

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

Christopher Annear<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

*Recommendation: to publish with minor revisions, including some content additions and/but at least acknowledgements for future research.*

This is a welcome and well-executed review of current published research on the topic of mental health in fishing communities globally. It focuses on the availability of knowledge about the presence and which mental health challenges fishers experience. This is an understudied topic and therefore this manuscript would make a contribution by recognizing both the existence of occupation-specific mental health difficulties, but also the paucity of research, analysis, and reporting on it. It should be published, but with the following recommendations.

This article will be improved by greater attention ideally in content, but at least in acknowledgement to scalar differences in fishing practice and therefore the lives of fishers. This should include connecting mental health disorders to specific characteristics typical, for example, of small-scale, artisanal communities, along with gendered divisions of labor, and cross-cultural distinctions of otherwise like communities of practice. The discussion of large-scale commercial mental health is much better documented both in the literature and this manuscript. I strongly suggest the inclusion of ethnographic data and description of how individuals and groups experience mental health challenges.