
Introduction

Panel 3

No discussion of improving safety in the commercial fishing industry is complete without including the fishermen themselves. Safety measures can only be successful if fishermen understand the risks and how to best manage those risks.

This is why our last panel of the day is a regional representation of fishermen from organizations representing many fishermen.

This purpose of this panel is to hear the fishermen's view on the previous panels. We would like you to answer these two basic questions based upon today's panel discussions.

1. What is the ideal state of safety within the industry; and
2. What are the impediments to achieving that state?

Now I will introduce our panel members.

Fred Mattera. Mr. Mattera is a commercial fisherman, a vessel owner, a safety trainer, a member of the CFIVSAC, and a frequent contributor to articles on safety. Today he is representing the Point Club from Point Judith Rhode Island.

Elliot Thomas. Mr. Thomas is a commercial fisherman and Chairman of the Maine Commercial Fishing Safety Council.

Mark Vinsel. Mr. Vinsel represents the United Fishermen of Alaska. UFA is an umbrella organization that represents 38 other fishing organizations.

Tim Vincent. Mr. Vincent is a commercial fisherman, a marine surveyor who was involved in the ACSA Program, and he serves as President of the Board of the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners' Association.

Mickey Johnson. Mr. Johnson has fished commercially in the Gulf of Mexico and currently manages a small gulf coast shipyard. Today he is representing the Southern Shrimp Alliance.