

## AGENDA

Meeting: International Commercial Fishing PFD Working Group  
 Attendees: List of Attendees in Zoom Invitation  
 Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021  
 Time: 11:00am-12:00pm EST  
 Location: <https://bassett.zoom.us/j/93671182119?pwd=QWVMRitybnI2dUZFWZlUXj2aTdTUT09>

<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>Fish Safe NS - Mobile Training Unit &amp; PFD Awareness</i>	Matthew Duffy	20 min
- <i>Topics of Interest</i>	Open Discussion	25 min
- <i>Next Steps</i>	Julie Sorensen	5 min

### *Speaker Bio*

Born and raised in McGraths Cove, a small fishing village near the iconic Peggy's Cove, Matthew Duffy is no stranger to the fishing industry in Nova Scotia. While enjoying boating and sport fishing Matthew is also an active member of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary – Maritimes Region. Graduating from the Nova Scotia Community College, Matthew holds a certificate in Occupational Health & Safety, a 15T commercial vessel license, Rescue Boat Masters license and currently sits on the Board of Directors for Safety Services Nova Scotia. Presently, Matthew is the Executive Director of Fish Safe NS, formally known as the Fisheries Safety Association of Nova Scotia.

### *Description*

Fish Safe NS was in a unique position throughout 2020 and 2021 which allowed the membership funded association to invest internally and externally like never before. One of the milestone investments the association has made was the purchase and construction of a Mobile Training Unit (MTU). The MTU serves as a wharf-side resource centre housing safety equipment used for Safety Demo's, safety equipment we've acquired to distribute to industry, and all the other safety resources we make available to industry such as the Wheelhouse Safety Logbook. The MTU is built from a Ford F150 with a rear cap (Spacecap Wild), this vehicle allows for the comfortable and safe transit of all staff members, while also allowing Fish Safe NS to greatly reduce monthly travel related costs. Part of our wharf-side work is to help industry with PFD



related questions, maintenance, education and now distribution. We are presently working to make PFD's more accessible to our members for free (limited quantities) as well as available at a 50% cost-share into the future. We hope to expand our PFD work further by making this available annually. Cost-sharing is a great way to maintain engagement, while also providing a valuable service to our members. With rising costs of *everything*, our goal with the cost-share programs is to ensure safety does not go by the wayside when it comes to finding ways to save money from an individual business standpoint.

### *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 80 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*

March 9, 11-12 EDT

June 8, 11-12 EDT

September 14, 11-12 EDT

December 7, 11-12 EDT