

**AGENDA**

Meeting: International Commercial Fishing PFD Working Group  
 Attendees: List of Attendees in Zoom Invitation  
 Date: Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
 Time: 11:00am-12:00pm ET  
 Location: <https://bassett.zoom.us/j/91956521550?pwd=alpvUXBJZkr2RHRDdFh1TmpJUm8vQT09>

<i>Discussion Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>	<i>Time</i>
- <i>Welcome</i>	Jennifer Lincoln	5 min
- <i>General Updates</i>	Jennifer Lincoln	5 min
- <i>Improving Crew Overboard Recovery</i>	Jeff Levin, Shannon Guillot-Wright, Amanda Wickman	20 min
- <i>Discussion</i>	Open Discussion	20 min
- <i>Next Steps</i>	Julie Sorensen	5 min

*Title*

Improving Crew Overboard (COB) Recovery for Commercial Fishing Vessels in the Gulf of Mexico

*Description*

Occupational fatality rates in the commercial fishing industry in the United States remain more than 20 times higher than the national average. The burden of commercial fishing fatalities due to unintentional falls overboard is highest in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) shrimp fishery. The objective of this quasi-experimental, pre-/post-test project design was disseminating recovery slings to Gulf of Mexico captains/deckhands, training in their use, and assessing the attitudes, beliefs, and intentions of fishermen in their adoption.

During this talk, Dr. Jeff Levin will describe the methods used to collect research data and conduct recovery sling training during a pandemic, including the use of a land-based simulation. Research results and considerations for working with hard-to-reach populations will be highlighted. Dr. Shannon Guillot-Wright will discuss how her team used a ‘docside’ clinic to gain trust and secure access to commercial fishing workers in the Gulf of Mexico.

*Bios*

Jeffrey Levin, MD, MSPH, DrPH

Dr. Jeffrey Levin is board-certified in both internal medicine and occupational medicine and has been in the field of occupational medicine for 35 years. He served as Center Director for the NIOSH Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention, and Education (SW Ag Center) from 2002 to 2019. Since 2019, he has served as a Senior Advisor to the SW Ag Center and its current Director, Dr. Vanessa Casanova. Presently, he is a Professor of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. For the last 17 years, he has been a Principal Investigator in the SW Ag Center, leading comprehensive research and outreach initiatives involving commercial fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico. His research has addressed machinery safety, fatigue, hearing protection, and most recently, crew overboard recovery. This work has been supported through funding from CDC/NIOSH and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Shannon Guillot-Wright, PhD

Dr. Shannon Guillot-Wright is the Sam and Elizabeth Nixon Professor of Family Medicine and Vice Chair of Research and Health Policy in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch. She is also the Director of Health Policy Research at the Center for Violence Prevention and holds appointments in UTMB's School for Public and Population Health and School of Nursing. Her program of research focuses on occupational health equity and the use of evidence in policymaking, with an emphasis on structural violence and social justice. She has collaborated with im/migrant waterfront workers since 2016 to examine how precarious employment shapes health inequities, as well as the broader impact of social, structural, and political economic factors on people's health. Dr. Guillot-Wright has her PhD in Medical Humanities from UTMB, MA in Human Rights from Columbia University, and completed her postdoctoral training at the Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center at Penn State.

Amanda Wickman, MBA

Amanda Wickman serves as the Program Director for the SW Ag Center. She works closely with the Center Director, Core leaders, principal investigators, and Regional Advisory Committee to oversee the administrative functions of the Center. She has assisted Dr. Levin with his commercial fishing research since 2006. She has coordinated research and training events for commercial fishermen for over 15 years.

### **About the 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



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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](mailto:rebecca.weil@bassett.org).

### *Upcoming Meetings 2023*

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

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