

## AGENDA

Meeting: International Commercial Fishing PFD Working Group  
 Attendees: List of Attendees in Zoom Invitation  
 Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2022  
 Time: 11:00am-12:00pm ET  
 Location: <https://bassett.zoom.us/j/99643632720?pwd=LzFFNHppbU1pZEFwRUhDbmJJSIRqZz09>

<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>The NZ lifejacket experience</i>	Darren Guard	30 min
- <i>Discussion</i>	Open Discussion	15 min
- <i>Next Steps</i>	Julie Sorensen	5 min

### *Title*

“PFD’s the New Zealand Context”

### *Description*

Fatalities at sea impact the family, industry, and community wellbeing. We will explore a recent NZ survey of PFD use ‘Recreational Boating Fatal Accidents: 2015-2020/2021’ and the general NZ PFD attitude and usage amongst Commercial fishers. Discussions will include a recent 5-person drowning event with the involvement of auto inflate PFD’s onboard and the work undertaken by FirstMate NZ who support those in the fishing and aquaculture sector with their personal and business wellbeing.

### *Speaker Bio*

Darren Guard was introduced to fishing at a very young age due to his family being “in the business”. The Guard Family is NZ’s oldest commercial fishing family. Darren then spent 5 years working for the NZ Maritime Regulator. In 2012 he was employed for a 3-year term by Sealord, NZ’s largest fishing company to manage their vessel health and safety. Darren is also the foundation member of the NZ Fishing Industry Health and Safety Forum and on the Executive of the NZ Shipwreck Relief Society. In 2015 Darren started his own business – Guard Safety. As Managing Director, he leads the company to promote and encourage health, safety, and wellbeing in the wider maritime industry and are leaders in the [MarineSAFE](#) project, providing



free online health, safety and wellbeing resources to the fishing sector, and are also managing and delivering the Seafood Sector Support Network Trust, [FirstMate](#).

### **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 2023*

- Wednesday, March 8: 11-12 ET
- Wednesday, June 7: 11-12 ET
- Wednesday, September 6: 11-12 ET
- Wednesday, December 6: 11-12 ET

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