

AGENDA

Meeting: International Commercial Fishing PFD Working Group
Attendees: List of Attendees in Zoom Invitation
Date: Wednesday, March 8th, 2023
Time: 11:00am-12:00pm ET
Location: <https://bassett.zoom.us/j/96499783776?pwd=dm0wQmZMcUdTQ0plWk03NjZKNS9rUT09>

<i>Discussion Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>	<i>Time</i>
- <i>Welcome</i>	Rebecca Weil	5 min
- <i>General Updates</i>	Jennifer Lincoln	5 min
- <i>Manoverboard Awareness Events</i>	Simon Potten and Frankie Horne	20 min
- <i>Discussion</i>	Open Discussion	20 min
- <i>Next Steps</i>	Rebecca Weil	5 min

Title

“Changing fishers’ attitudes and behaviours towards manoverboard”

Description

Manoverboard (MOB) is now the main cause of fatalities in the UK fishing industry. Despite improvements in many areas of fishing safety, too many UK fishers remain ill-equipped and unprepared for MOB survival/recovery, and too few are modifying their vessels to mitigate the risk of MOB. Mandatory sea survival training may be effective at the time, but with no requirement in the UK for refresher training it is not having the desired long-term impact on fishers’ attitudes and behaviours towards the danger of MOB.

Efforts to reduce the number of MOB fatalities in the UK have focused on the provision of funded safety equipment (PFDs and PLBs), the provision of funded voluntary refresher training and making the wearing of PFDs mandatory in 2019. However, these interventions have not been universally successful in changing fishers’ attitudes and behaviours towards MOB, as evidenced by the fact that in 2021 six of the ten UK fisher deaths were classified as fatal MOBs and only two were known to be wearing a PFD at the time.

In November 2019, Seafish and the RNLI started delivering a programme of MOB Awareness events for fishers, putting fishers through a challenging and realistic MOB experience, to help them better appreciate the danger and fully appreciate the need for wearing a PFD. Funded by the UK’s Maritime & Coastguard Agency, 40 events have been delivered at environmental pools across the UK, with more than 400 fishers participating.

In this presentation, Simon and Frankie will explain the aim of the programme and describe what happens during an MOB Awareness event, reflect on the observed impact the events have on participants, share some of the post-event feedback they have received from participants and consider how effective the events are at changing fishers' behaviours.

Speaker Bio

Simon Potten is the Head of Safety, Training and Services at the Sea Fish Industry Authority (Seafish), a levy-funded public body that exists to help the UK seafood industry thrive.

Frankie Horne is the Fishing Safety Manager at the Royal National Lifeboats Institution (RNLI), a charity operating in the UK and Ireland dedicated to saving lives at sea. An ex-fisherman, Frankie is also an approved instructor for fishermen's training and an expert in life saving equipment and fishing safety.

Seafish and the RNLI sit on the UK's Fishing Industry Safety Group and this project supports delivery of the Group's 10-year strategic plan to eliminate preventable deaths in the UK fishing industry by 2027.

International Commercial Fishing PFD Working Group

In 2018, researchers from around the world assembled in St. John's, Newfoundland to attend IFISH5 [The International Fishing Industry Safety and Health Conference], the only international conference dedicated to fishing, aquaculture, and seafood processing occupational health and safety. The conference was organized by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Memorial University and the Northeast Center (NEC) and offered participants from many backgrounds and disciplines an opportunity to attend keynote lectures, workshops, presentations, and poster sessions on commercial fishing safety research.

During the 2018 conference, the Northeast Center partnered with national and international commercial fishing safety researchers to organize a panel discussion entitled "Changing Commercial Fishing Personal Flotation Use Behavior: what can we learn from efforts to address the most important safety technology adoption challenge of our time?". The panel was well attended and safety researchers who participated strongly advocated for keeping the conversation and collaboration going. The NEC agreed to organize an international work group of commercial fishing researchers interested in the topic of lifejacket use and since then the number of attendees has grown considerably. The group includes over 100 international researchers, safety trainers, and interested parties.

The group meets quarterly with a virtual platform, to build connections with other researchers, share resources, and further collaborations among individuals, organizations and countries seeking to increase PFD use in commercial fishing. Recordings of recent presentations may be found on the IFISH website: <https://ifishconference.ca/pfd-work-group/>

Anyone interested in learning more about this international group of commercial fishing safety researchers should contact rebecca.weil@bassett.org.

Upcoming Meetings 2023

- Wednesday, June 7: 11-12 ET
- Wednesday, September 6: 11-12 ET
- Wednesday, December 6: 11-12 ET

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