

AGENDA

Meeting: International Commercial Fishing PFD Working Group
 Attendees: List of Attendees on Meeting Invite
 Date: Wednesday, September 24th, 2025
 Time: 11:00am-12:00pm ET
 Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

DISCUSSION TOPIC	PRESENTER	TIME
- WELCOME/ GENERAL UPDATES	Julie Sorensen	5
- GREEN AND WHITE HOPE, INC	Liz Michaud	25
- DISCUSSION	Open Discussion	10
- LIT REVIEW & SURVEY TOOL DEVELOPMENT: PFD USE AMONG WOMEN IN THE COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY	Leann Cyr	5
- DISUCSSION	Open Discussion	10
- WRAP-UP/NEXT STEPS	Kim Gertz	5

Title

From Tragedy to Hope, The evolution of Green and White Hope, Inc.

Description

Green and White Hope, Inc is a nonprofit organization formed in April 2025, working to prevent fatalities among commercial fishermen through safety programs and technology advancement, while also advancing recovery capabilities in support of our Maine communities that rely on the sea.

This talk will be focused on the formation of Green and White Hope, Inc and include an update on the deliverables completed to date. A few of note below:

- Website released that consolidates all Commercial Fishing Safety and Wellness training available to Maine Fishermen. This includes information and links about the PFD discount program, Lifejacket association, including links to online available training.
- Maine Commercial Fishing Remembrance Day Ceremony on 7/21/25 that included a highlight on the evolution of PFD's and availability of the PFD program.
- Production of a Community Orchestration Guide to be used by local harbors to develop an emergency response plan that leverages community members in the case of a commercial fishing accident. The guide includes a section on precautions/prevention and highlights the significant benefits wearing a PFD of any sort has on survivability.

- Orchestrating incorporation of PFD survey from CM Marine Safety in the Sept/Oct NEFSA newsletter that will provide more direct information about PFD usage in New England.
- Shared sponsor of the first Downeast Fishing Family Forum in October that will also highlight the benefits of PFD's.

Bios

Elizabeth (Liz) Michaud is a distinguished business technology leader with a rich background in Fortune 100 companies born and raised in Downeast Maine. Motivated by personal tragedy in 2023, Liz now dedicates her expertise to leading Green and White Hope, Inc., a non-profit organization she founded in April 2025, committed to enhancing fishing safety and rescue/recovery efforts for Maine's commercial fishermen.

Liz earned her BS in business from the University of Maine in 1988 and an MBA from Babson College in 1991. She had a 29-year career at Lockheed Martin, where she advanced from financial roles to leading transformational tech programs and services, including the \$9B acquisition of Sikorsky Aircraft into Lockheed Martin. In 2017, Liz transitioned to NBCUniversal for 7 years, to lead tech in a dynamic commercial industry transitioning from cable to streaming.

Liz is an active community volunteer and board member, an avid sports fan, and enjoys outdoor activities like hiking and gardening. She has been married to her husband Rik for 37 years and they have 2 sons, Alex and Ian.

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: 2025, 2026

- Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025: 11-12 ET
- Wednesday, March 4th, 2026: 11-12 ET
- Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026: 11-12 ET