

FLIPP Fisherman Led Injury Prevention Program

Oregon Sea Grant and OSU College of Public Health and Human Sciences are working with fishing communities in Oregon, Washington, and California to understand and prevent non fatal injuries in the Dungeness Crab Fishery. We have 8 community researchers located in fishing communities that will be working directly with the fleet to understand and prevent non fatal injuries.

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FLIPP Fisherman Led Injury Prevention Program

FLIPP is an innovative project that includes commercial fishermen, researchers, extension agents, and coastal community members directly involved in the design of the project, collecting data, and in testing injury prevention strategies. The project is lead by the OSU College of Public Health and Human Sciences and Oregon Sea Grant, a partnership that merges occupational safety research with experience in working directly with the commercial fishing industry.

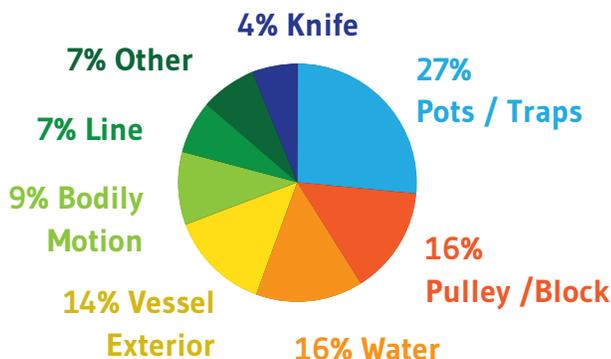
The Dungeness Crab Fishery

The Dungeness crab fishery takes place off the coasts of California, Oregon and Washington and is the West Coast's most valuable commercial fishery. In 2013 there were 61,000 lbs of crab landed on the West Coast with a value of over \$173,800. Approximately 3,200 fishermen work in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery. While studies on fatalities in the Dungeness Crab fishery reveal it to be one of the deadliest fisheries in the United States, there has not been research on non-fatal injuries. Understanding these injuries would allow for better training, interventions, and for fishermen to reduce the number of days that they are unable to work due to injury.

Reported Non Fatal Injuries

The existing information on non fatal injuries in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery is limited to those injuries reported to the Coast Guard. Injuries are reported to the Coast Guard typically when at-sea assistance is needed, thus they represent a very limited picture of the overall non fatal injury story. Forty-five injuries were reported to the Coast Guard between 2002-2014. Most of these injuries occurred on-deck when fishermen were hauling the gear (47%). The most frequently reported injuries affected the upper extremities (48%) and fractures were the most common injury type (40%). Pots were the most common source of injury.

Sources of Injury



Understanding the Injury Story

FLIPP seeks to collect data directly from fishermen on injuries that are typically not reported (slips, trips, etc.). Understanding the overall injury picture will allow the industry to better develop interventions to prevent injuries from occurring. To collect this data, nine community researchers in key fishing ports along the West Coast have been contracted to work directly with fishermen. Community researchers include members of the fishing industry themselves, many are fishermen's wives. In the Fall of 2015, our community researchers will be conducting a survey in each of their communities to ask fishermen about non fatal injuries that have occurred to them while participating in the commercial Dungeness Crab fishery.

Nine key fishing ports along the West Coast where injury data is being collected. – La Push, WA • Astoria, OR • Newport, OR • Charleston, OR • Brookings, OR • Trinidad, CA • Fort Bragg, CA • Monterey Bay, CA • San Luis Obispo, CA

How Will This Information Be Used?

Results from the survey will be used to guide brainstorming sessions with the industry to think of ways to reduce non fatal injuries. These interventions are non mandatory and will be tested the following crab season only on vessels that wish to participate. The commercial fishing industry is incredibly innovative and with the right information, they will be able to prevent injuries themselves. This is why they call the project FLIPP – Fishermen Led Injury Prevention Program.

Questions?

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