In 2015, we held focus groups with fishermen to help design our survey. 426 fishermen, including 365 crabbers, filled out our survey. Results for crabbing related injuries in the 2014-2015 season are shown here.

Injury was defined as required first aid at the time of or after the injury, or caused time away from fishing or required you to change how you work. Limiting injuries require you to take time off work or require you to change how you work. These definitions are different than that used by the United States Coast Guard.

FLIPP is an innovative project that includes commercial fishermen, researchers, extension agents, and coastal community members. The goal of FLIPP is to understand non-fatal injuries in the Dungeness crab fishery and to test ideas to reduce or prevent these injuries. This poster shares the results of our survey on crabbing-related injuries and fishermen’s insights on safety.

**Type of Injury**

Of 36 limiting injuries

- **Sprains / Strains**: 13
- **Fractures**: 6
- **Surface Wound / Bruises**: 3
- **Tears**: 3
- **Multiple Body Parts**: 1
- **Unknown**: 1
- **Head**: 3
- **Neck**: 4
- **Hands / Arms / Shoulder**: 17
- **Trunk**: 6
- **Legs / Feet**: 4

**Body Part Injured**

Treatment ranged from “walked it off” to aeromedical evacuation.

**Work Task when Injured**

Of 36 limiting injuries

- **Prepping Fishing Gear**: 4
- **Handling Gear on Deck**: 9
- **Emptying Crab Pots**: 4
- **Setting Gear**: 2
- **Hauling Gear**: 7
- **Other Tasks / Unknown**: 10
- **On Land or at Sea**: 4

**We asked fishermen:**

“What are two things you think are most important for staying safe while commercial fishing?”

**Good Captain and Crew**

- “Communication with crew”
- “Experienced crew”
- “Trust the guys you work with”

**Best Marine Practices**

- “Don’t fish in bad weather”
- “Well Maintained Boat & Gear”
- “Good communication”
- “Gear in good condition”
- “Clean, orderly work area and deck”

**Experience**

- “Knowing the equipment”
- “Know what you are doing”

**Taking Care of Yourself**

- “Eat well”
- “Stay warm”
- “Staying healthy”

**Weather & Sea Conditions**

- “Slippery”
- “Challenging environment”
- “Huge wave”

**Unsafe Vessel or Gear**

- “Misuse of vessel”
- “Misuse of equipment”
- “Poor maintenance and design of vessel”

**Being Unsafe**

- “Unsafe actions”
- “Uneccessary risk”

**Poor Physical Shape**

- “Being in lazy physical shape”
- “Working when not 100%: this increases your risk”

**Not Paying Attention**

- “People not being alert”
- “Lack of focus”

**Inexperience**

- “Lack of knowledge”
- “New guys not knowing where to stand”

**Not Training**

- “Lack of practice or drills”

**Not Working Well**

- “Don’t work well with others”
- “Misunderstanding of other crew members”
- “Wrong place wrong time”

**Friction**

- “Trouble with other crew members”
- “Lack of respect”

**Other**

- “Wrong job, wrong person”
- “Lack of practice or drills”

We solicited fishermen’s ideas to reduce injuries and the next phase of the project will be to test these ideas.

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