with a sailing friend who flies Beavers and Otters around the north coast for a living. We chatted with STV Osprey and STV Eagle while in Port Hardy, as our path coincided with that of the VanIsle360 competitors. Our schedule had a lot more flexibility than theirs however.



Hope you enjoy these few photos! Cheers, Bjarne & Barb, S/V Hoku Pa'a

Photos are of: Humpback whale near Bunsby Is.; Sea Otter Mom & Pup; Rebecca Spit; Guise Bay (just S of Cape Scott); Eagle & Crow having a dogfight; Grizzly on beach near Chatham Channel.



Do you have a story to share?

Submit to communications@cfesaesq.ca

CFSA Executive



Contact information

• Commodore – Mike Wills	commodore@cfsaesq.ca
• Vice-Commodore – Tom Eagle	vicecommodore@cfsaesq.ca
• Rear Commodore – Bethany Devlin	rearcommodore@cfsaesq.ca
• Treasurer – Brendan Carver	treasurer@cfsaesq.ca
• Membership Chair - Ginette Gibeault	membership@cfsaesq.ca
• Fleet Captain – Leslie Basham	fleetcaptain@cfsaesq.ca
• Communications – Shannon Jones	communications@cfsaesq.ca
• Entertainment Chair - JenJen Good	entertainment@cfsaesq.ca
• Moorage Chair - Ben Sproule	moorage@cfsaesq.ca
• Member at Large - Chris Maier	
• Racing Captain – Nigel Greenwood	
• Cruising Captain – Marc Dumais	

FAQ's

I am interested in volunteering, who do I contact?

Attend the Volunteer Fair! If you are unable to attend, you can email the executive or make a post on the Community Facebook page letting us know how you are interested in contributing.

Where do I find information on racing?

Racing has started and information is available on the CFSA Esquimalt Racing Fleet Facebook Page. Racing is now underway until December and you are invited to attend a racers meeting will be held on November 2, 2025 at the Pacific Fleet Club from 1400 - 1430.

How will I know about work parties?

Watch for information in The Whaler and through the CFSA Esquimalt Community Group. If you have questions, reach out to any of the executive members.

How do I cancel moorage?

To cancel moorage payments, you must give notice 30 days before your boat leaves the marina. Email BOTH the Membership and Moorage Chair. membership@cfsaesq.ca and moorage@cfsaesq.ca

For instance, if you leave the marina on 30 May, you would give notice to by 1 May. Monthly moorage payments are in arrears, so in this case the payment for 1 June would still go out.

I am looking for information on moorage or membership, where do I find information?

Email membership@cfsaesq.ca and moorage@cfsaesq.ca

I want to include information in The Whaler, how do I submit an article?

Send your article to communications@cfsaesq.ca