

Utilizing Coast Guard Reports and Fishermen to Understand Non-fatal Injuries in the Dungeness Crab Fleet

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PRESENTATION FORMAT: 15 minute oral presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Occupational Safety and Health

ABSTRACT:

Background and Objectives: The West Coast Dungeness crab fleet is considered a high-risk commercial fishery, given that fatalities have previously been studied. However, non-fatal injuries have not been studied. This project describes non-fatal injuries and the associated hazards.

Methods: Injury data were collected by manually reviewing the US Coast Guard (USCG) reports and analyzed by injury, fishermen and work task. Eight focus groups were conducted in major crab ports along the West Coast.

Results: We identified 45 non-fatal injury cases in the Dungeness crab fleet from 2002-2014 reported to the USCG. The majority of injuries occurred in Oregon (55%) and to deckhands (88%). The most common descriptors for injuries included for vessel activity: fishing (54%), nature: fracture (39%), body part: upper extremities (49%), event: contact with object (58%), and work task: hauling the gear (41%). These data were presented to crab fishermen in our 8 focus groups. Qualitative results provided insight on the development of a survey to collect primary data that will be used in the next crab season.

Conclusions: Using Coast Guard reports provides accurate surveillance of fatalities but limited information on fishing hazards related to non-fatal injury. Learning more from fishermen can help develop injury prevention strategies.

OBJECTIVE(S): Discuss the utility of US Coast Guard data for informing commercial fishing injury and illness prevention efforts.

Discuss using community engagement to involve commercial fishermen in injury prevention.
Describe injury characteristics among the Dungeness crab fleet.

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