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Title: International Commercial Fishing Management Regime Safety Study: Synthesis Case Reports

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Background

Studies from many countries have suggested that fisheries management may affect fishing safety. However, there has been relatively little systematic analysis of *how* fisheries management affects safety or the extent to which changes in management can make fishing safer or less safe.

Methods

To better understand the relationship between fisheries management and fishing safety, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United States National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) are cooperating in an international effort to document the relationship between fisheries management and fishing safety to provide practical guidelines for fisheries managers and safety professionals. International case studies were collected and reviewed for evidence to four hypotheses of how fisheries management policies could affect safety.

Results

Each case study provided evidence supporting at least one of the hypotheses. The review of the case studies resulted in a Synthesis Report with the following purposes: (1) to suggest a conceptual framework, terminology and hypotheses about the relationship between fisheries management and fishing safety; (2) to review the evidence provided by the international case studies with respect to these hypotheses; (3) to review other evidence in the published literature supporting these hypotheses; (4) to develop preliminary recommendations for fisheries managers and safety professionals about how they can help make commercial fishing safer; and (5) to suggest important areas for future research.

Conclusions

Fishery management is a complex challenge. Managers must attempt to balance multiple objectives, under significant uncertainty, with limited resources. We recommend that managers take practical steps and acknowledge the relationships we have outlined in this document and then take steps which may help to save lives and reduce injuries to fishermen.