

**FY 15 Annual Report****Section I: TPG Summary and Public Health Relevance****TPG Summary:**

This TPG project was designed to address the high fatality rate in commercial fishing by training a national network of fishing safety instructors in a Marine Safety Instructor-Training (MSIT) course. These instructors are home based in fishing ports around the US. These instructors then deliver Emergency Drill Conductor (EDC), Stability and other required or soon-to-be-required safety courses to fishermen around the US.

The objectives and accomplishments in this fourth year of funding follow:

1. Objective: Train 1,000 EDCs on 80 workshops.

*Accomplishments: In this year, 1,267 EDCs were trained in 128 workshops, which exceeded our objectives for the year.*

2. Objective: Train 600 fishermen in 50 specialized safety workshops

*Accomplishments: 849 fishermen were trained in 54 specialized safety workshops, which also both exceeded our objectives for the year.*

3. Objective: Train 750 fishermen in EDC refresher training and 25 MSITs in refresher workshops.

*Accomplishments: 207 fishermen were trained in EDC refresher workshops and 11 were trained in MSIT refresher workshops which were below our objective for the year. This was due to the continuing lack of a Coast Guard rulemaking on refresher training, so it was not required in 2015. Safety training requirements will be a main mover in reaching these objectives.*

4. Objective: Train 100 fishermen in new certificate of competency workshops and conduct an independent evaluation of the safety training program in this project. .

*Accomplishments: since there are still no new safety training requirements in a certificate of competency, there were only 17 fishermen trained in the stability section of this certification. However much progress was made in developing training objectives for this competency certificate. An independent evaluation of the training program in this project was designed and conducted this year by an education specialist familiar with commercial fishing safety training. The study is being completed and an Executive Summary concluded which will be referenced in this report.*

5. Objective: Training Program Evaluation.

*Accomplishments: Evaluation of the training program continues with documented student feedback, co-instructing with experienced instructors, and refreshers training opportunities. Also, in this project year, an independent education specialist who is*

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*familiar with fishing vessel safety training conducted an external independent evaluation. Since the Marine Safety Instructor Training (MSIT) workshop is the core of this TPG, and is the instrument that trains instructors to deliver safety workshops to fishermen, this independent evaluation focused on the effectiveness of the AMSEA train the trainer program. The Executive Summary of the external evaluation asked two main questions: are MSIT graduates able to practice and apply the teaching skills learned in the MSIT course? Does the content of the train the trainer (pedagogy) portion of the course meet the standards of effective instruction? The results of this study are being finalized at this writing, but some preliminary results are included under the high impact outcomes under Section II*

**Public Health Relevance:**

Although commercial fishing fatalities have decreased in the last ten years, commercial fishing is still ranked as having one of the highest fatality rates. Since 1991, safety training for commercial fishermen has been required on many types of fishing vessels. This training is specific to the use of survival and safety equipment found on fishing vessels that is used in an emergency at sea such as immersion suits, liferafts, emergency beacons, radios, fire extinguishers etc. The training also includes how to conduct an effective safety drill. The required drill is required to be conducted monthly. Several studies between 1995 to 2015 have demonstrated the positive relationship between taking the safety training in this project and surviving an emergency at sea.

Fishermen speak many languages due to their background such as Spanish, Vietnamese, Portugese, Yupik etc. and they prefer to learn by “doing” and practicing practical exercises. The training in this project includes “hands-on” training fighting fires, using liferafts and immersions suits and many other practical exercises.

Access to this training is difficult in many places in the nation, due to a lack of port based instructors and schools that target commercial fishermen. This project builds safety training infrastructure for fishermen in Alaska and nationwide, so fishermen have access to training in topics that directly lead to loss of life in an emergency at sea.

**Key Personnel:**

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**TPG web link:**      [www.amsea.org](http://www.amsea.org)

**Program Highlights:**

1. Preliminary NIOSH study results that examined commercial fishing losses from capsizing and sinking disasters (the most common causes of fatalities) and who had recent AMSEA training (5 years ago or less) had a statistically significantly better survival probability than workers without recent AMSEA training. This finding provides evidence of the efficacy of training supported in this project, and also of the need for periodic refresher training.

2. This year, an outside independent study found that 95% of active Marine Safety Instructors trained under this project, reported that they had changed their safety practices on the water after taking instructor training. When this same group was asked “Do you know of any instances where your students have been involved in a situation and their training has helped to prevent a casualty?”, 81% responded yes and provided examples. Respondents represented marine safety instructors trained under this project who reside in all areas of the nation: Northeast, Southeast, Gulf Coast, Northwest, California, Alaska and Pacific Islands.

3. Since this fishing safety training program started under NIOSH in the 1990’s, and through 2014, fishing fatalities in Alaska have dropped by 74%, and have decreased in other regions of the nation.

4. In the past project year concluded on June 30, 2015, 18 fishermen who were trained in this project by AMSEA instructors reported surviving a casualty at sea. These 18 people also helped another 13 crewmembers respond successfully to an emergency such as a fire, capsizing, sinking or grounding. No AMSEA fatalities were reported in this project year.

5. In this past project year, this training project provided training in every Coast Guard district in the nation. This included the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, the Southeast, Gulf of Mexico, entire West Coast, all coastal areas in Alaska and Hawaii and American Samoa. A total of 187 safety classes of one to seven days in length were held in US coastal fishing ports in this year. These workshops were the only fishing safety courses available to fishermen in their region which were available to help fishermen access required and desired training.

6. Impact story #1 of AMSEA trained survivor:

The F/V Alaskan Catch, a 35 foot fishing vessel in the Aleutians hit a submerged rock in stormy and started taking on water rapidly. The crew contacted the Coast Guard And a helicopter crew arrived on scene and the crew was rescued. After the rescue the helicopter pilot said, “They did a great job. Those guys saved themselves really. “they” called for help early. They put on their survival gear. They didn’t get off their

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vessel. They stayed warm. They stayed dry. They never got in the water (or) tried to climb up a cliff or something like that." *KCUB news, August 5, 2015.*

7. Impact story # 2 of AMSEA trained survivor:

The F/V Kupreanof with 4 crew sank in the Gulf of Alaska at 5:30am. The crew radioed a distress message and the rescuers arrived just as the vessel sank taking the liferaft with it. The pilot said "The hoist was completed just in time and was otherwise a flawless rescue." The vessel's captain later told the Coast Guard that the crew has practiced putting on their survival suits, tested emergency equipment, reviewed lifeboat procedures and gone through safety drills. The pilot told the paper, "That gave them a fighting chance for survival." *Sitka Sentinel, 6/10/2015.*

8. Impact story # 3 of AMSEA trained survivor:

The F/V E- sank in SE Alaska during foul weather and stormy seas after grounding and breaking up on the rocks. The crew radioed for help and launched and boarded the liferaft and activated their emergency radio. Surrounded by breaking seas and very hypothermic from the cold winter Alaska water, they were rescued by a local search and rescue team. The AMSEA trained crewmember and survivor who was interviewed later stated, "Taking the Drills class beforehand was incredibly helpful (to surviving)". *AMSEA interview 1/15/2015.*

9. Impact story # 4 of AMSEA trained survivor:

The F/V B- sank off the coast of Oregon and taking on water and listing at 45 degrees. The crew radioed for help calmly and gave the Coast Guard all the information they needed. The crew efficiently donned their immersion suits and boarded the liferaft and were picked up by the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard rescuers said the crew "raved about how well the Emergency Drill Conductor training prepared them for the emergency". *Interview by Coast Guard staff 12/1/2015.*

10. Impact story # 5 of AMSEA trained survivor:

A commercial tuna fishing vessel off the California coast was fishing when his crewmember fell off the vessel. The captain had taken an AMSEA Drill Conductor class and shouted "man overboard, starboard side" and never took his eyes off the crewmember in the water. They were able to rescue the victim with a sling they had prepared and did everything properly. The trained crewmember later proudly told the AMSEA Instructor who had earlier taught the Drill Conductor course to him, "We did everything we were supposed to do and it saved him. It was a textbook rescue". *Interview by instructor relayed to AMSEA staff on 9/11/2014*