

Review of: "Mental health in fishing communities: An overview of current knowledge and information gaps for fisheries"

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This paper, by Beaven Utete, looks at mental health in fishing communities by way of a scoping review of the available literature. The study finds a skewed literature dominated by research doing in North America, Europe, Australia, Latin America and Africa. The author also commented on the focus on physical rather than mental health concerns. The author concludes that mental health resilience is required for the recovery and sustainability of the fishing industry and that mental health metrics specific to the fishing industry should be developed and researched.

The abstract is a clear and succinct summary of the research methods, findings and conclusion. The abstract is based soundly on the body text and is an accurate reflection of the paper.

I found the introduction both informative and comprehensive. The introduction provides an adequate overview of the available literature providing both the background to and justification for the study. The study methodology and search terms are adequately explained and justified. Included in this is the document selection and data analysis section. The hotspot mapping is an innovative approach to examine the relative contribution of the various papers and adds value to the findings.

The results section comments on the geographical distribution and date of publication of the research. The results are also clearly displayed in figures 1 - 3.

The discussion section provides a detailed discussion of the findings based on geographical setting. Each sub section reviews the contribution of the region to the literature under review and highlights the pertinent findings. The discussion section goes on to review the drivers and challenges of global disparity in the mental health literature regarding the fishing industry.

The conclusion succinctly summarizes the findings and makes some recommendations, based on the research finding, regarding further research and policy development.

I recommend this paper for clinicians, researchers and policy makers involved in the artisanal labor market, especially the fishing industry.

