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# AGENDA

Meeting: International Commercial Fishing PFD Working Group  
Attendees: List of Attendees in Zoom Invitation  
Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2021  
Time 11:00am-12:00pm EST  
Location Zoom Meeting Details in Meeting Invitation

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<i>Discussion Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>	<i>Time</i>
- <i>Welcome and Introductions</i>	Julie Sorensen	5 min
- <i>General Updates</i>	Jennifer Lincoln	5 min
- <i>Fishermen Helping Fishermen Remove PFD Barriers – a West Coast Approach</i>	Ryan Ford	20 min
- <i>Topics of Interest</i>	Open Discussion	25 min
- <i>Next Steps</i>	Julie Sorensen	5 min

## *Speaker*

Ryan Ford joined Fish Safe in 2012 and is responsible for the overall strategic direction of his industry driven safety program. Working with a committed group of individuals from the BC commercial fishing industry, Ryan and his team work to advance emergency preparedness throughout the industry utilizing a *Fishermen Helping Fishermen* model. As a CPA, CMA Ryan's operational and financial management experience gained in a broad range of industries throughout Canada serves him well as Fish Safe works to advance worker safety within a risky and ever-changing environment.

## *Description*

Encouraging regular PFD wear within the British Columbia commercial fisheries has been a core mandate for Fish Safe since its inception in 2004. In his presentation, Ryan provides a history of those efforts which have utilized the role of fellow fishermen to increase acceptance of PFDs by means of positive 'pier pressure'. Provincial requirements for PFD wear in BC are broadly recognized as being among the most progressive in Canada and the evolution of these regulatory requirements will be discussed as well.



## *Background*

### **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 60 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).

### *Next Meetings 2021*

June 2, 2021

September 8, 2021

December 8, 2021