



The Deck Log

**Newsletter of the Master Mariners of
Canada (MMC)**

NL Division

October – December 2020

Monday October 5, 2020



The above pictures by Dean Porter
OCEANEX SANDERLING HEADS BACK TO
HALIFAX. FROM ST. JOHN'S

Wednesday October 7, 2020

We have another big blow to Newfoundland and Labrador. Today Husky Energy and Suncor Energy made public the downsizing due to market situation.

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. :

Husky Energy, the company behind the idled West White Rose project, laid off an unspecified number of workers on Wednesday, as Newfoundland and Labrador's offshore oil and gas industry continues to feel the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Husky Energy statement:

“Husky Energy has made some difficult decisions and have had to say goodbye to

some of our colleagues today. We manage our workforce in accordance with our business plan and activities,” reads a statement from the company.

“Our people strategy revolves around ensuring we have the right structure and workforce to support our long-term business plan. We will not be sharing the number of jobs affected.”

One source indicates as many as 50 jobs could have been affected, but that number was unconfirmed as of deadline. Industry, Energy and Technology Minister Andrew Parsons says his thoughts are with those affected by the news. Suncor Energy.

The Terra Nova floating storage production and offloading vessel has been anchored in Conception Bay for about a year. It was scheduled to be undergoing a life extension project in Spain, but that plan was shelved amid the COVID-19 pandemic. (Suncor Energy)



The Terra Nova FPSO is anchored in Conception Bay and has not produced oil for almost a year, but workers were needed to maintain and preserve it.

That job will be finished by the end of the month and, according to the company, the workers will no longer be needed.

(The above from The Telegram and Internet)

Thursday October 8, 2020

The MMC NL Division held their October meeting both in person and virtually. Attending members were in the Crow's Nest Officers' Club and Captain Eben March, the Divisional Master conducted the meeting virtually with the rest who were available.

One very important item was to create a Cadet Committee. Towards this end five students spoke and expressed their thoughts. Three members (students) were elected by full members of the division by secret ballot, 1- Chair; 2- Vice Chair and one as a committee member.



Ballet counting



Capt. March conducting the meeting



The MMC National had sent some sixteen questions which were put out to the public by United States Coast Guard (USCG). These relate to the Marine Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS).

Capt. March requested the members to take a look at them and write up comments on

however many and forward them to Capt. Glenn Fiander who is the Division's representative at the National Views and Positions Committee. Capt. Fiander will prepare a document on behalf of the Division and send that to the National.

Capt. March said that some members of the Division recently took part in a meeting which dealt with the North Atlantic Right Whale in the Atlantic Canadian waters. He indicated that the Division will play a role in this project.

October 2020

Some NL offshore related news indicates two new oil discoveries in Flemish Pass Basin off NL by Equinor and its partner BP Canada.

The wells, drilled by the semi-submersible drilling rig, Transocean Barents, are located approximately 500 kms east of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. The Cappahayden well has a water depth of about 1,000 meters and the Cambriol well has a depth of 600 meters. Equinor was the operator for the wells.



Transocean Barents in Bay Bulls



A picture of personnel transfer via "frog"



A supply vessel leaving St. John's, NL

Wednesday November 11, 2020

REMEMBRANCE DAY

“Remembrance Day gives us the time to pause and remember collectively all who have served and sacrificed for their country on times of War and Peace Keeping. We remember and honour military and civilian sacrifices alike.”

This year due to COVID 19 the Provincial Remembrance Day and the Marine Institute of Memorial University Remembrance Day did not take place as previous years.



Capt. Eben March, NL Divisional Master
(Picture taken during Remembrance Day of 2019)



2019 picture, War Memorial St. John's NL

Here are some pictures of today:



Thursday November 12, 2020

The last monthly meeting of the Division took place both in person and virtually. The meeting was held at the Crow's Nest Officers' Club (in person) and by Zoom.

A total of twenty six people took part at this meeting. This was a Speaker Night with **Mr. John Cross** giving a presentation on "Autonomous Ships".

Captain Eben March invited Captain John Ennis to introduce Mr. John Cross.

Mr. Cross started his marine life working on deck department and after a time switched to engine department. Mr. Cross has been with the Marine Institute of Memorial University as a lecturer for many years now.

Mr. Cross has given talks on Autonomous Ships in several countries. He gave a brief history of ships starting with sailing ships and to today's high technology ships. He said the crew size always got smaller with advancement. Humans will be needed for a long time to come. For example autonomous aircrafts need a pilot to get in and out of gates.

Regarding ships it is easier to automate the engine room but extremely difficult to do that on deck. It may be around 2030 before there may be any real autonomous ships. It may be possible for satisfactory technology to be available by 2025. It may be possible by 2050 there may be fully autonomous ships.



Tuesday November 24, 2020

MMC NL Division Council conducted a Zoom meeting. The main discussions were about the COVID 19, membership and the 2020 Christmas Dinner.

New provincial guidelines were made by the Chief NL Medical Officer. Following that NL Division have decided to cancel the planned 2020 Christmas Dinner at the Delta Hotel (December 18th).

Discussions were held regarding how to increase our membership and also how to encourage retention. Some Councillors felt that the retired mariners should be given a special discount regardless of the age. Generally it was expressed that the current dues are too high. Some expressed that a poster programme for the ships would be a very good idea to encourage them to join the Division.

Captain Eben March indicated that the Cadet Committee have started a Facebook group.

Captain Eben March announced that now we have a new Treasurer, Captain Sean Quinlan. He thanked the outgoing Treasurer Captain Paul Kean for the great job he did

for the Division. Captain Kean said that the Division is in good shape financially.

Captain March said that one of our cadet members, Andre Samoes Re had won a \$3000 scholarship from the Master Mariners of Canada.

Here are some pictures captured from the Zoom meeting:



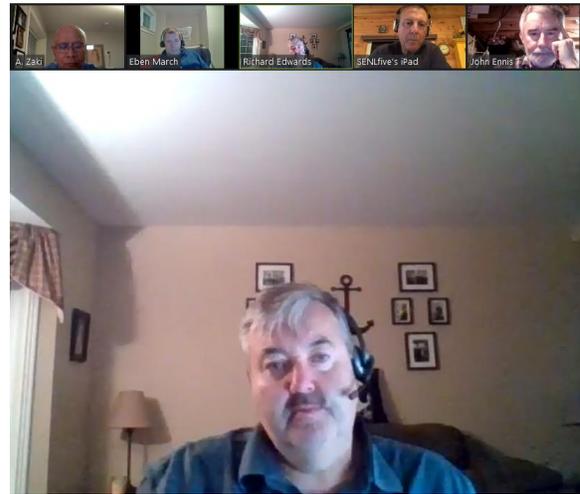
Captain Eben March



Captain John Ennis



Captain Paul Kean



Captain Richard Edwards



This is a very nice painting by Captain Ed Anthony, of Tors Cove, NL.

Tors Cove is a small village located on the east coast of the [Avalon Peninsula](#) of [Newfoundland](#), approximately 40 kilometers south of the [St. John's](#), the provincial capital, along [Route 10](#) (Irish Loop Drive/Southern Shore Highway). It was formerly named [Toads Cove](#)^[1] and remains unincorporated without council.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Take good care and stay safe.