

## AGENDA

Meeting: International Commercial Fishing PFD Working Group  
 Attendees: List of Attendees in Zoom Invitation  
 Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022  
 Time: 11:00am-12:00pm EST  
 Location: <https://bassett.zoom.us/j/93671182119?pwd=QWVMRitybnI2dUZFOZWlUXl2aTdTUT09>

<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>Royal National Lifeboat Institution</i>	Allen Stevens	20 min
- <i>Discussion</i>	Open Discussion	25 min
- <i>Next Steps</i>	Julie Sorensen	5 min

### *Title*

“The Importance of Good Training and Packing on the Performance of Lifejackets”

### *Description*

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) recently carried out a live testing program looking at reasons why a lifejacket may only partially inflate. We looked at the reasons for these failures and the associated link to training, packing and maintenance. This is a top level briefing on how we identified this issue and the actions we took to address the problems identified.

### *Speaker Bio*

Allen Stevens is the Royal National Lifeboat Institutions Senior Engineer responsible for Marine Safety Equipment including Pyrotechnics, Liferrafts, survivor recovery and Lifejackets. Stevens has a particular expertise in Lifejacket design and performance and has carried out numerous functional/live tests of RNLI Lifejackets. Stevens was the Project lead for the RNLI crew Inshore and Offshore lifejackets, this project led to a dedicated SAR lifejacket. Stevens sits on the UK British Standards Committee for Lifejackets and has been involved in Lifejacket and safety projects with the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). More recently, Stevens has been involved in a mass testing project looking at the correct packing and inflation of Lifejackets in the UK and Ireland.

*Background for Quarterly Call*

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

*Upcoming Meetings 2022*

June 8: 11-12 EDT

September 14: 11-12 EDT

December 7: 11-12 EDT

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