

Form Approved  
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# Fishing for Facts

*A Survey of Fishermen's Opinions about  
the  
Risk of Falls Overboard and PFDs*



Public reporting burden of this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to CDC/ATSDR Reports Clearance Officer; 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS D-74, Atlanta, Georgia 30333; ATTN: PRA (XXXX-XXXX)

## Instructions for Respondents

This survey contains questions about your experiences, opinions, and perceptions involving personal flotation devices (PFDs) and falls overboard. Each question and its possible responses will be read to you, and you are asked to select one of the answer choices presented. The survey may take between 10 and 20 minutes to complete.

Purpose of study:

- The purpose of this study is to evaluate a variety of modern PFDs with commercial fishermen to discover the features and qualities that they like and dislike.
- Findings from the PFD evaluations will help PFD manufacturers design PFDs that better meet the needs of the fishing industry.
- The PFD evaluations will also supply information to fishermen about which types of PFDs worked best.
- This study has the potential to greatly benefit the fishing industry. It will provide information to fishermen that may encourage them to wear PFDs while they work.

Participation is voluntary, responses will not be used in enforcement actions against you, and the survey results will be made available to industry, safety organizations, federal agencies, and other interested parties in a summary format only - without any personal identifiers.

Thank you for participating and helping us gather this information!

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP!**

**YOUR FISHING BACKGROUND**

1. How many years have you fished commercially?

\_\_\_\_\_ Years Fishing

2. What is your current position onboard the vessel?

Captain/Skipper

Deckhand

Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which gear type are you currently fishing?

Pots

Gillnet

Longline

Trawl

4. Where are you currently fishing?

BSAI

Bristol Bay

AK Peninsula

Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. How many months out of the year do you usually fish?

\_\_\_\_\_ Month(s) A Year

6. When do you usually fish?

Winter Months

Summer Months

Both Winter and Summer

7. Have you ever taken a fishing safety or marine safety class?

Yes

No

7A. IF YES, from whom and what year (most recent) did you take the class?

AMSEA Year\_\_\_\_\_

NPFVOA Year\_\_\_\_\_

USCG Year\_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_ Year\_\_\_\_\_

8. What is the length of your vessel? \_\_\_\_\_ Feet

9. How many people (including yourself) are usually onboard your vessel when you out fishing?

\_\_\_\_\_ People on Board

**YOUR OPINIONS ABOUT “MAN OVERBOARD” EVENTS**

**10.** How much do you worry about falling overboard?

- Very Much
- Somewhat
- Very Little
- Not At All

**11.** What do you think are the chances that you will fall overboard during your fishing career? Select a number between 0 - 100% (0% means no possibility, 100% means you think it will definitely happen)

\_\_\_\_\_ % Chance of Falling Overboard

**12.** If you fell overboard **during the winter**, what do you think your chance of surviving would be with and without a PFD? Select a number between 0 - 100% (0% means no possibility, 100% means you think it will definitely happen)

\_\_\_\_\_ % Chance of Surviving *with* a PFD

\_\_\_\_\_ % Chance of Surviving *without* a PFD

**13.** If you fell overboard **during the summer**, what do you think your chance of surviving would be with and without a PFD? Select a number between 0 - 100% (0% means no possibility, 100% means you think it will definitely happen)

\_\_\_\_\_ % Chance of Surviving *with* a PFD

\_\_\_\_\_ % Chance of Surviving *without* a PFD

**14.** How much do you think an individual fisherman can do to avoid dying from a fall overboard?

- A Lot
- Some
- Not Very Much

**15.** Do man overboard drills increase the chances of a fisherman surviving a fall overboard?

- Yes
- No

**16.** Have you ever fallen overboard?

- Yes
- No

17. Have any fishermen you know personally ever fallen overboard?

Yes

No

18. Have any fishermen you know personally died from a fall overboard?

Yes

No

18A. IF YES, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT PFDs**

19. How often do you wear a PFD on deck?

Never

Sometimes

Frequently

Always

20. How effective are PFDs (if worn) for surviving a fall overboard?

Very Effective

Fairly Effective

Somewhat Effective

Not Effective

21. How comfortable or uncomfortable are PFDs to wear when working on deck?

Very Comfortable

Somewhat Comfortable

Somewhat Uncomfortable

Very Uncomfortable

22. How much do PFDs interfere with your work when worn?

Very Much

Somewhat

Very Little

Not At All

23. How much does wearing a PFD increase your risk of entanglement?

Very Much

Somewhat

Very Little

Not At All

24. Do you personally feel that wearing a PFD on deck ... (Check all that apply)

- Is a smart thing to do
- Is not necessary
- Would Get in the way
- Can save your life
- Shows intelligence
- Shows weakness
- Creates new hazards
- Is a way to be safer
- Is uncomfortable
- Should be required

25. A fishermen who wears a PFD on deck is ... (check all that apply)

- Intelligent
- Responsible
- Lacking Self-confidence
- Too Worried
- Mature
- Weak
- Safety Minded
- Cautious
- Scared
- Paranoid

26. How would other fishermen's opinion of you change if you wore a PFD?

OTHER FISHERMEN WOULD THINK...

- A lot better of you
- A little better of you
- No change in their opinion
- A little worse of you
- A lot worse of you

### SOME FACTS ABOUT YOURSELF

27. What is your state of residence? \_\_\_\_\_

28. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_ Years Old

29. Do you have any children under 18 years old?

- Yes
- No

30. Do any of your children under 18 years old fish with you?

- Yes
- No
- No Children Under 18

31. What is your race/ethnicity?

Alaska Native  
Non-Native

32. What is your sex?

Male  
Female

If you have any comments you would like to share, please write them  
here: