

AGENDA

Meeting: International Commercial Fishing PFD Working Group
 Attendees: List of Attendees in Zoom Invitation
 Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023
 Time: 11:00am-12:00pm ET
 Location: Teams

<i>Discussion Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>	<i>Time</i>
- <i>Welcome</i>	Julie Sorensen	5 min
- <i>General Updates</i>	Jennifer Lincoln	5 min
- <i>Investigating the use of PFDs and PLBs</i>	Kerri-Ann Ennis, Rob Brown, Kim Cullen	20 min
- <i>Discussion</i>	Open Discussion	20 min
- <i>Next Steps</i>	Kim Gertz	5 min

Title

Investigating the Use of Personal Flotation Devices and Personal Locator Beacons by Fishers and Recreational Boaters in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Description

A personal flotation device (PFD) is the most critically important piece of personal protective equipment (PPE) for fishers and recreational boaters who are at risk of falling overboard because it helps prevent drowning. However, if the individual is lacking sufficient thermal protection when they enter cold water, it also becomes critically important that they are rescued as quickly as possible to reduce their exposure time. One of the most versatile and reliable methods available for alerting rescuers is a personal locator beacon (PLB)

While there have been improvements in wear-rates in places where PFD use is mandatory, it is still voluntary in most regions of Canada, including Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). Unfortunately, as evidenced by incident reports, many fishers and recreational boaters choose not to use PFDs or PLBs. To improve the rate of PFD and PLB use by fishers and recreational boaters, it is critically important to understand *why* they choose to use or not use PFDs and PLBs and then focus on *how* to encourage their use.

Fishers and recreational boaters can have different barriers and facilitators to PFD and PLB use and therefore it is important to explore the different populations. Our presentation will discuss the work our research team is carrying out on the use of PFDs and PLBs in NL’s fishing and recreational boating sectors.

Bios

Kerri-Ann Ennis, MS, PhD Candidate

Kerri Ann Ennis is a human factors researcher in marine safety with the Marine Institute's School of Maritime Studies and a PhD candidate in Maritime Studies. Kerri Ann holds a Master of Science in Kinesiology from Memorial University of Newfoundland. Prior to joining the Marine Institute in 2010, Kerri Ann was the human factors research coordinator with the Small Craft Simulation Project at Memorial University. Kerri Ann also has practical small craft experience as a past employee of the Canadian Coast Guard – Inshore Rescue Boat Program. She has research experience in the areas of maritime safety and survival, human thermal physiology, small craft simulation training, and helicopter underwater escape. Kerri Ann's current research activities focus on the use of personal floatation devices and personal locator beacons by recreational boaters and fish harvesters.

Robert Brown, PhD

Rob Brown is a senior research scientist at the Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland. Rob is a professional engineer (naval architecture) who studies human factors and equipment performance during emergency situations at sea, in fires and in the Arctic. He has a Ph.D. in Computing and Mathematics from the University of Greenwich in London, which focused on measurement and modelling of human behavior during evacuation from large passenger ships. Rob's current research focuses on the use and performance of personal locator beacons at sea, as well as probabilistic modelling of search and rescue in remote regions.

Kim Cullen, PhD

DR. KIM CULLEN, School of Human Kinetics & Recreation, Memorial University, is also the Co-Director of the SafetyNet Centre for Occupational Health and Safety Research – a leading community-university alliance for multidisciplinary research, knowledge exchange and education in occupational health and safety (OHS) in Atlantic Canada. Kim came to MUN in 2018 after 16 years conducting research at the Institute for Work & Health in Toronto. Her research focuses on the interconnections between work and health, how work affects our physical and mental health – for good or for bad – and also how poor health affects our ability to work. Her strengths include expertise in advancing methods to measure and evaluate change as indicators of recovery, conduct motion analysis, the design of web-based survey instruments, the synthesis of research evidence through systematic literature reviews, and the effective use of innovative knowledge mobilization strategies to increase the relevance, reach, uptake, and impact of research for OHS policy and practice decision-making.

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 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 Kimberly.gertz@bassett.org

Upcoming Meetings 2024

- Wednesday, March 6: 11-12 ET
- Wednesday, June 6: 11-12 ET