



# Commercial Fishing Injury Prevention Ideas *Facebook Poll Results*

In summer 2017, we polled commercial fishermen through Oregon Sea Grant's Facebook. We asked about anti-slip mats, banger bars, and safety chains. These three ideas came from talking with fishermen about what might prevent injuries. Here are the poll results.

## Post #1 Anti-Fatigue/Slip Mats

**Have you used anti-fatigue/slip mats on a commercial fishing vessel?**

31 fishermen responded, 23 said YES.

**Do anti-fatigue/slip mats work? Do they prevent injuries? Do they get in the way? Any stories to share?**

28 fishermen commented, 19 believed they work well.

### Fishermen Comments:

- Helps with fatigue on knees and feet.
- Protects the fiberglass deck from crab pots.
- Footing is much more secure.
- Mat needs to be fitted to the deck properly.
- Important to consider design features, including thickness, flexibility, porosity, and surface texture for ease of cleaning and comfort.

## Post #2 Banger Bars

**Have you ever used a "banger bar" in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery?**

60 fishermen responded, 37 said YES

**If yes, did you like using it? Did you feel it improved crew safety?**

43 fishermen commented.  
26 believed they helped dump pots.  
17 thought they improved safety

### Fishermen Comments:

- Makes the dumping of pot fast and effective.
- Easier on the back when flipping pots over.
- Prevents pot from getting away.
- Make bar removable for stacking gear.
- Less manhandling the pot, which helps with fatigue.
- Fisherman slipping is less likely while flipping pot.
- Protects the baiter when he is measuring crab.
- Banger bars must be customized to each boat's pot sizes and dumb box
- Fishermen should not put their hands on the banger bar to avoid smashed fingers.

## Post #3 Safety Chains

**Have you worked on a commercial fishing vessel that used a safety chain to secure the block to the vessel?**

6 fishermen responded, 4 said YES.

**Tell us more about the way the crab block was secured to the vessel.**

6 fishermen commented.

### Fishermen Comments:

- Couple of chain links secured by shackles to add a second connection between crab block and davit.
- Two connection points is much better at minimizing the swing and movement of the block due to swell action and pulling on gear.
- *"Less random movement of the block means a safer working environment for crew that is working in close proximity to the block."*



For more information and resources for commercial fishing safety, visit:

**FLIPPresources.org**



Oregon State University  
College of Public Health  
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