



Lifeboats

RNLI/Seafish Lifejacket Trials 2005 – 2006
Final report July 2007

RNLI/Seafish lifejacket trials 2005–06

Final report

Autumn 2007

SEAFISH



Foreword

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and Seafish undertook a trial beginning in 2005 to assess the views of fishermen with regard to the suitability of lifejackets and buoyancy aids for the commercial fishing fleet (hereafter referred to as the 'lifejacket trial').

The beginning of the process involved the testing of a number of lifejackets and buoyancy aids at the Fleetwood Offshore Survival Centre in Fleetwood (hereafter referred to as Fleetwood Tank). This formed the basis of the original report submitted by Seafish *Lifejacket and buoyancy aid acceptability trials – a co-project between Seafish and RNLI March 2005*. The next step involved the Fishing Safety team at the RNLI taking a number of lifejackets and buoyancy aids into the fleet and asking fishermen to wear them and record their thoughts on a number of different factors over a period of time. The fishing safety team recorded the thoughts of these fishermen on data sheets, which were returned to the RNLI Research team for collation and analysis.

This report presents the findings of this recording exercise, with a view to providing robust information for both fishermen and manufacturers to use in the future use and development of personal safety wear for commercial fishermen.

This report is not intended to provide an overall conclusion of the 'best' lifejacket or buoyancy aid for any fisherman to purchase. It is a guide to what is available and what may be a suitable starting point for any fisherman wanting to invest in such equipment.

Further information can be obtained from the RNLI Fishing Safety team.

Ginette Tessier
RNLI Market Research and Development Manager
2007

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Executive summary

This report brings together 2 years' of work by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), Seafish and commercial fishermen.

It has long been an objective of both Seafish and the RNLI to encourage fishermen to wear lifejackets. Previous studies have shown resistance to wearing lifejackets within the industry is strong for a number of reasons, not least the lack of knowledge about what is available and the gap between the perception and reality of wearing a lifejacket.

The RNLI was able, through the Fishing Safety team, to approach contacts (already built up within the commercial fishing sector) to participate in the trials. Seafish was able, through grant funding, to supply quantities of all the lifejackets readily available in the market.

The recording of data on predefined data sheets was conducted by the RNLI's fishing safety coordinators. The construction of the data sheets, analysis and reporting was conducted by the RNLI's Market Research and Development Manager.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the most expensive lifejacket was also the most popular choice by triallists. No quotas were set on the numbers of each lifejacket that had to be trialled as it was important to record what fishermen would choose if they had full knowledge of what was available and money was not a barrier.

In all, between the 124 individual participants, 10 lifejackets/buoyancy aids were chosen for further analysis, based on the number of fishermen choosing them originally (a minimum of five triallists was set as the cut-off mark). A further buoyancy aid was added to this list to provide two for comparison.

It became clear that different lifejackets suit different types of fishing. For potters, the overall highest performing lifejacket (based on comfort when working) was the Gael Force Hi-Line Pro (also previously manufactured as the International Hi-Line). For trawlermen, no single product stood out although many received some encouraging scores.

The problems of minor hazards and irritations are prevalent across almost all lifejackets. Those particularly mentioned included toggles as snagging hazards, horseshoe-style jackets rubbing necks, and potters especially finding some lifejackets insufficiently robust.

Most encouragingly, of those who found a lifejacket they liked enough to wear for more than a year, the attitude towards wearing a lifejacket changed significantly. Although not vast in terms of numbers, those who reached the second review and claimed to wear a lifejacket for all or most of the time increased by 900% (compared to all participants at the beginning of the trial).

A number of conclusions have been reached as an outcome of this trial and it is hoped that the findings can be used to help fishermen gain a broader knowledge of what is available and, by using the feedback of their peers, make an informed choice that will ultimately make them safer on the water.

1.0 Background

1.1 The RNLI Fishing Safety team is concerned with all aspects of promoting safety amongst the UK and ROI commercial fishing fleets. One of the key aspects of this work is promoting the use of lifejackets and other personal flotation aids.

1.2 In conjunction with Seafish, the RNLI undertook a project to test the suitability of lifejackets and buoyancy aids currently available to commercial fishermen.

1.3 There is a concern that the use of lifejackets and buoyancy aids by commercial fishermen is not as high as it could be, resulting in unnecessary loss of life. The RNLI's own research, conducted year on year by Prescient Ltd, shows that the number of fishermen who claim to never wear a lifejacket is currently 23%. A further 24% say they wear a lifejacket rarely or only in rough weather.

1.4 Only 35% of fishermen claim to wear a lifejacket all of the time (and it is suspected that there is an element of over-claim in these figures).

1.5 By contrast, 43% of fishermen claim to feel most at risk from a man overboard incident, while a further 19% feel most at risk from unexpected changes in weather; another 10% feel most at risk from sinking or capsizing. This is a total of 72% of commercial fishermen who feel at risk from situations where clearly a lifejacket or buoyancy aid could reduce either the risk or the perceived risk.

1.6 There is therefore a disparity between the factors making fishermen feel at risk and the potential reduction of that risk by the wearing of a lifejacket or buoyancy aid.

1.7 The research points to one overriding factor for the lack of use of lifejackets – 53% of respondents agreed with the statement: 'Lifejackets are impractical, they restrict freedom of movement.'

1.8 There is also anecdotal evidence to suggest that there are further specific concerns of fishermen about the suitability of lifejackets, depending on the type of fishing conducted.

1.9 It was agreed that the best way to understand the suitability of current lifejackets and buoyancy aids, and the concerns of fishermen, was to ask them to test a variety of different lifejackets and buoyancy aids.

1.10 Clearly, fishermen could not be expected to pay for the products they tested so, with funding secured by Seafish, examples of each lifejacket and buoyancy aid on the market were supplied to the fishing safety coordinators, who in turn recruited participants into the trial.

1.11 The fishing safety coordinators had already built up a network of contacts from the work undertaken by the team in previous years. They were therefore the natural choice for reaching commercial fishermen in the trial.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Recruitment

The fishing safety coordinators had previously spoken to a number of contacts within the commercial fishing fleets in Scotland and the south west of England (hereafter referred to as South West) about the trial. When the product examples were received, both coordinators took the entire stock to each fishing port and asked potential trial participants to pick a lifejacket or buoyancy aid they would like to test.

The required numbers of each product were then supplied by Seafish and the participants were recorded on the data sheets devised.

2.2 Data collection

It was clear that each product needed to be tested by a number of different fishermen over a relatively long period of time, looking at various aspects of the product that would impact the suitability for use.

The various aspects that were deemed to be important initially were:

- product name and type
- price (approximate)
- type of fishing undertaken
- number and duration of average trips in a month
- use of lifejackets prior to the trial
- reason for choosing the product initially.

Following the initial selection made, each coordinator also needed to return to each participant after a period of time to record the following:

- length of time since product received
- when product was worn (frequency and situation)
- comfort when working (to reflect any restrictions in movement)
- comfort when wearing (to ensure lifejackets were tested at times when not working)
- durability
- minor irritations or hazards
- major irritations or hazards
- whether or not the fisherman was happy to continue with that product.

Additionally, there was a requirement to record any particular comments either the fisherman or the coordinator wished to make. Depending on time and practicality there were further options to record responses to the same set of questions a second and third time.

A copy of the data sheet template is in Appendix A.

2.3 Analysis

Once received, the data sheets were input into an Excel spreadsheet for cross-comparison by product and type of fishing.

Average figures have been used where appropriate and high/low readings have also been noted to enable examination of the range.

Comments made have been aggregated where appropriate but are always attributed to a specific position onboard and type of fishing.

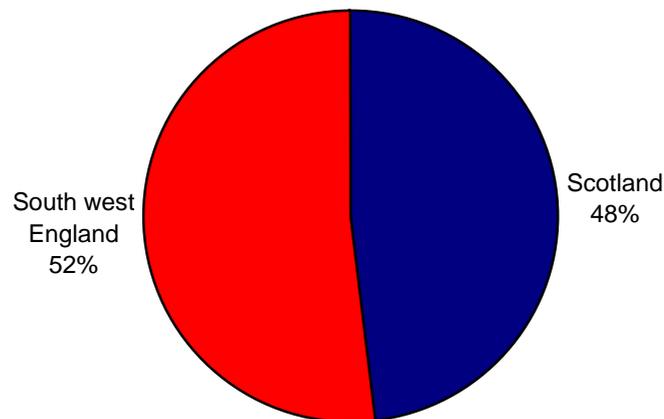
3.0 Findings: Part one – overall results

3.1 Participants

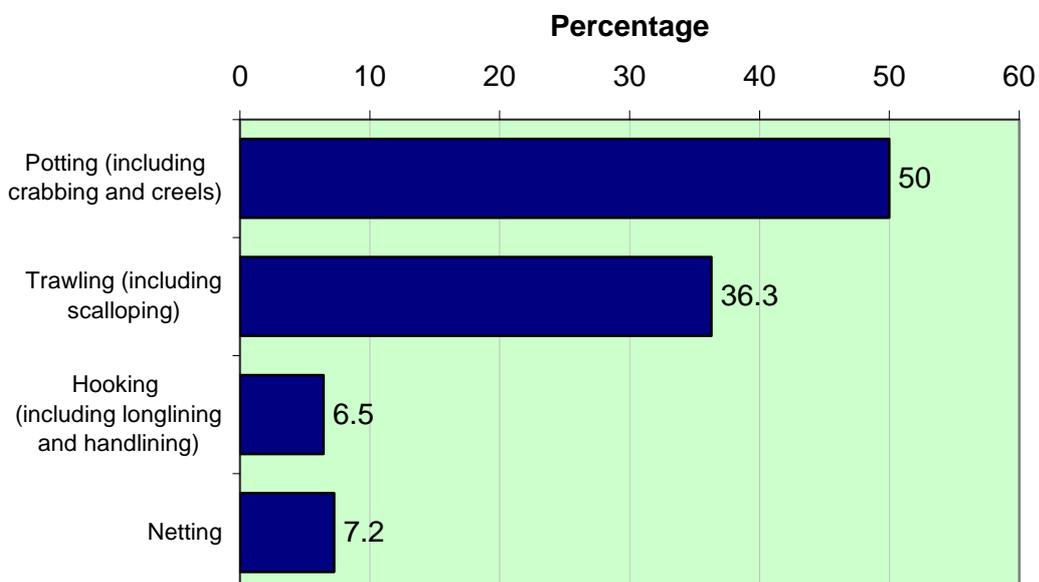
- In total, 124 fishermen took part in the lifejacket trial over a period of 18 months, from Summer 2005 to Winter 2006.
- A total of 26 lifejackets and buoyancy aids have been tested to varying degrees. These were determined by the choices made by fishermen when first presented with the original stock of 33 examples.
- Where five or more fishermen have completed testing for a particular product, the data for this product have been analysed in detail.
- Any products that have not been tested by five or more fishermen have been analysed on the basic trial data available and have not been looked at in depth.
- The data have also been analysed by fishing type rather than by product in order to present a set of findings for individual fisherman.

3.2 Classification

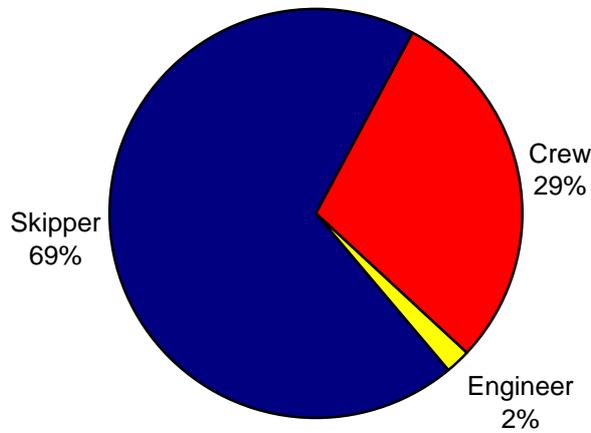
3.2.1 Location – Figure 1



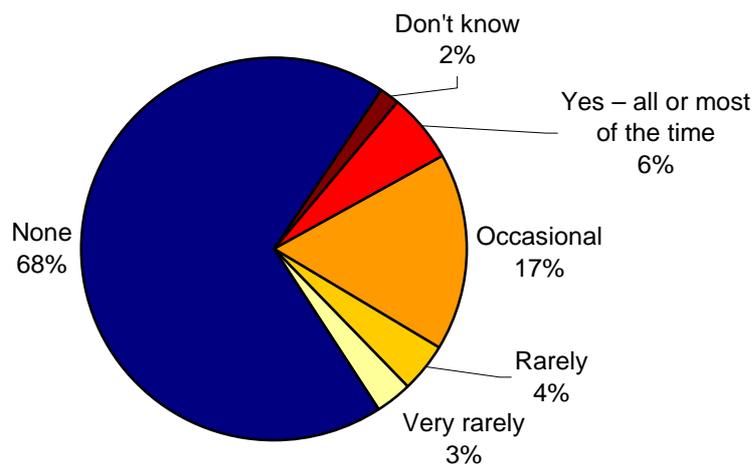
3.2.2 Type of fishing – Figure 2



3.2.3 Position onboard – Figure 3



3.2.4 Use of lifejackets (whilst fishing) prior to trial – Figure 4



3.2.5 Initial choice made

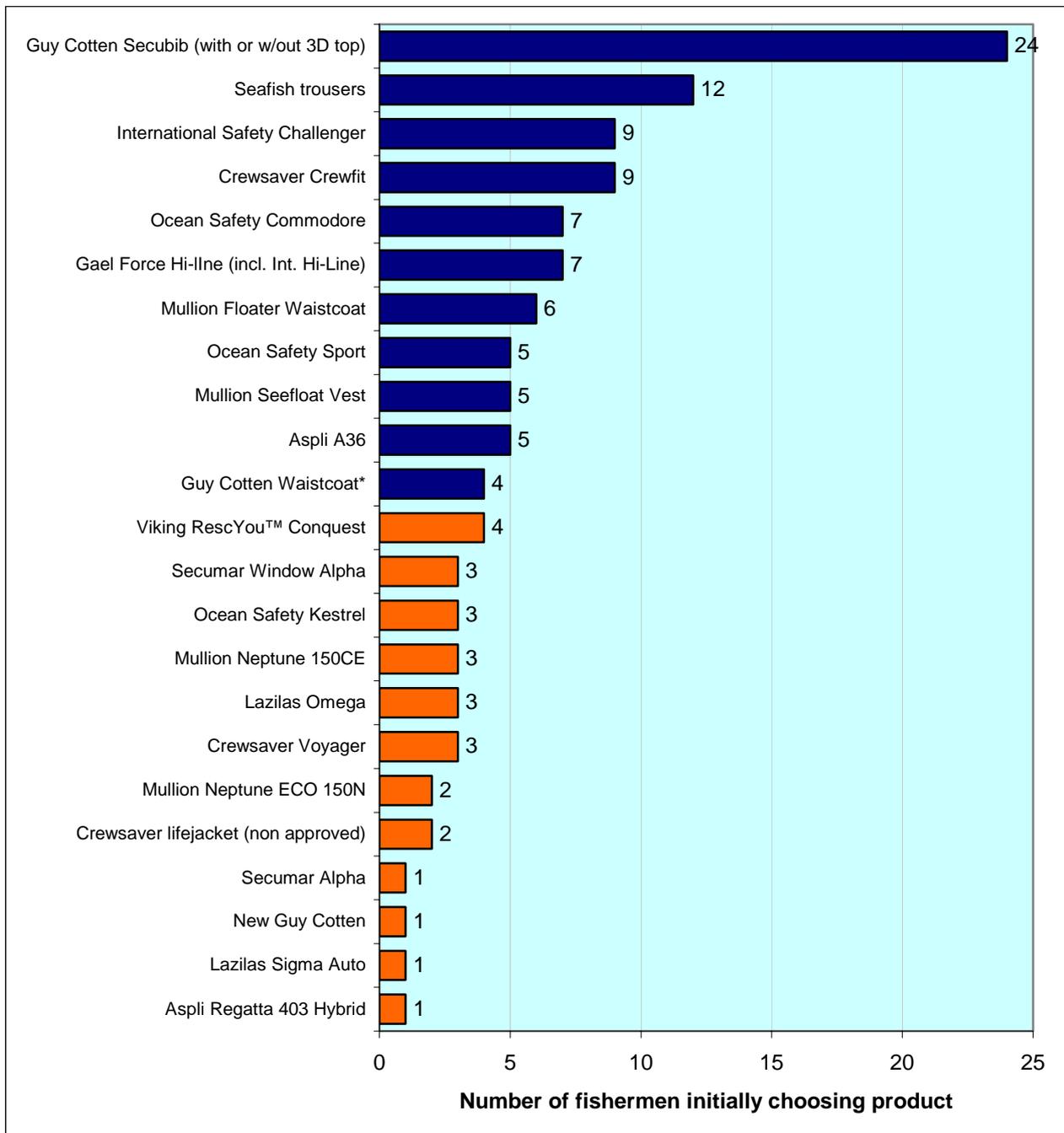
Figure 5 shows the initial choices made by fishermen. The blue columns indicate those products that had enough fishermen choosing them to qualify for in-depth analysis. The Guy Cotten Waistcoat, although not part of this group, was included in order to provide a comparison with the scores received for the Mullion Floater Waistcoat.

In addition, the non-approved Crewsaver product was not chosen but two fishermen were specifically asked to try it.

It can be seen that 10 products (11 including the Guy Cotten Waistcoat) qualified for further analysis and the results are shown in 4.0 Findings: Part two.

Clearly, the Guy Cotten Secubib (Bib and Brace) was the most popular initial choice and it was also at the higher end of the price range. However, all results from the most popular 10 have been looked at in isolation and in comparison, using average responses where appropriate.

Figure 5: Chart showing the initial choice made by fishermen participating in the trial – blue bars indicate those products chosen by enough fishermen to provide in-depth analysis of results



*Guy Cotten Waistcoat included to provide a direct comparison with the Mullion Floater Waistcoat

4.0 Findings: Part two – individual lifejacket and buoyancy aid results (most popular)

4.1 Overall findings for the most popular choices

Each of the products was originally referred to by a 'sheet number' (see numbers in parentheses below). This is the number assigned to the product from the original testing and reporting phase (see Seafish report). The most popular choices have been looked at in the order in which they were listed in this report:

- (10) Crewsaver Crewfit
- (15) International Safety Challenger
- (19) Aspli A36
- (23) Ocean Safety Commodore
- (24) Ocean Safety Sport
- (26) Gael Force Zip
- (30) Guy Cotten Waistcoat
- (31) Mullion Floater Waistcoat
- (37) Mullion Seafloat Vest
- (45) Seafish trousers
- (46) Guy Cotten Secubib (with or without 3D top)

Of the original 124 fishermen who took part in the lifejacket trial, 89 fishermen looked at the most popular choices, which represents 72% of the total trial participants. From the results, as can be seen below, they mainly mirror the entire sample in classification data (referred to in section 3.2 of this report).

4.1.1 Location: 60% of fishermen looking at the most popular choices came from the South West, which is slightly higher than the overall sample (52%).

4.1.2 Type of fishing: (Figures in parentheses are those of the whole sample)

Potting (including crabbing and creels):	49% (50%)
Trawling (including scalloping):	36% (36.3%)
Hooking (including longlining and handlining):	7% (6.5%)
Netting:	8% (7.3%)

4.1.3 Position onboard: 74% of fishermen choosing one of the most popular lifejackets were skippers, which is slightly higher than the overall sample (69%).

4.1.4 Use of lifejackets (whilst fishing) prior to the trial: (Figures in parentheses are those of the whole sample)

None:	67% (68%)
Very rarely/rarely:	8% (7%)
Occasional:	17% (17%)
Yes – all or most of the time:	6% (6%)
Don't know:	2% (2%)

4.2 Comparison of tester scores after first review

The following charts (Figures 6, 7 and 8) show a comparison of the three areas in which the lifejackets and buoyancy aids were scored by the testers – comfort when working, comfort when wearing, and durability.

It is important to note that these scores were taken after the first review and were not necessarily the same average length of time for each jacket, so the individual data sheets in section 4.3 should be examined for further information behind the results.

Figure 6

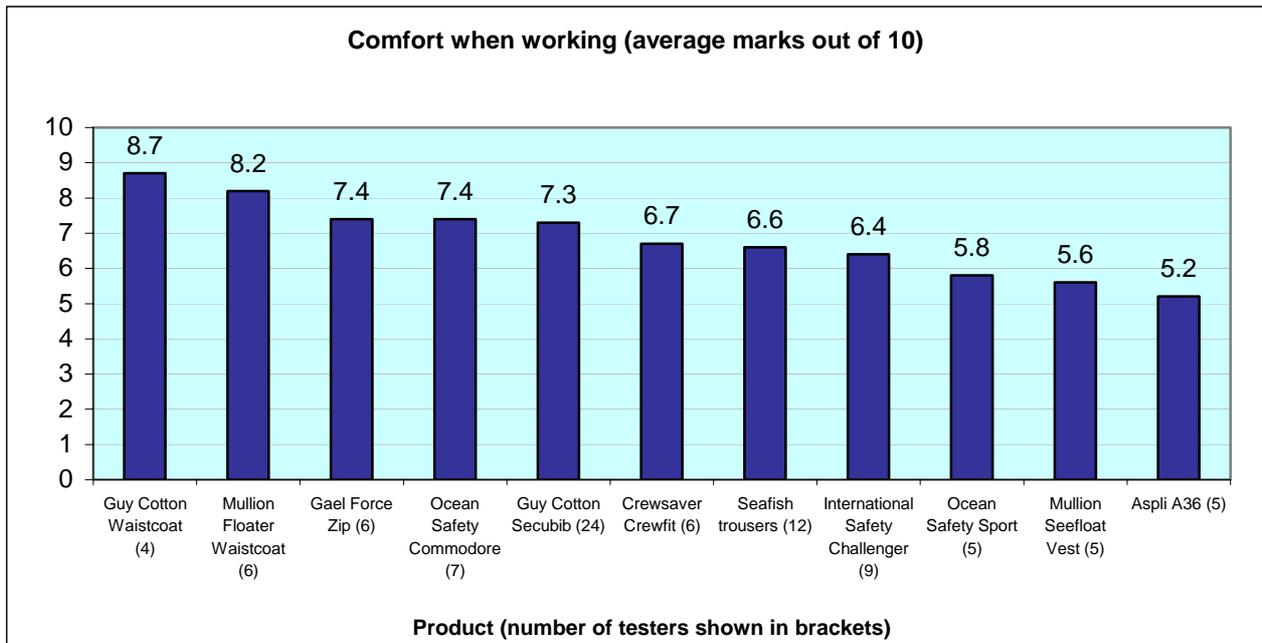


Figure 7

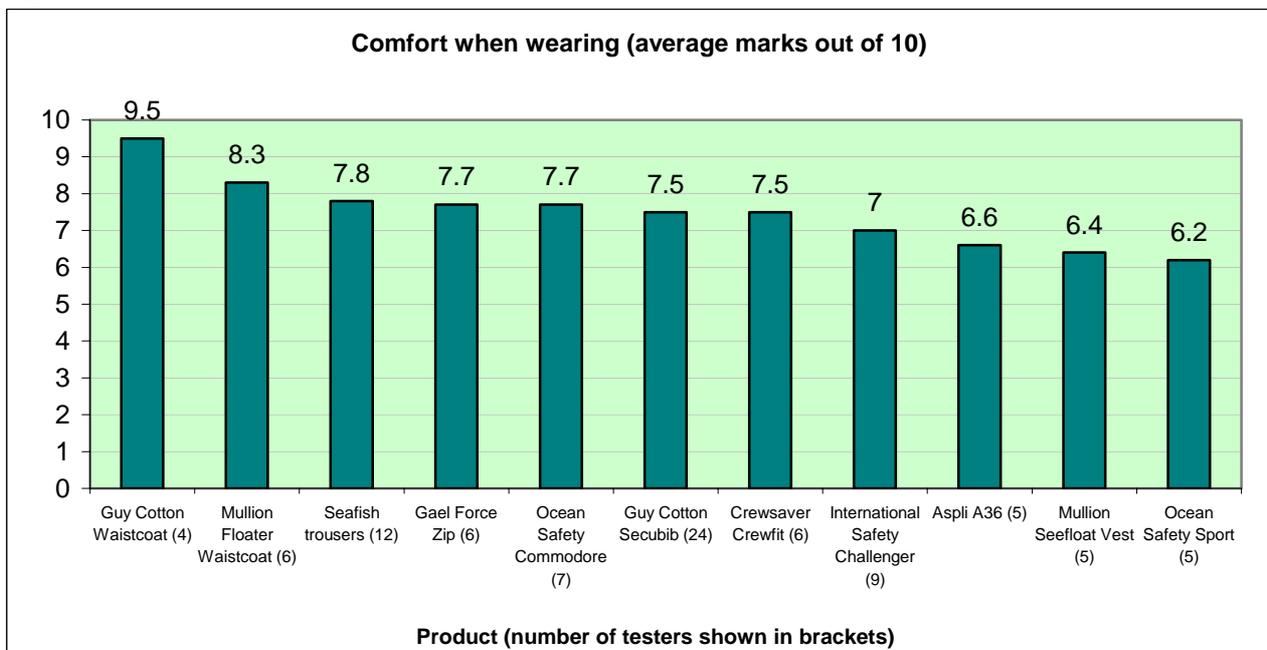
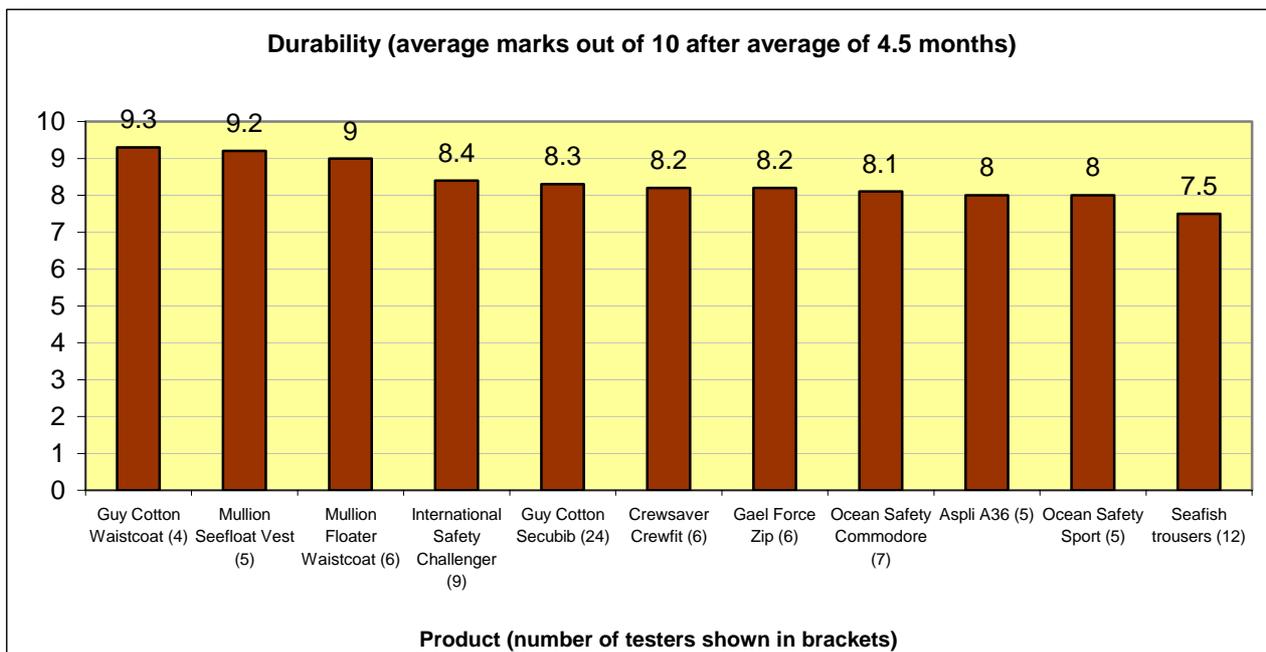


Figure 8



4.3 Individual results by product type

This section looks at the results for each of the most popular lifejackets and buoyancy aids in depth. Each product sheet is designed to be used individually as well as in conjunction with each other. The sheets are therefore labelled by product (and sheet number), rather than report section.

Within each product sheet the typical use is specified.

For example:

All (2)	Most (2)	Some (1)	Rarely	Never (1)
Hooking, crew; Trawling, crew, on deck	Potting, crew; Trawling, crew	Trawling, crew		Potting, skipper

Each 'Typical use' section contains information about when and where the lifejackets were worn. Each box indicates a different amount of time: All, Most, Some, Rarely, Never. For example, 'All' equates to 'All of the time'. Within each of these categories, each fisherman indicates their position onboard and could also indicate whether there were any additional caveats after the detail of fishing type. Three sections were allowed here: rough weather, at night, on deck. The number of fishermen within each category is indicated in parentheses after the description of length of time.

Product: Crewsaver Crewfit 150N auto (10)	Approx. price: £87
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<p>Chosen by: 6</p> <p>Fishing types: Trawling x3, potting x2, hooking x1</p> <p>Position onboard: Crew x5, skipper x1</p> <p>Location: South West x5, Scotland x1</p> <p>Trip frequency (average in a month): 17 High: 20 (potting, hooking) Low: 12 (trawling)</p> <p>Trip duration (average hours): 21 High: 48 (trawling) Low: 6 (hooking)</p> <p>Prior use of lifejackets/buoyancy aids: None x6</p>	 <p>Reasons for choosing this product:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‘Very slimline’ (trawling, potting) ‘Easy to wear’ (trawling x2) ‘Small and easy to wear’ (hooking)
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Previous findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

<p>Crewsaver Crewfit 150N auto Standard Single chamber lifejacket, 150N, which conforms to EN 396</p> <p>Product description: A halter-style lifejacket with a fold-down collar. The red or navy nylon fabric cover is fastened with Velcro. Toggles are fitted. The belt has a plastic push-lock buckle and a crutch strap is supplied with the lifejacket that requires the belt to be unthreaded to fit the crutch strap. The auto head is supplied sealed in a bag and has to be fitted by the user.</p> <p>Tank test: Both samples inflated properly and rapidly and supported the wearers well in the water. Both testers scored it 5 out of 5 for comfort.</p>
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Product: Crewsaver Crewfit 150N auto (10)	Approx. price: £87
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Review 1

Completed by: 6

Time elapsed since receipt (average): 5 months

Typical use:

All (2)	Most (2)	Some (1)	Rarely	Never (1)
Hooking, crew; Trawling, crew, deck only	Potting, crew; Trawling, crew	Trawling, crew		Potting, skipper

Initial comments:

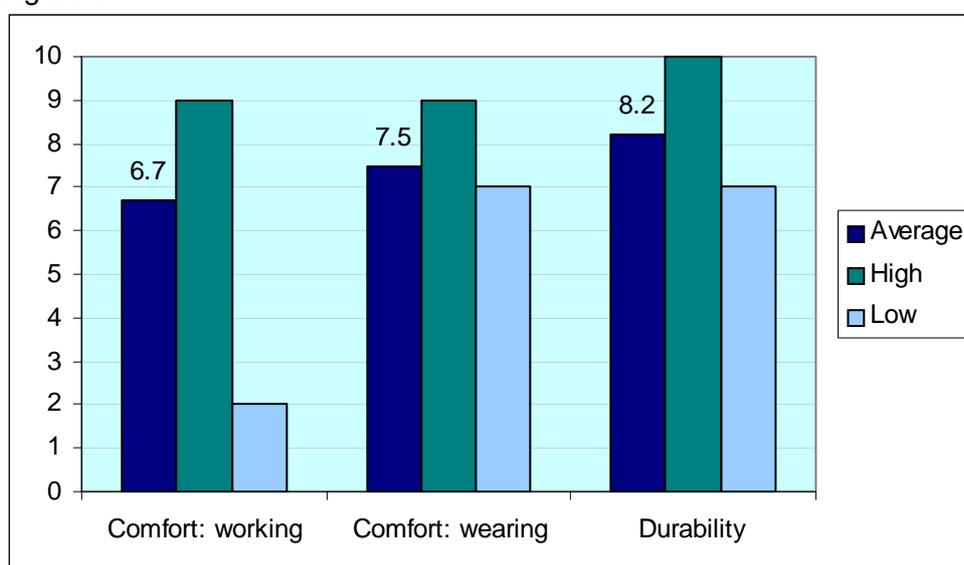
'Very comfy' (trawling, crew)

'Rubbed back of neck at start but ok now' (hooking, crew)

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is 'very bad/falling apart' and 10 is 'excellent/as new')

Figure 9



Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Toggles got in way, so cut them off (trawling, crew) Dirty (hooking, crew) Uncomfortable to wear in hot weather (trawling, crew)	Rubbed neck too much (potting, skipper)

Continue to wear?

Yes = 4; No = 2 (one because of jacket irritations, one because stopped fishing)

Additional comments:

'I've never worn one before and never go to sea without it now. As soon as I'm onboard, the lifejacket goes on. Very good.' (Hooking, crew)

Product: Crewsaver Crewfit 150N auto (10)	Approx. price: £87
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Review 2

Completed by: 2 (Please note: low number, so treat results as anecdotal)

Time elapsed since initial receipt (average): 16 months	Since previous review (average): 11 months
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Typical use:

All	Most (1)	Some (1)	Rarely	Never
	Trawling, crew	Hooking, crew, rough weather		

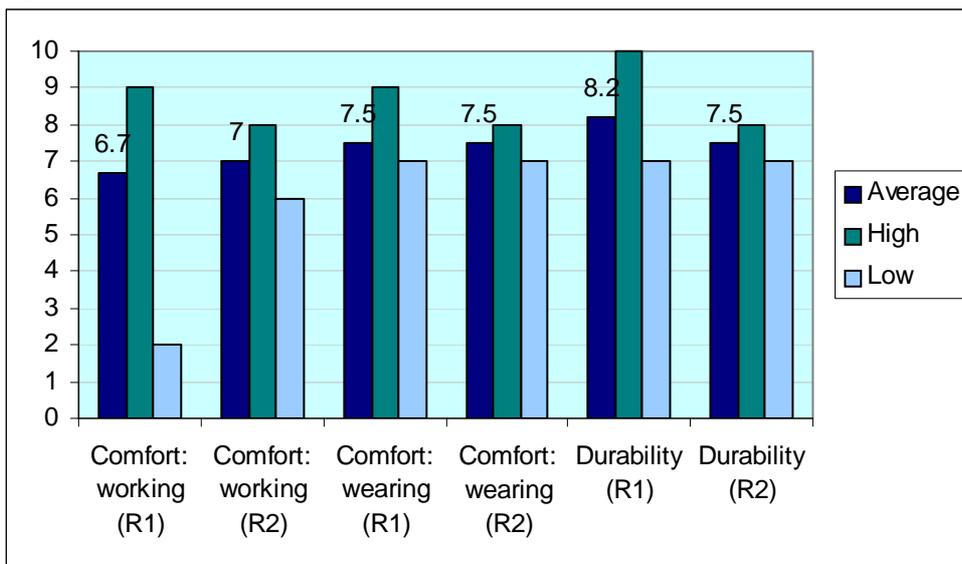
Comments:

‘Don’t wear it if the weather is fine, but still wearing in bad weather.’ (Hooking, crew)

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is ‘very bad/falling apart’ and 10 is ‘excellent/as new’)

Figure 10



Please note: Although the number of reviewers is low, notice how the comfort scores have remained static or slightly improved, while durability has decreased only slightly.

R1 = Review 1
R2 = Review 2

Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Only neck rub in the beginning – used to it now (hooking, crew)	(none)

Continue to wear?

Yes = 2

Additional comments:

‘Good jacket – very happy.’ (Trawling, crew)

‘Will likely be wearing more now that Winter here.’ (Hooking, crew)

Key points: Contrast between the hooking crew statements during the first and second reviews – first review wearing all the time and very happy, second review wearing during rough weather only. Why?

Product: International Safety Challenger (15)	Approx. price: £70
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<p>Chosen by: 9</p> <p>Fishing types: Potting x6, trawling x2, hooking x1</p> <p>Position onboard: Skipper x8, crew x1</p> <p>Location: Scotland x5, South West x4</p> <p>Trip frequency (average in a month): 19.2 High: 24 (potting) Low: 12 (trawling)</p> <p>Trip duration (average hours): 11 High: 30 (trawling) Low: 6 (hooking)</p> <p>Prior use of lifejackets/buoyancy aids: None x5, Occasional x3, Very rarely x1</p>	 <p>Reasons for choosing this product: 'Good material' (trawling, potting, hooking) 'Should be easy to wear' (potting) 'Felt OK to wear' (potting) 'Looks hard wearing' (potting) 'Looks nice and robust' (potting)</p>
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Previous findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

<p>International Safety Challenger 150N auto Single chamber lifejacket, 150N that conforms to EN 396</p> <p>Product description: A halter-style single chamber lifejacket with a rounded collar. The cover is orange PVC and is secured with Velcro. The belt has a stainless steel 'loop-in-loop' buckle and is fitted with the optional 'D' ring for attachment of a safety line. This lifejacket has interlocking lobes to combat water flushing into the wearer's face that can occur along the 'V' formed by the lobes on other lifejackets.</p> <p>Tank test: The lifejacket was a little slow to inflate but did so fully and supported the wearer well. Both testers scored it 5 out of 5 for comfort in the water although one tester found it tight around the neck (collar size 18).</p>
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Product: International Safety Challenger (15)	Approx. price: £70
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Review 1

Completed by: 9

Time elapsed since receipt (average): 3.7 months

Typical use:

All (2)	Most (1)	Some (4)	Rarely (1)	Never (1)
Potting, skipper Potting, skipper	Hooking, skipper	Trawling, skipper Trawling, skipper Potting, skipper Potting, crew	Potting, skipper	Potting, skipper

Initial comments:

'Taken off on passage in hot weather' (potting, skipper)

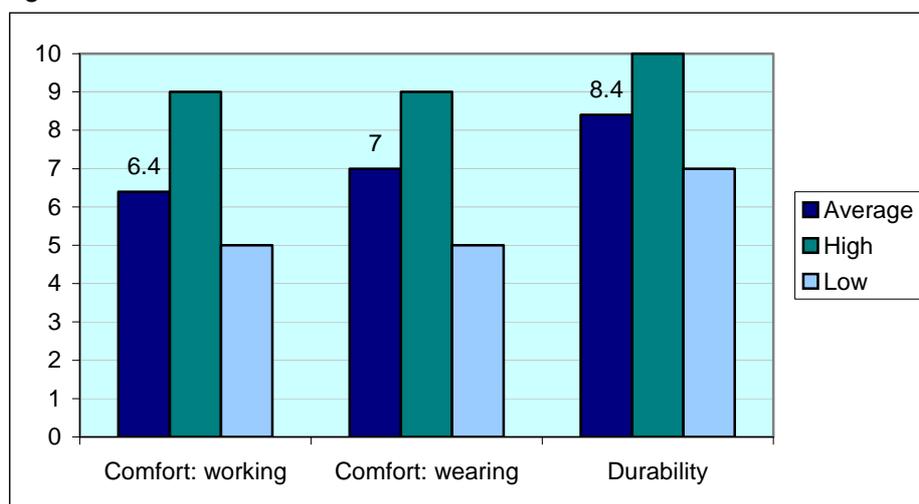
'Lightweight' (trawling, skipper)

'It's been too hot' (potting, skipper)

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is 'very bad/falling apart' and 10 is 'excellent/as new')

Figure 11



Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Velcro beginning to work loose, also have to tuck the toggle away as it would snag (potting, skipper) Toggle getting snagged (potting, skipper) Rubs on neck (potting, crew) Bottle digs into chest when leaning on handrail (potting, skipper) Too bulky in warm conditions (potting, skipper)	Rubbing neck (potting, skipper)

Continue to wear?

Yes = 7; No = 2 (one because no longer fishing, one because of major irritation of neck rub)

Additional comments:

'Apart from a hot day, you can wear it all the time – just wipe it down, it's as good as new.' (Potting, skipper)

'Not too bulky.' (Trawling, skipper)

Product: International Safety Challenger (15)	Approx. price: £70
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Review 2

Completed by: 5

Time elapsed since initial receipt (average): 11 months	Since previous review (average): 7.7 months
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Typical use:

All (1)	Most (1)	Some (1)	Rarely (1)	Never (1)
Potting, skipper	Potting, crew	Trawling, skipper	Potting, skipper	Potting, skipper

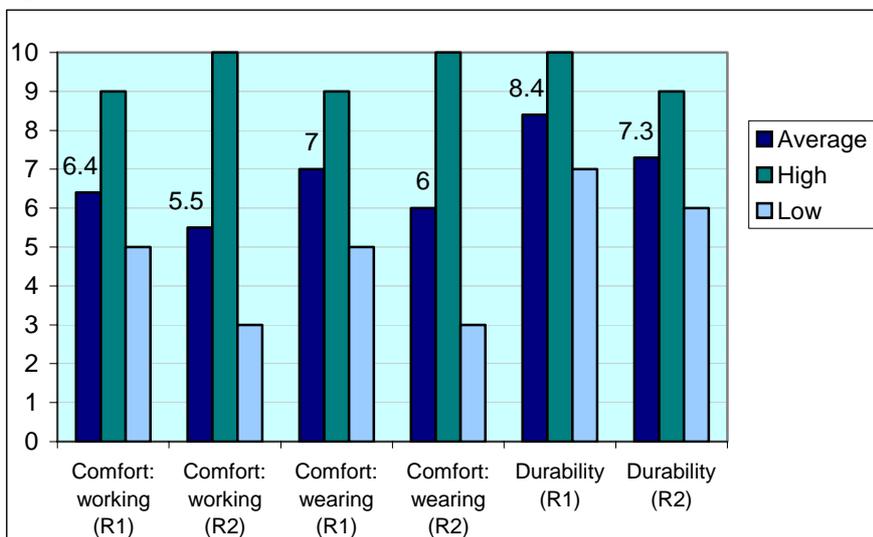
Comments:

'Weather has been too good' (potting, skipper)

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is 'very bad/falling apart' and 10 is 'excellent/as new')

Figure 12



Please note:
Results from Review 2 have been significantly influenced by the skipper who likes this lifejacket a lot. Without his scores (in parentheses):
Working: 4 (5.5)
Wearing: 4.7 (6)
Durability: 6.7 (7.3)

R1 = Review 1
R2 = Review 2

Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Gets in the way (trawler, skipper) Rubs neck (potting, crew) Clip difficult to use when cold (potting, skipper)	Too uncomfortable to wear (potting, skipper)

Continue to wear?

Yes = 3; No = 2 (one because found it too warm, one because of discomfort)

Additional comments:

'A bit bulky at times.' (Trawling, skipper)

'Rubs a bit, but not too bad – used to it.' (Potting, crew)

Key points: Only one fisherman was truly happy with this lifejacket, although another was fairly happy and will continue to wear it. The third was concerned about the bulk and restriction. Of the nine who originally chose this lifejacket, it would seem that only one would be likely to buy it.

Product: Aspli A36 (19)	Approx. price: £89
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<p>Chosen by: 5</p> <p>Fishing types: Trawling x3, potting x2</p> <p>Position onboard: Skipper x3, crew x1, engineer x1</p> <p>Location: South West x3, Scotland x2</p> <p>Trip frequency (average in a month): 15.2 (18.3 excluding trawling x1) High: 20 (potting x1, trawling x1) Low: 3 (trawling)</p> <p>Trip duration (average hours): 50.6 (9.3 excluding trawling x1) High: 216 (trawling) Low: 8 (potting x 2)</p> <p>Prior use of lifejackets/buoyancy aids: None x3, very rarely x1, always on deck x1</p>	 <p>Reasons for choosing this product: 'Very flat and good material' (potting x2) 'Very compact and good material' (potting) 'Looks fine, robust' (trawling) 'Give something different a try' (trawling)</p>
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Previous findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

<p>Aspli A36 155N auto Single chamber lifejacket, 150N that conforms to EN 396</p> <p>Product description: A halter-style single chamber lifejacket with a rounded collar. The cover is red nylon fabric with the lower sections faced with red PVC. Velcro secures the cover and the belt has a stainless steel 'snap-lock' buckle.</p> <p>Tank test: Both testers thought that the performance was good; the head was well supported and clear of the water. One found it to be tight around the neck; this was resolved by deflating the lifejacket slightly.</p>

Product: Aspli A36 (19)	Approx. price: £89
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Review 1

Completed by: 5

Time elapsed since receipt (average): 4.5 months

Typical use:

All (1)	Most	Some (2)	Rarely (2)	Never
Trawling, engineer, deck only		Potting, skipper Potting, crew	Potting, skipper Trawling, skipper	

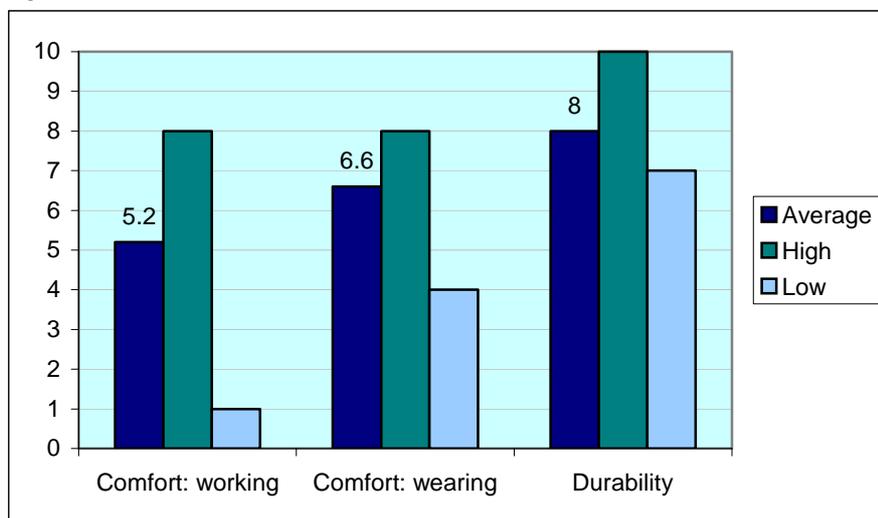
Initial comments:

None

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is 'very bad/falling apart' and 10 is 'excellent/as new')

Figure 13



Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Rubs neck badly (potting, crew)	Rubs neck so can't continue to wear (potting, skipper)

Continue to wear?

Yes = 4; No = 1 (because of neck rub)

Additional comments:

'It gives you more confidence at sea.' (Potting, skipper)

He doesn't know why he never used to wear one as it is no trouble at all.

Another fisherman says he will wear it more in the Winter months.

Product: Aspli A36 (19)	Approx. price: £89
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Review 2

Completed by: **2** (Please note: low number, so treat results as anecdotal)

Time elapsed since initial receipt (average): 17 months	Since previous review (average): 11 months
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Typical use:

All (1)	Most	Some (1)	Rarely	Never
Potting, skipper		Potting, crew, rough weather only		

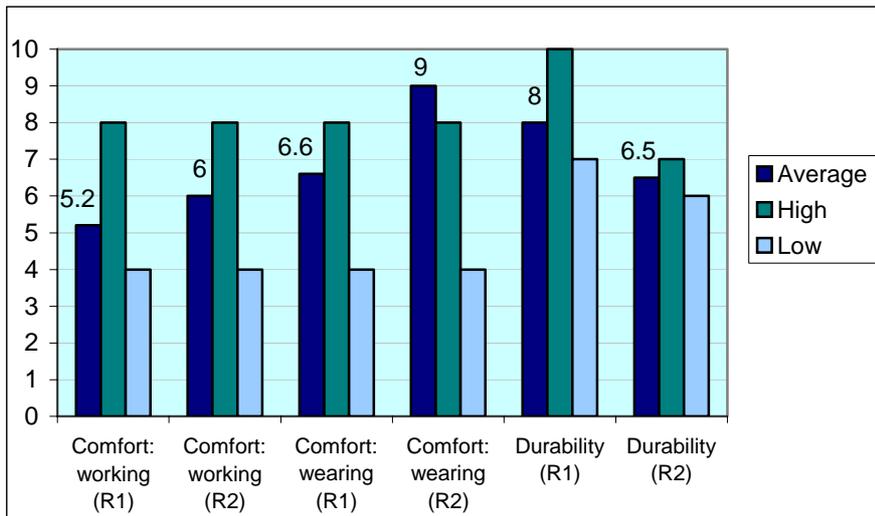
Comments:

None

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is 'very bad/falling apart' and 10 is 'excellent/as new')

Figure 14



Please note:
Review 2 shows quite differing scores for the comfort factors, with the crew on the potter still mentioning the neck rub

R1 = Review 1
R2 = Review 2

Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Neck sore (potting, crew)	None

Continue to wear?

Yes = 2

Additional comments:

None

Key points: The skipper is not really at sea much during the Winter months, so the lifejacket has not been used extensively. The crew member has fallen out of the habit of wearing the lifejacket, but has no complaints other than the neck rub – if that could be solved he would probably wear it more.

Product: Ocean Safety Commodore (23)	Approx. price: £86
---	---------------------------

<p>Chosen by: 7</p> <p>Fishing types: Potting x4, trawling x1, netting x1, hooking x1</p> <p>Position onboard: Crew x4, skipper x3</p> <p>Location: Scotland x4, South West x3</p> <p>Trip frequency (average in a month): 19.7 High: 20 Low: 18 (trawling)</p> <p>Trip duration (average hours): 7.6 High: 10 (trawling) Low: 6 (potting x1, netting x1)</p> <p>Prior use of lifejackets/buoyancy aids: None x5, some x1, rarely x1</p>	 <p>Reasons for choosing this product: 'Nice and compact' (potting) 'Very small and compact' (hooking, netting) 'Very compact' (potting) 'Lightweight' (potting, trawling) 'Feels OK' (potting)</p>
---	---

Previous findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

<p>Ocean Safety Commodore 150N Single chamber lifejacket, 150N that conforms to EN 396</p> <p>Product description: A halter-style single chamber lifejacket with a rounded collar. The cover is blue nylon fabric and secured by a zip. Toggles are fitted. The belt has a stainless steel 'loo- in-loop' buckle and a crutch strap is supplied and fitted.</p> <p>Tank test: Both samples tested inflated rapidly and supported the wearers well in the water with a very good clearance for the mouth. The two sections of the bladder came together tightly and in wave conditions there was no flushing effect.</p>
--

Product: Ocean Safety Commodore (23)	Approx. price: £86
---	---------------------------

Review 1

Completed by: 7

Time elapsed since receipt (average): 6.7 months

Typical use:

All (1)	Most (2)	Some (2)	Rarely (2)	Never
Netting, skipper	Potting, crew Hooking, skipper	Potting, skipper, on deck Potting, crew	Trawling, crew Potting, crew	

Initial comments:

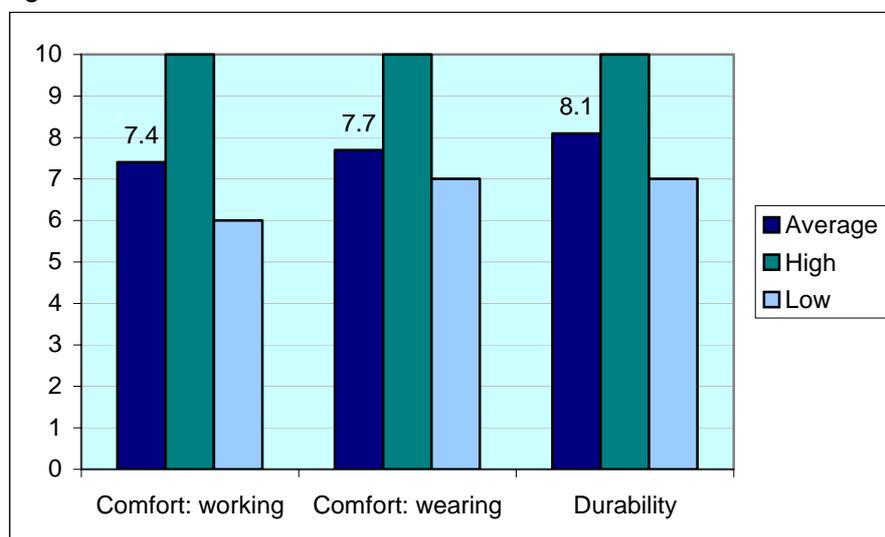
'Very lightweight when on. I don't think about it, but sometimes forget to wear it.' (Hooking, skipper)

'Very good.' (Netting, skipper)

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is 'very bad/falling apart' and 10 is 'excellent/as new')

Figure 15



Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Bottle can dig into your chest (potting, crew) Scales and dirt (hooking, skipper) Misfired once (netting, skipper) It's a bit bulky (potting, crew)	None

Continue to wear?

Yes = 7

Additional comments:

It is encouraging that after almost 7 months on average, each of the fishermen who chose this lifejacket wanted to continue to wear it in the trial.

Product: Ocean Safety Commodore (23)	Approx. price: £86
---	---------------------------

Review 2

Completed by: 4 (Please note: low number, so treat results as anecdotal)

Time elapsed since initial receipt (average): 12.6 months	Since previous review (average): 9 months
---	---

Typical use:

All (2)	Most (1)	Some (1)	Rarely	Never
Hooking, skipper Netting, skipper	Potting, crew	Potting, skipper, on deck		

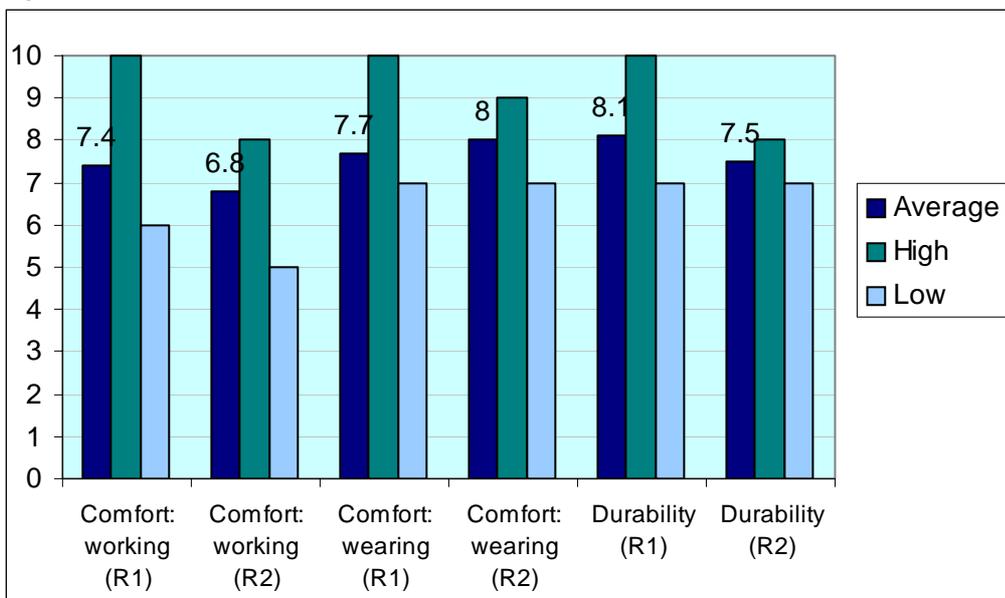
Comments:

Two can be considered ‘converts’ – the skippers on the hooking and netting boats

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is ‘very bad/falling apart’ and 10 is ‘excellent/as new’)

Figure 16



Please note: Although the comfort when working scores have decreased slightly between the two reviews, comfort when wearing has increased. In addition, durability scores are still relatively high after an average of 1 year’s wear.

R1 = Review 1
R2 = Review 2

Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Velcro opens (potting, crew)	None

Continue to wear?

Yes = 4

Additional comments:

None

Key points: The two ‘converts’ are wearing this lifejacket all the time and one has even bought another lifejacket to wear whilst angling. Neither of them had used lifejackets previously.

Product: Ocean Safety Sport (24)	Approx. price: £55
---	---------------------------

Chosen by:
5

Fishing types:
Trawling x3, potting x1, hooking x1

Position onboard:
Skipper x3, crew x2

Location:
Scotland x3, South West x2

Trip frequency (average in a month):
19.4
High: 20
Low: 17 (hooking)

Trip duration (average hours):
12.8
High: 24 (hooking)
Low: 8 (potting)

Prior use of lifejackets/buoyancy aids:
None x4, rarely x1



Reasons for choosing this product:
 'It's small and lightweight' (potting)
 'It's small and compact' (trawling)
 'Lightweight' (trawling)
 'Smallest lifejacket available' (hooking)
 'Very small' (trawling)

Previous findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

Ocean Safety Sport 150N auto

Single chamber lifejacket, 150N that conforms to EN 396

Product description:

A slimline halter-style 150N lifejacket with a rounded collar. The cover is red nylon fabric and is secured by Velcro. The belt has a stainless steel 'loop-in-loop' buckle and is fastened at the side. A crutch strap is supplied and fitted.

Tank test:

Both samples were quick to inflate and the testers both found the lifejacket to be comfortable and gave them good support with their heads well out of the water. Scores of 4 out of 5 and 5 out of 5 were given.

Product: Ocean Safety Sport (24)	Approx. price: £55
---	---------------------------

Review 1

Completed by: 5

Time elapsed since receipt (average): 4 months

Typical use:

All	Most	Some (4)	Rarely (1)	Never
		Potting, skipper Trawling, crew Hooking, crew, rough weather Trawling, skipper, rough weather	Trawling, skipper, deck only	

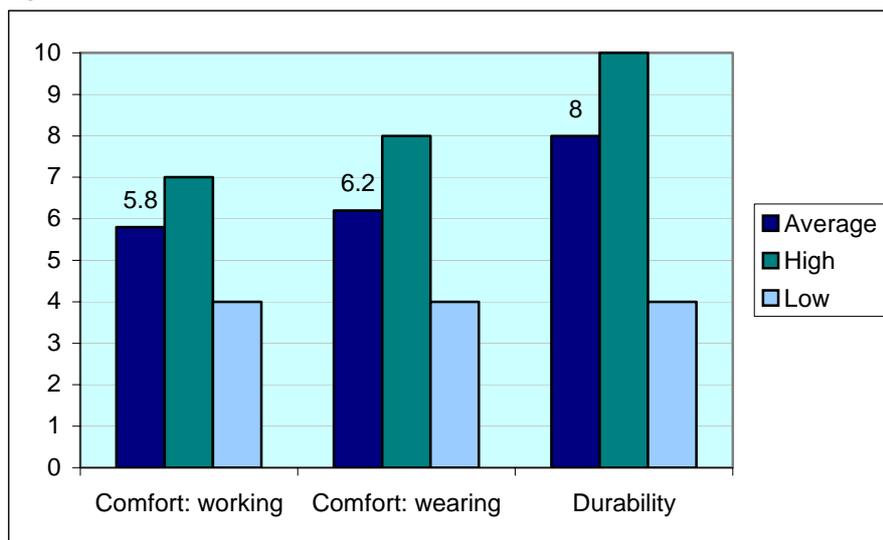
Initial comments:

'I will wear it when the weather gets cooler.' (Potting, skipper)

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is 'very bad/falling apart' and 10 is 'excellent/as new')

Figure 17



Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Length of strap (potting, skipper) Straps come loose (trawling, skipper) Velcro falling apart (hooking, crew) Rubs neck badly (trawling, crew)	No confidence in this lifejacket (hooking, crew)

Continue to wear?

Yes = 3; No = 2 (one because of lack of confidence in lifejacket, one no longer fishing)

Additional comments:

Skipper says it's nice to know he has this lifejacket onboard (potting).

Product: Ocean Safety Sport (24)	Approx. price: £55
---	---------------------------

Review 2

Completed by: **3** (Please note: low number, so treat results as anecdotal)

Time elapsed since initial receipt (average): 11 months	Since previous review (average): 7 months
---	---

Typical use:

All	Most	Some	Rarely (1)	Never (2)
			Trawling, skipper, rough weather	Potting, skipper Trawling, skipper

Comments:

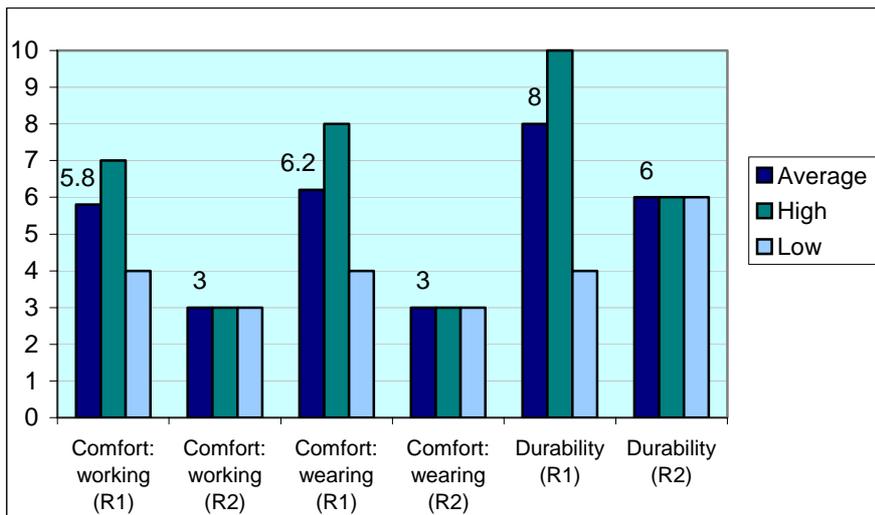
'Was great in Summer over a T-shirt but is terrible over oilskins.' (Potting, skipper)

'Crew will not wear them.' (Trawling, skipper)

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is 'very bad/falling apart' and 10 is 'excellent/as new')

Figure 18



Please note:
As only one reviewer gave scores here, this information is for interest only.

R1 = Review 1
R2 = Review 2

Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Neck rub (trawling, skipper)	(none)

Continue to wear?

Yes = 1

Additional comments:

None

Key points: After the initial enthusiasm over the size and weight of this lifejacket, it is now felt not to be up to the job for most of the reviewers, although there may be an element of peer pressure in some of the scores and complaints. The RNLI's fishing safety coordinator did express surprise at any fishermen choosing this lifejacket at all, although the previous experience of lifejackets was very minor and so this may have been naivety on the part of the triallists.

Product: Gael Force Hi Line Pro (zip) (26)

Approx. price: £80

Chosen by:

7

Fishing types:

Potting x6, trawling x1

Position onboard:

Skipper x7

Location:

Scotland x4, South West x3

Trip frequency (average in a month):

18

High: 25

Low: 2 (trawling)

Trip duration (average hours):

47.9 (7.8 excl. trawling)

High: 288 (11 excl. trawling)

Low: 6

Prior use of lifejackets/buoyancy aids:

None x3, occasional x4



Reasons for choosing this product:

'Very high and should not wear out so quickly'

'High and away from working area'

'It's nice and short' x2

'Comfortable, sits nice and high on chest'

'Sits nice and high on my chest' (trawling)

'Very small, keeps out of way of pots'

Previous findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

Gael Force Hi-Line Pro

Single chamber lifejacket, 150N that conforms to EN 396

Product description:

A single chamber, short length, halter-style lifejacket with a rounded collar. The cover is red nylon fabric secured with a zip and the belt is secured with a plastic push-lock buckle. Supplied complete with a crutch strap.

Tank test:

Two versions were tested, automatic and manual. The automatic lifejacket commenced inflation rapidly but the cover at the left side released only slowly resulting in the right-hand side rising up and almost over the wearer's head. Once the left side released fully, the inflation of the bladder was even and the lifejacket supported the wearer correctly, although it rode high. With the manual version, the cover released rapidly and the inflation was more even. In calm conditions, the lifejackets supported the wearers' mouths adequately clear of the water but in wave conditions, water was flushing up to the mouths.

Product: Gael Force Hi Line Pro (zip) (26)	Approx. price: £80
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Review 1

Completed by: 7

Time elapsed since receipt (average): 5 months

Typical use:

All (2)	Most (3)	Some (2)	Rarely	Never
Potting, skipper Potting, skipper	Potting, skipper Potting, skipper Trawling, skipper, on deck	Potting, skipper, rough weather Potting, skipper		

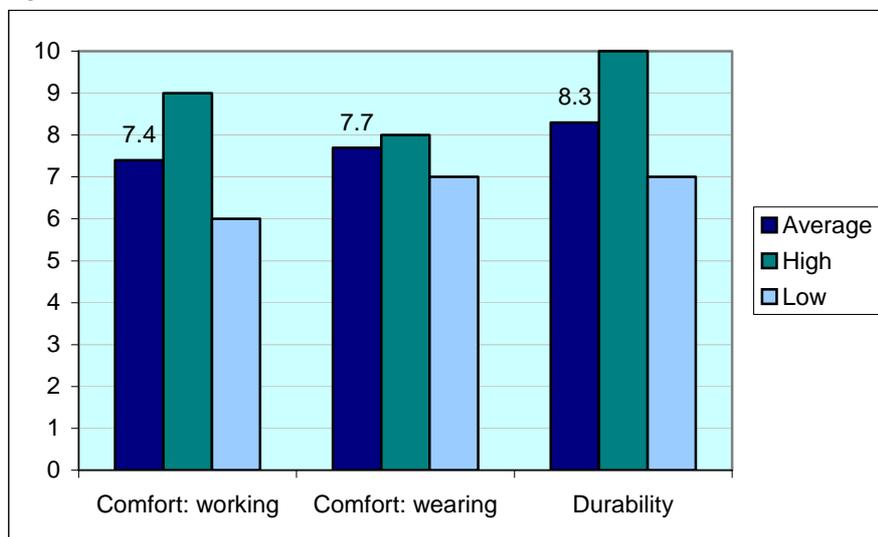
Initial comments:

None

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is 'very bad/falling apart' and 10 is 'excellent/as new'.)

Figure 19



Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Toggle is a bad shape and gets caught (potting, skipper) Touch bulky, toggle gets in way (potting, skipper) Straps a bit too long (potting, skipper) Removed crutch strap – snagging on pots; buckle comes loose, have tied off (potting, skipper) Rubbed a little, but OK now (potting, skipper)	None

Continue to wear?

Yes = 6

Additional comments:

None

Product: Gael Force Hi Line Pro (zip) (26)	Approx. price: £80
---	---------------------------

Review 2

Completed by: 4 (Please note: low number, so treat results as anecdotal)

Time elapsed since initial receipt (average): 10.7 months	Since previous review (average): 7 months
---	---

Typical use:

All (2)	Most	Some (2)	Rarely	Never
Potting, skipper Potting skipper		Potting, skipper Trawling, skipper, on deck when hauling and shooting		

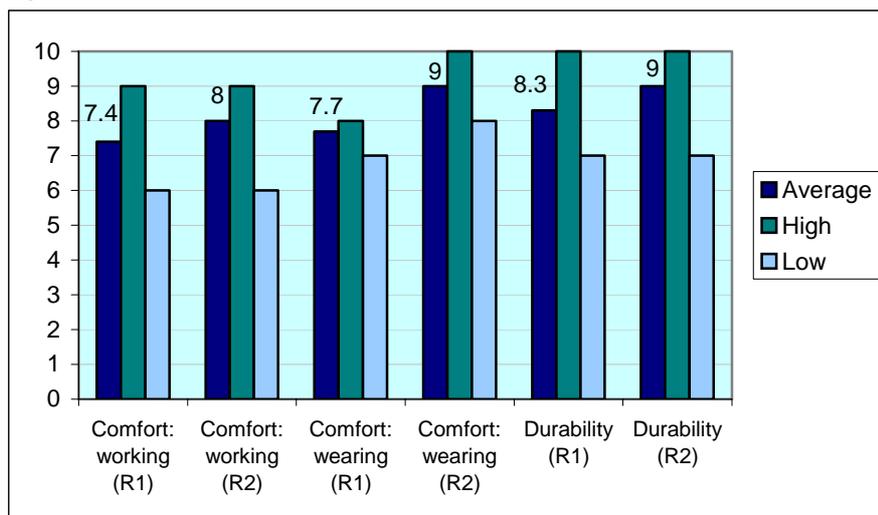
Comments:

'You don't know you're wearing it!' (Potting, skipper)

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is 'very bad/falling apart' and 10 is 'excellent/as new'.)

Figure 20



Please note:
Even though Review 2 was only completed by four fishermen so far, this product has scored remarkably well.

R1 = Review 1
R2 = Review 2

Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Toggle is too big and belt comes loose (potting, skipper) Bit bulky in a tight space (potting, skipper) Toggle can get caught on nets (trawling, skipper)	None

Continue to wear?

Yes = 4

Additional comments:

Skipper says he now notices when he's not wearing it.
Skipper thinks this lifejacket is great.

Key points: This lifejacket does seem particularly suited to potting.

Product: Guy Cotten Waistcoat (30)	Approx. price: £58
---	---------------------------

<p>Chosen by: 4</p> <p>Fishing types: Trawling x3, potting x1</p> <p>Position onboard: Skipper x2, crew x2</p> <p>Location: Scotland x3, South West x1</p> <p>Trip frequency (average in a month): 15 (19 excluding trawling x1) High: 22 Low: 3 (15 excluding trawling x1)</p> <p>Trip duration (average hours): 60 (8 excluding trawling x1) High: 216 (10 excluding trawling x1) Low: 6</p> <p>Prior use of lifejackets/buoyancy aids: None x2, some x2</p>	 <p>Reasons for choosing this product: 'Easy to wear all day – very comfortable' (trawling, skipper) 'Very easy to wear and no snagging points' (potting, skipper) 'Easy to put on' (trawling, crew) 'Looks like a nice harbour jacket' (trawling, crew)</p>
---	---

Previous findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

<p>Guy Cotten Pecheur Waistcoat 50N An inherent buoyancy aid that conforms to EN393</p> <p>Product description: A waistcoat/body warmer that has inherent buoyancy provided by a foam lining. The actual buoyancy depends upon the size of the garment: small = 66N, medium = 72N, large = 77N and extra large = 83N. The waistcoat is fastened with a plastic zip and has a waistbelt with a plastic push-lock buckle. A crutch strap is fitted and has to be threaded through a loop and fastened down with Velcro when used. There are two external pockets and one internal pocket sealed with Velcro. The garment is in navy nylon fabric and has reflective strips.</p> <p>Tank test: On jumping into the water, one sample floated up above the tester's shoulders, but he pulled it down and had reasonable buoyancy from the product. The second sample was worn underneath an oilskin top and this held it down giving good buoyancy. In wave conditions the mouths of both fishermen were dipping underwater.</p>

Product: Guy Cotten Waistcoat (30)	Approx. price: £58
---	---------------------------

Review 1

Completed by: 4

Time elapsed since receipt (average): 3.4 months

Typical use:

All (1)	Most (1)	Some	Rarely (1)	Never (1)
Trawling, crew	Trawling, skipper		Potting, skipper	Trawling, crew

Initial comments:

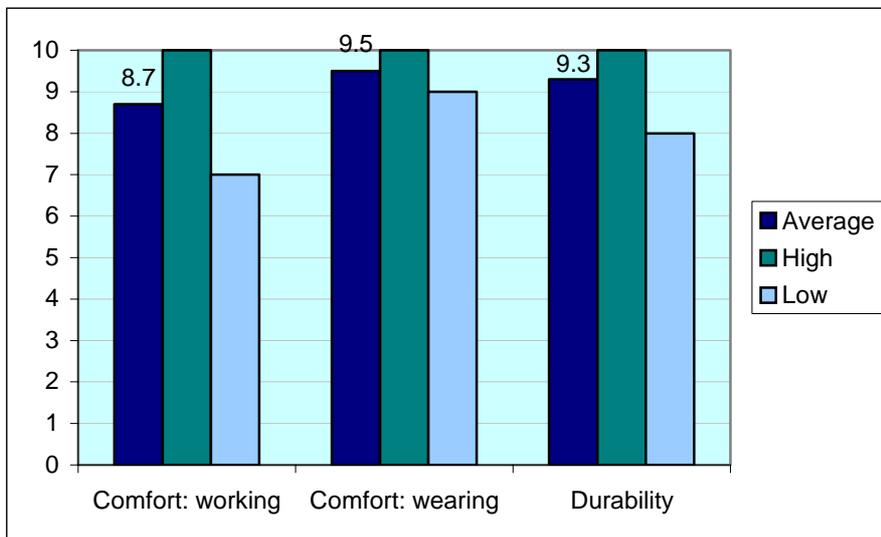
'It's been too warm.' (Potting, skipper and trawling, crew)

'I wear this jacket in port all the time.' (Trawling, crew)

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is 'very bad/falling apart' and 10 is 'excellent/as new'.)

Figure 21



Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
A touch warm on some days (trawling, skipper) Too hot (potting, skipper)	None

Continue to wear?

Yes = 4

Additional comments:

'Ideal for wearing all day whilst outside the wheelhouse.' (Trawling, skipper)

Product: Guy Cotten Waistcoat (30)	Approx. price: £58
---	---------------------------

Review 2

Completed by: 3 (Please note: low number, so treat results as anecdotal)

Time elapsed since initial receipt (average): 9.6 months	Since previous review (average): 5.6 months
--	---

Typical use:

All	Most (1)	Some (1)	Rarely (1)	Never
	Trawling, skipper, all the time on deck	Potting, skipper	Trawling, crew	

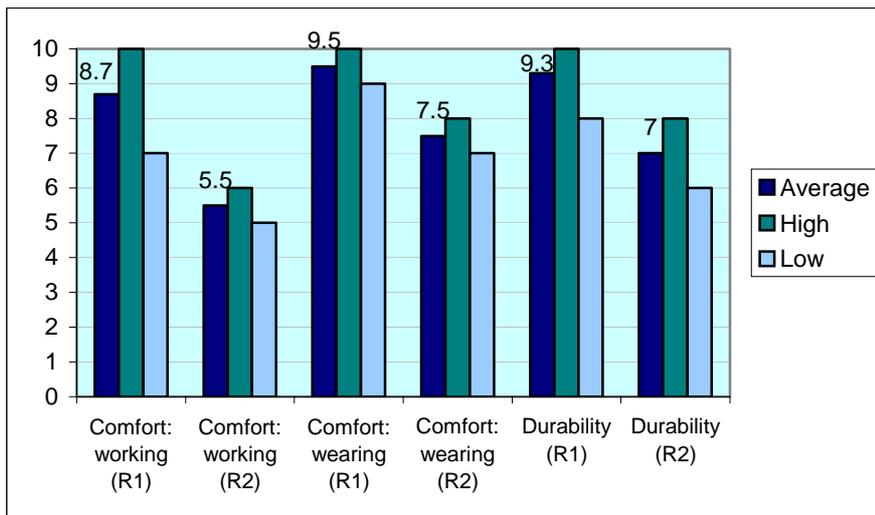
Comments:

‘Too bulky.’ (Potting, skipper)

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is ‘very bad/falling apart’ and 10 is ‘excellent/as new’)

Figure 22



Please note:
Only two reviewers have provided scores

R1 = Review 1
R2 = Review 2

Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Just too firm (potting, skipper)	Too hot in Summer (potting, skipper)

Continue to wear?

Yes = 2; No = 1 (too warm to work in)

Additional comments:

‘Finding it a bit warm in the hot weather.’ (Trawling, skipper)

Key points: Although this is likely to have been chosen as an ‘easy option’, it is a very warm jacket in the Summer months.

Product: Mullion Floater Waistcoat (31)	Approx. price: £54
--	---------------------------

Chosen by:
6

Fishing types:
Trawling x3, potting x2, netting x1

Position onboard:
Skipper x6

Location:
Scotland x3, South West x3

Trip frequency (average in a month):
17.7
High: 22
Low: 12

Trip duration (average hours):
22.3
High: 48
Low: 8

Prior use of lifejackets/buoyancy aids:
None x5, some x1



Reasons for choosing this product:
 'Easy to wear' (trawling, potting and netting)
 'Comfort and ease of use' (trawling)
 'Small' (trawling)
 'Don't want anything that could snag' (potting)

Previous findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

Mullion Floater Waistcoat 50N
 An inherent buoyancy aid that conforms to EN 393

Product description:
 A waistcoat/body warmer with 50N of inherent buoyancy provided by the closed cell foam lining. The garment is made from waterproof fabric and is fleece lined. It has a two-way plastic zip with a waistbelt fastened with a push-lock plastic buckle. There are two external pockets plus one internal pocket with a zip. A crutch strap can be fitted but was not supplied.

Tank test:
 Both testers found that the buoyancy aid supported them reasonably well in still water conditions but in wave conditions, their mouths were being submerged.

Product: Mullion Floater Waistcoat (31)	Approx. price: £54
--	---------------------------

Review 1

Completed by: 6

Time elapsed since receipt (average): 3 months

Typical use:

All (1)	Most (1)	Some (4)	Rarely	Never
Netting, skipper	Trawling, skipper, on deck	Trawling, skipper Potting, skipper Potting, skipper Trawling, skipper, on deck		

Initial comments:

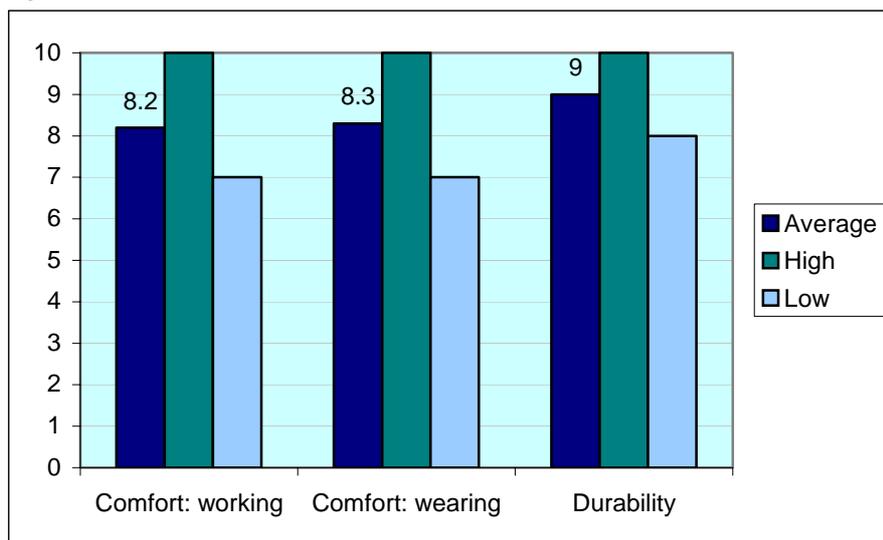
'Very warm.' (Potting and trawling x2)

'Very easy to wear.' (Netting)

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is 'very bad/falling apart' and 10 is 'excellent/as new')

Figure 23



Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Heat (trawling, skipper) Too warm (trawling, skipper) Zip digs into chin (potting, skipper)	None

Continue to wear?

Yes = 6

Additional comments:

None

Product: Mullion Floater Waistcoat (31)	Approx. price: £54
--	---------------------------

Review 2

Completed by: 5

Time elapsed since initial receipt (average): 12.3 months	Since previous review (average): 9.8 months
---	---

Typical use:

All	Most (2)	Some (3)	Rarely	Never
	Potting, skipper Potting, skipper	Trawling, skipper Trawling, skipper Netting, skipper		

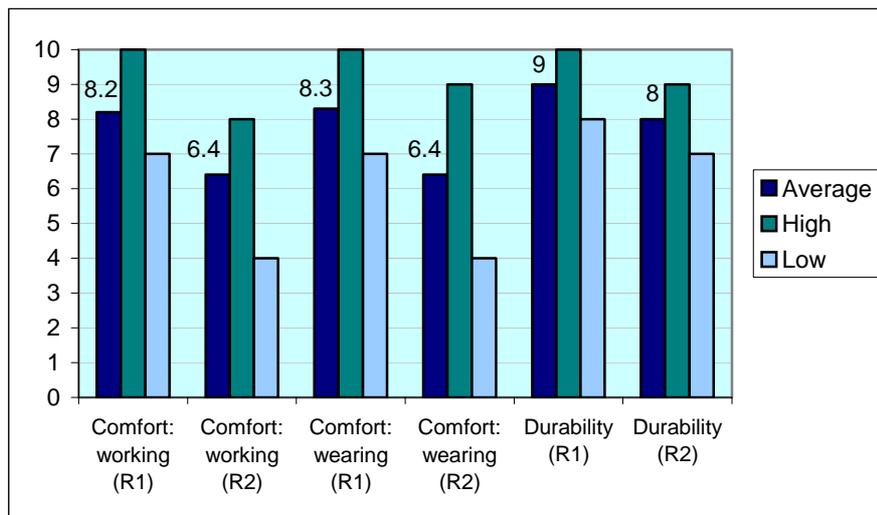
Comments:

'Too hot in summer.' (Trawling x2, potting x2)

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is 'very bad/falling apart' and 10 is 'excellent/as new')

Figure 24



Please note: Scores have dipped significantly due to the heat issue

R1 = Review 1
R2 = Review 2

Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Collar rubs (netting) Collar design (potting) Rubbing a bit on stomach (potting)	None

Continue to wear?

Yes = 5

Additional comments:

'If the collar was a different shape, this would be more comfortable.' (Potting)

Key points: If the collar and zip issues could be overcome, this may be suitable providing the weather is not too warm!

Product: Mullion Seafloat Vest (37)	Approx. price: £70
--	---------------------------

Chosen by:
5

Fishing types:
Trawling x2, netting x2, potting x1

Position onboard:
Skipper x3, crew x2

Location:
South West x4, Scotland x1

Trip frequency (average in a month):
14.4 (17.3 excluding trawling x1)
High: 20
Low: 3

Trip duration (average hours):
59.2 (20 excluding trawling x1)
High: 216 (48 excluding trawling x1)
Low: 8

Prior use of lifejackets/buoyancy aids:
None x3, occasional x1,
yes (in bad weather) x1



Reasons for choosing this product:
 ‘Good colour, easy to wear’ (trawling, crew)
 ‘High visibility for Winter’ (netting, skipper)
 ‘Easy to put on’ (trawling, crew)
 ‘Good material and small’ (potting, skipper)

Previous findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

Mullion Seafloat 150N Waistcoat Lifejacket
 Single chamber lifejacket, 150N that conforms to EN 396

Product description:
 A waistcoat design, single chamber lifejacket. The material is dayglo yellow nylon fabric and the waistcoat is fastened with a plastic zip. The belt has a stainless steel loop-in-loop buckle and a crutch strap is fitted. The waistcoat has two small external pockets and a large internal pocket, all fitted with a Velcro-sealed flap. Reflective strips are fitted at both sides and front and back. Also, the belt is reflective.

Tank test:
 Both samples inflated quickly and both testers found it to be comfortable and supported them well. In wave conditions, there was a little splashing to the face but not unacceptably so.

Product: Mullion Seafloat Vest (37)	Approx. price: £70
--	---------------------------

Review 1

Completed by: 5

Time elapsed since receipt (average): 5.2 months

Typical use:

All (1)	Most	Some (2)	Rarely (1)	Never (1)
Trawling, crew		Netting, skipper Potting, skipper	Trawling, crew	Netting, skipper

Initial comments:

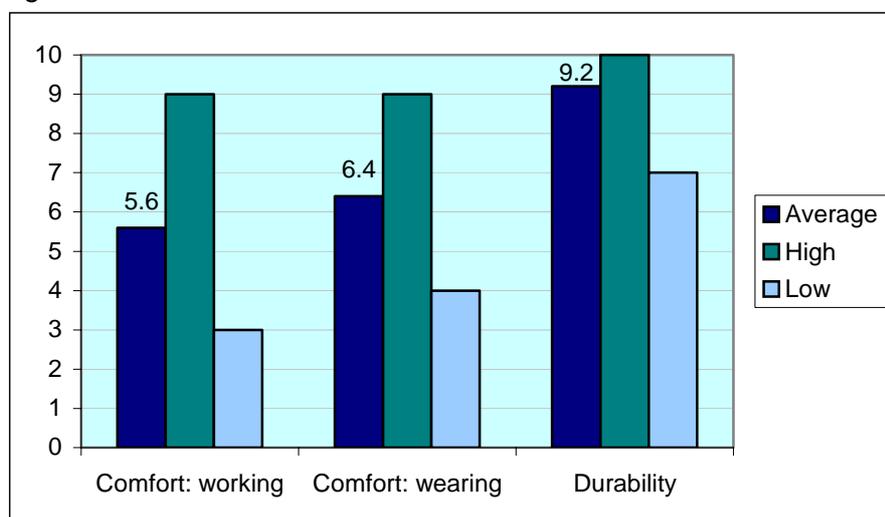
'Too bulky and can't wear.' (Netting, skipper)

'It's a bit big and loose fitting.' (Trawling, crew)

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is 'very bad/falling apart' and 10 is 'excellent/as new')

Figure 25



Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Gas cylinder presses against chest (trawling, crew) Went off once (trawling, crew) Bulky (netting, skipper)	Too bulky (netting, skipper) Cylinder too big and in wrong place (trawling, crew)

Continue to wear?

Yes = 2; No = 3 (Major irritations as outlined, one declined offer to rearm after gone off)

Additional comments:

None

Product: Mullion Seafloat Vest (37)	Approx. price: £70
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Review 2

Completed by: **2** (Please note: low number, so treat results as anecdotal)

Time elapsed since initial receipt (average): 13.6 months	Since previous review (average): 11 months
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Typical use:

All (1)	Most (1)	Some	Rarely	Never
Trawling, crew	Netting, skipper			

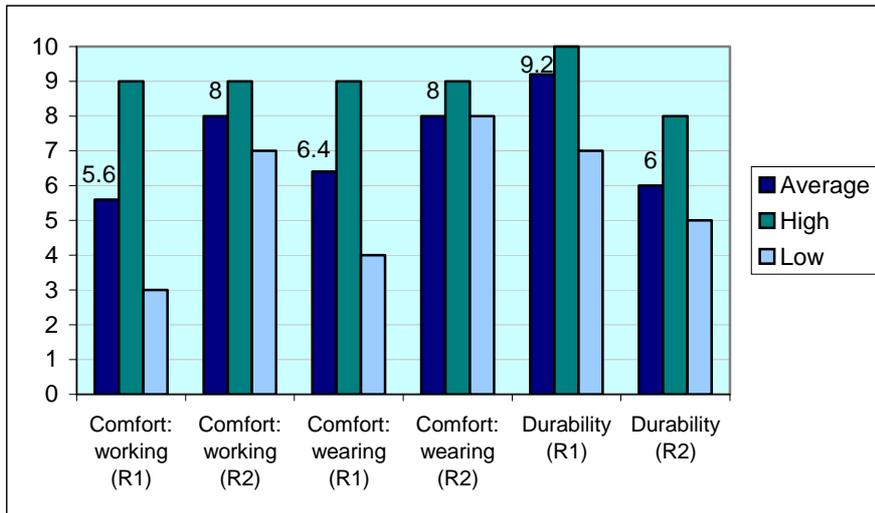
Comments:

‘Best jacket I’ve ever worn.’ (Trawling, crew)

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is ‘very bad/falling apart’ and 10 is ‘excellent/as new’)

Figure 26



Please note:
Bear in mind
only two reviews
are included
here.

R1 = Review 1
R2 = Review 2

Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Wearing a bit thin on the front (trawling, crew)	None

Continue to wear?

Yes = 2

Additional comments:

None

Key points: The two fishermen who have continued to wear this lifejacket seem to be really impressed with it. More reviews required to see if this holds.

Product: Seafish Trousers (45)	Approx. price: £120
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<p>Chosen by: 12</p> <p>Fishing types: Potting x8, trawling x2, hooking x1, netting x1</p> <p>Position onboard: Skipper x9, crew x3</p> <p>Location: Scotland x2, South West x10</p> <p>Trip frequency (average in a month): 19.6 High: 25 Low: 15</p> <p>Trip duration (average hours): 10.2 High: 24 Low: 6</p> <p>Prior use of lifejackets/buoyancy aids: None x9, occasional x1, rarely x1, yes x1 (when working alone)</p>	 <p>Reasons for choosing this product: 'They're the closest thing to conventional oilskins' (trawling, skipper) 'Built into oilskins and well thought out' (trawling, skipper) 'Easy to wear' (potting, crew) 'Always have lifejacket on when on deck fishing as always have oilskins on' (potting, skipper) 'Liked oilskins, will purchase top to wear with them' (potting, skipper) 'Easy to work in' (hooking, skipper) 'Built into oilskins and felt no different when trying on' (potting, skipper) 'Needs to be built in because lifting pots – these are kept clear and should not snag' (potting, crew) 'Don't like anything round neck when working, so these are ideal' (netting, skipper)</p>
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Previous findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

<p>Guy Cotten Seafish Crewsaver Oilskin Trousers 150N Single chamber lifejacket, 150N that conforms to EN 396</p> <p>Product description: Bib and brace oilskin trousers that contain a 150N manually activated inflatable lifejacket ready for deployment in the bib pocket. The wearer rips open the pocket, which has burst-open zips, and lifts up the folded lifejacket placing it over his head. He then tugs on the inflation mechanism lanyard to inflate the lifejacket.</p> <p>Tank test: This is a manually activated lifejacket that has to be removed from the bib pouch, slipped over the head and then inflated. One fisherman took 8 seconds to achieve this, the other 10 seconds. One found it tight to pass over his head. Once inflated, the lifejacket gave good support, the pouch-style bladder giving good lift at the front. In waves, the pouch bladder protected the wearer's mouth from splashing, but one fisherman found that the lifejacket tended to float up as the braces and belt were not tight enough.</p>

Product: Seafish Trousers (45)	Approx. price: £120
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Review 1

Completed by: **12**

Time elapsed since receipt (average): **5 months**

Typical use:

ALL (6)	MOST (1)	SOME (2)	RARELY	NEVER (3)
Potting, crew x2 Potting, skipper x3 Netting, skipper	Trawling, skipper, on deck	Trawling, skipper Potting, skipper		Hooking, skipper Potting, skipper Potting, crew

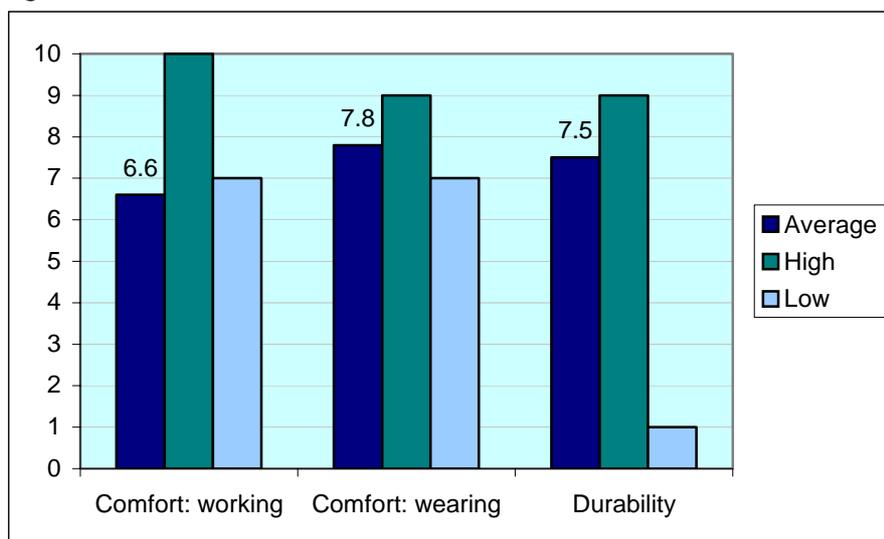
Initial comments:

- 'Straps too short.' (Trawling, skipper)
- 'Zip comes undone.' (Potting, skipper)
- 'Rubbish! Fell apart after one month!' (Hooking, skipper)
- 'Find them too hot.' (Potting, skipper)

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is 'very bad/falling apart' and 10 is 'excellent/as new')

Figure 27



Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Velcro at the top of the zip is of poor quality (trawling, skipper) Straps were a little bit uncomfortable (trawling, skipper) Velcro could be better (potting, crew) Little bit bulky (trawling, skipper) Bottle digs into stomach sometimes (potting, crew) Too hot during Summer (potting, skipper) Had to buy new top as needed zip jacket for safety (potting, skipper) Bulky (potting, skipper) Bulky for working in (potting, crew) Bottle rubs into belly (netting, skipper) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottle has worked itself loose on a couple of occasions (potting, crew) Pots wore through front in less than one month (hooking, skipper)

Continue to wear?

Yes = 8; No = 4 (1x vessel sold, 1x not impressed, 2x not interested)

Product: Seafish Trousers (45)	Approx. price: £120
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Review 2

Completed by: **6**

Time elapsed since initial receipt (average): 13.3 months	Since previous review (average): 9.5 months
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Typical use:

All (1)	Most (3)	Some (1)	Rarely	Never (1)
Trawling, skipper	Potting, crew x2 Potting, skipper	Potting, skipper		Potting, skipper

Comments:

‘Perfect.’ (Trawling, skipper)

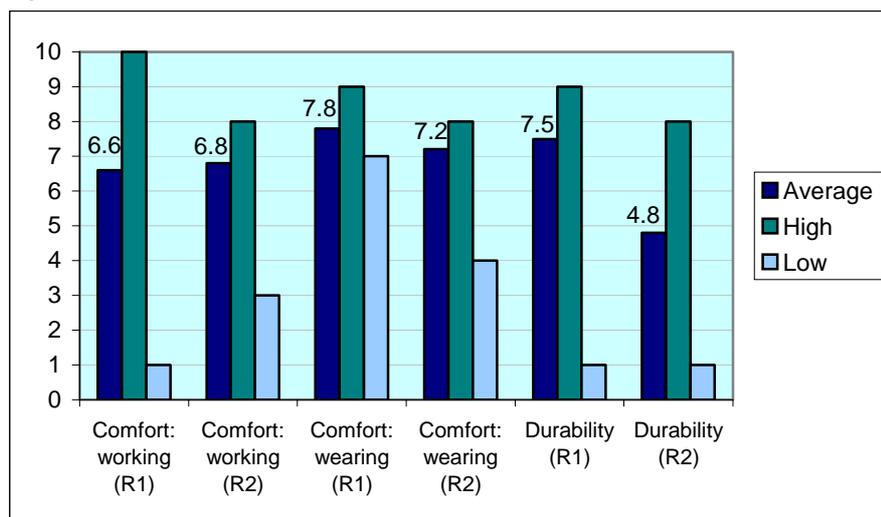
‘Very hot in Summer.’ (Potting, skipper)

‘Worn out.’ (Potting, skipper)

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is ‘very bad/falling apart’ and 10 is ‘excellent/as new’)

Figure 28



Please note: The question of durability has undoubtedly affected the second review scores.

R1 = Review 1
R2 = Review 2

Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
More adjustments around the chest area (trawling, skipper) Too bulky in chest area (potting, crew) Bottle digs into stomach (potting, crew) Bulky (potting, skipper)	Bottle often comes loose (potting, crew)

Continue to wear?

Yes = 3; No = 3 (2 x prefer having a lifejacket already on, one going to try another type (horsehoe))

Additional comments:

Crew aboard a potter suggest it would be more comfortable if the bottle was moved to the side.

Key points: Whilst these were popular initially, only a handful of original recipients were comfortable enough with them to continue.

Product: Guy Cotten Secubib (with or without 3D top) (46)

Approx. price: £120–202

Chosen by:
24

Fishing types:
Potting x12, trawling x9, netting x2,
hooking x1

Position onboard:
Skipper x22, crew x2

Location:
South West x15, Scotland x9

Trip frequency (average in a month):
17.9 (19.5 excl. 2 x trawling)
High: 20
Low: 3 (14 excl. 2 x trawling)

Trip duration (average hours):
29.4 (8.5 excl. 2 x trawling)
High: 96
Low: 6

Prior use of lifejackets/buoyancy aids:
None x17, occasional x3, rarely x1,
very rarely x1, yes x1 (Crewsaver)

Previous findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

Guy Cotten Secubib Oilskins/Lifejacket 150N
Single chamber lifejacket, 150N that conforms to EN 396

Product description:

A halter-style single chamber lifejacket that is worn as the braces of bib and brace oilskin trousers. The lifejacket has blue nylon fabric covers that are secured with Velcro fastenings. A waistbelt retains the lifejacket to the oilskin trousers and this has a plastic loop-in-loop buckle that fastens at the side. The oilskin trousers and the lifejacket are sold as separate items and hence, if the trousers become damaged, only that item will need to be replaced. **3D top:** An oilskin top is available with an expansion pleat to allow it to be worn over an inflated lifejacket.

Tank test: The lifejacket inflated rapidly and supported the wearer well. In wave conditions, flushing occurred between the lobes of the bladder and water repeatedly hit the wearer's mouth. One fisherman was wearing the 3D top and this did prevent flushing but, in severe waves, he did tend to dip under slightly.



Reasons for choosing this product:

- 'They just feel like oilskins' (trawling, crew)
- 'They are ideal, being built into the trousers' (potting, skipper)
- 'I wear the same type of trousers anyway' (trawling, skipper)
- 'They look and feel just the job' (potting, skipper)
- 'Similar to what I wear on lifeboat' (potting, skipper)
- 'Easy to wear' (potting, skipper x3; netting, skipper)
- 'Look like oilskins' (potting, skipper)
- 'Because part of oilskins' (potting, skipper)
- 'Well designed' (potting, skipper)
- 'Because automatic' (trawling, skipper)
- 'Good design and comfy' (potting, skipper)
- 'Wear oilskins anyway, so built-in is very good' (trawling, skipper)
- 'Easy to wear and well thought out' (potting, skipper)
- 'Good idea' (hooking, skipper)
- 'Very easy to wear' (trawling, skipper)
- 'Very comfortable, will always have it on' (trawling, skipper)
- 'Nothing to catch on pots. Not bulky' (potting, skipper)
- 'Well fitted and comfy' (trawling, skipper)
- 'Liked at Fleetwood trials' (netting, crew)
- 'Very comfortable' (trawling, skipper)
- 'They are similar to what I wear anyway' (trawling, skipper)

Product: Guy Cotten Secubib (46)	Approx. price: £120-202
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Review 1

Completed by: **24**

Time elapsed since receipt (average): **5.8 months**

Typical use:

All (15)	Most (4)	Some (2)	Rarely (2)	Never (1)
Potting, skipper x8 Netting, skipper Trawling, skipper x4 Netting, skipper Hooking, skipper	Trawling, skipper, on deck x3 Trawling, crew	Potting, skipper Potting, skipper, rough weather	Potting, skipper x2	Trawling, skipper

Initial comments:

'Stopped wearing – felt trapped and unable to move.' (trawling, skipper)

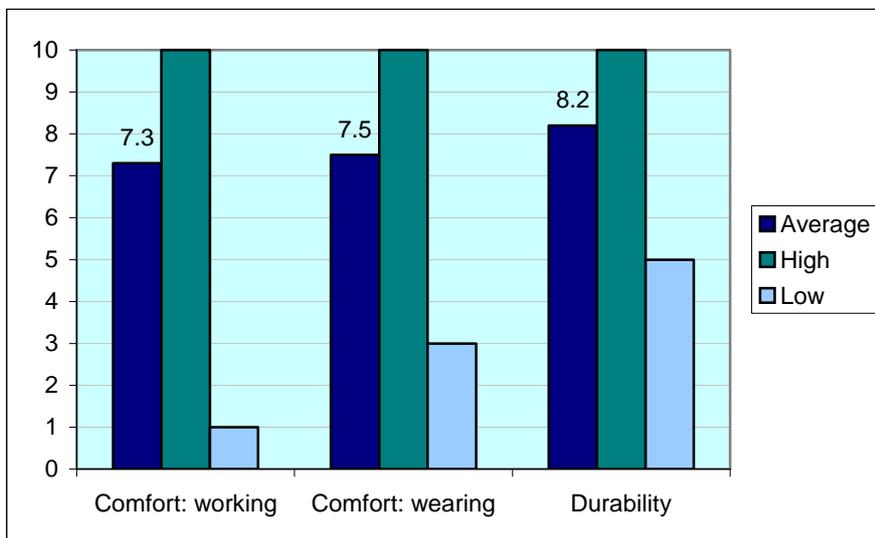
'Bit bulky at first, but OK now.' (potting, skipper)

'Too hot.' x2 'Very good.' x11

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is 'very bad/falling apart' and 10 is 'excellent/as new')

Figure 29



Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Rubbing around the neck (trawling, crew) Heat and rubbing (potting, skipper) Rubbing on neck (with T-shirt) (trawling, skipper) Only the heat during the Summer months (potting, skipper) Can rub at the neck (potting, skipper) Too bulky around the neck (potting, skipper) Rubbing around the neck (potting, skipper) Has gone off twice (potting, skipper) Warm in Summer (potting, skipper) Bottle digs into ribs sometimes, but not a problem (potting, skipper) Went off in van ... (netting, skipper) Little hot in Summer (trawling, skipper) Velcro rubs on arms when gutting fish (trawling, skipper)	Felt trapped (trawling, skipper)

Continue to wear?

Yes = 21; No = 3 (2x changing to different type, 1x no longer fishing)

Product: Guy Cotten Secubib (46)	Approx. price: £120–202
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Review 2

Completed by: 16

Time elapsed since initial receipt (average): 15 months	Since previous review (average): 9 months
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Typical use:

All (9)	Most (3)	Some (3)	Rarely	Never (1)
Trawling, skipper x3 Potting, skipper x5 Netting, skipper	Trawling, skipper Potting, skipper Trawling, skipper, on deck	Hooking, skipper Trawling, skipper Potting, skipper, rough weather		Potting, skipper

Comments:

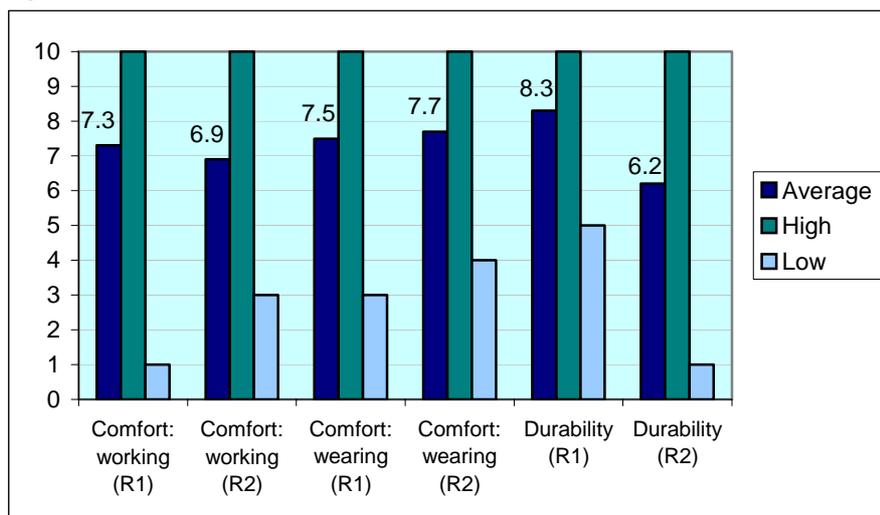
'Rubbing on neck.' (Potting, skipper)

'Too bulky for the creels.' (Potting, skipper)

Comfort and durability

(Average score out of 10, where 1 is 'very bad/falling apart' and 10 is 'excellent/as new')

Figure 30



Please note:
Very low scores are the exception
– Review 2 modal scores:
Working = 7
Wearing = 8

R1 = Review 1
R2 = Review 2

Irritations or hazards

Minor	Major
Rubbing around neck (trawling, skipper; potting, skipper) Bit worn from pots (potting, skipper) Worn through (potting, skipper)	Material too firm (trawling, crew)

Continue to wear?

Yes = 14; No = 2 (one changing to older style lifejacket)

Additional comments:

'It's easier to wear them in Winter because have a thick sweater on.' (Potting, skipper)

Ten other fishermen at varying degrees of delight with the product!

Key points: The resounding favourite amongst triallists initially, and appears to carry through for most. Some minor amendments could make this even more popular.

5.0 Findings: Part three – individual lifejacket and buoyancy aid results (rest of range)

5.1 Overall findings for the rest of the range

In total, 32 fishermen chose lifejackets that did not end up being in the most popular choices. Because a number of the lifejackets have only been looked at and trialled by four or less fishermen, the results have not been looked at in such depth.

Classification	Overall (%)	Most popular lifejackets (%)	Rest of range lifejackets (%)
Location: Scotland	48	40	63
Location: South West	52	60	37
Type of fishing: potting	50	49	51
Type of fishing: trawling	36.3	36	37
Type of fishing: hooking	6.5	7	6
Type of fishing: netting	7.2	8	6
Position onboard: skipper	69	74	57
Position onboard: crew	30	25	40
Use of lifejackets pre-trial: none	68	67	71
Use of lifejackets pre-trial: very rarely/rarely	7	8	6
Use of lifejackets pre-trial: occasional	17	17	17
Use of lifejackets pre-trial: yes – all or most of time	6	6	3

In comparing the fishermen who chose the rest of the range with those who chose one of the most popular jackets, we can see that there is a bias towards Scotland and more crew members with little previous experience of wearing lifejackets in this group (highlighted above).

A note of caution here is that the figures for the rest of range are to be treated with caution as the base number (32) is very low.

5.2 Findings by lifejacket

The next section examines each product in the rest of the range in turn. The comfort when working, comfort when wearing and durability figures show the average score out of 10, with the scores of the individual fishermen in parentheses.

Product: Crewsaver non approved	Approx. price: unknown
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Chosen by:
Skipper x2, potting, South West

Prior use of lifejackets:
Occasional x2

Trip frequency and duration (per month):
2 trips up to 12 days
20 trips up to 10 hours

Reason for choosing this product:
At request of fishing safety coordinator x2

	Review 1	Review 2
After (average)	1.5 months	12 months
Use	All the time x2	Never x1 All the time x1
Comments	Very good piece of kit. Worn jackets before, but this is better than any others.	Bottle in back of neck uncomfortable and too bulky.
Comfort when working	8.5 (8,9)	4.5 (1,8)
Comfort when wearing	8.5 (8,9)	5.5 (2,9)
Durability	9 (8,10)	7.5 (8,7)
Minor irritations/hazards	'Slightly rubs neck, but not too bad'	None
Major irritations/hazards	None	Uncomfortable, bulky and sweaty'
Continue to wear?	Yes x2	Yes x1; No x1
Coordinator's comments	Seems very happy with this design' Best jacket ever tried!	Owner has bought him a Gael Force to wear' Says the front is very resistant to hooks catching. Never worn a lifejacket for work before, now wears all the time.

Product: New Guy Cotten	Approx. price: unknown
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Chosen by:
Crew x1, trawling, Scotland

Prior use of lifejackets:
Occasional

Trip frequency and duration (per month):
3 trips up to 9 days

Reason for choosing this product:
New model selected from stock

	Review 1
After (average)	2.5 months
Use	All of the time on deck
Comfort when working	8
Comfort when wearing	8
Durability	9
Minor irritations/hazards	None
Major irritations/hazards	None
Continue to wear?	Yes
Coordinator's comments	Says this jacket is far better than Crewsaver

Product: Mullion Neptune ECO 150N (1)	Approx. price: £70
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Findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

Product description:
 Halter-style lifejacket with red nylon fabric covers and Velcro fastenings. The waistbelt has a stainless steel loop-in-loop buckle and a crutch strap is fitted. The lifejacket has toggles for mounting to a jacket.

Tank test:
 The lifejacket was liked by fishermen, but in water they found that their mouths were going under in wave conditions. Crutch straps should be worn to give correct support.

Conclusion:
 No major problems experienced; this lifejacket is considered quite comfortable and acceptable for wearing when working but the performance in waves was disappointing.

Chosen by:
 Crew x1, potting, Scotland
 Skipper x1, potting, Scotland

Prior use of lifejackets:
 None x2

Trip frequency and duration (per month):
 Average 20 trips of 8 hours

Reason for choosing this product:
 It's nice and light
 Small

	Review 1	Review 2
After (average)	3.6 months	12 months
Use	Some x1, Most x1	Some (deck) x1, most x1
Comments		Concerned it will inflate if it gets too wet
Comfort when working	6.5 (6,7)	7.5 (8,7)
Comfort when wearing	6.5 (6,7)	7.5 (8,7)
Durability	7.5 (9,6)	7
Minor irritations/hazards	Mainly dirt	Bit smelly and straps can rub a bit
Major irritations/hazards	None	None
Continue to wear?	Yes x2	Yes x2
Coordinator's comments	Jacket has falsely inflated once	Crewman now wearing and seems to have no trouble

Product: Mullion Neptune 150 CE (2)	Approx. price: £70
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Findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

Product description:
 Halter-style lifejacket with navy nylon fabric covers and zip fastening. The belt has a loop-in-loop stainless steel buckle and a crutch strap is fitted. No toggles are fitted.

Tank test:
 The lifejacket was liked by fishermen but in water they found that their mouths were going under in wave conditions. Crutch straps should be worn to give correct support.

Conclusion:
 No major problems experienced; this lifejacket is considered quite comfortable and acceptable for wearing when working but the performance in waves was disappointing.

Chosen by:
 Crew x1, potting, South West
 Crew x1, potting, Scotland
 Skipper x1, potting, Scotland

Prior use of lifejackets:
 None x3

Trip frequency and duration (per month):
 Average 22 trips of 8 hours

Reason for choosing this product:
 Compact
 Looks fine

	Review 1	Review 2
After (average)	3 months	12 months
Use	Sometimes (rough weather) x1, sometimes (deck) x1, rarely (deck) x1	Most x2 (deck x1), never x1
Comments	I just forget it sometimes.	I've got into the habit of wearing it now nearly all of the time.
Comfort when working	6.7 (6,8,6)	7 (6,8)
Comfort when wearing	6 (6,7,5)	7.5 (7,8)
Durability	8.3 (8,9,8)	7
Minor irritations/hazards	Rubbing on neck	Toggle got caught and it inflated
Major irritations/hazards	None	None
Continue to wear?	Yes x3	Yes x2, will try again x1
Coordinator's comments	Says he could wear it all the time and should, but only puts it on in rough weather Has had an operation on his neck, which may be the cause of the neck rub	Skipper enforces wearing of lifejackets on this vessel Appears happy with this lifejacket

Product: Lazilas Sigma Auto (4)	Approx. price: £50
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Findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

Product description:
 Halter-style lifejacket with red nylon fabric covers secured with Velcro. The belt has a stainless steel loop-in-loop buckle and the optional 'D' ring for a safety harness. No crutch strap or toggles.

Tank test:
 Both testers found the lifejacket comfortable to wear but in the water it rode up due to the lack of a crutch strap.

Conclusion:
 A comfortable lifejacket at a modest price but perhaps not durable enough for intensive use in fishing.

Chosen by:
 Crew x1, trawling, South West

Prior use of lifejackets:
 None

Trip frequency and duration (per month):
 20 trips of up to 12 hours

Reason for choosing this product:
 Small and flat, not much to catch on

	Review 1	Review 2
After (average)	5 months	17 months
Use	Most of the time	Some of the time (rough weather)
Comfort when working	8	3
Comfort when wearing	8	4
Durability	6	7
Minor irritations/hazards	None	Rubs neck
Major irritations/hazards	None	None
Continue to wear?	Yes	Yes
Coordinator's comments	None	Possibly peer pressure at work here, may not have got into the habit of wearing.

Product: Lazilas Omega (5)	Approx. price: £60
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Findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

Product description:
 Halter-style lifejacket with a folded down collar. Red nylon fabric covers with Velcro fastenings. Belt has a stainless steel loop-in-loop buckle and an optional 'D' ring fitted for attaching a safety harness. No crutch strap and no toggles.

Tank test:
 The lifejackets inflated very efficiently but both testers reported that the lifejacket rode up leaving them feeling insecure.

Conclusion:
 A lightweight lifejacket but perhaps not robust enough for intensive use in fishing.

Chosen by:
 Skipper x1, trawling, Scotland
 Skipper x1, netting, South West
 Crew x1, potting, South West

Prior use of lifejackets:
 None

Trip frequency and duration (per month):
 Average 16 trips of 17 hours

Reason for choosing this product:
 Nice and light
 Compact
 Flat design

	Review 1	Review 2
After (average)	3 months	7 months
Use	Some, some (rough), rarely	Some (rough)
Comments		Only wear in rough weather or when shooting and hauling.
Comfort when working	4.7 (7,6,1)	8
Comfort when wearing	7.3 (8,8,6)	6
Durability	8.3 (9,9,7)	9
Minor irritations/hazards	Difficult to wear in hot weather	Too hot to wear for a long time
Major irritations/hazards	Rubs neck, can't wear	None
Continue to wear?	Yes x2, No x1	Yes
Coordinator's comments	Think the 'no' may be peer pressure.	None

Product: Viking RescYou™ Conquest (8)	Approx. price: £70
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Findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

Product description:
 A halter-style lifejacket with a rounded collar. Red nylon fabric covers secured by Velcro fastenings. The lifejacket has a stainless steel loop-in-loop belt buckle but no crutch strap. Toggles are fitted and the lifejacket has an external lifting or pulling loop on the outside of the cover.
 A harness version is available with twin back straps and crutch straps.

Tank test:
 One of the four samples tested was slow to inflate but all performed well in the water. Two of the testers found it to be very comfortable.

Conclusion:
 All four fishermen who tried it in the tank test said that they would wear and indeed buy this product. One stated that it was the first lifejacket that he had tried that did not choke him when inflated.

Chosen by:
 Crew x1, trawling, Scotland
 Skipper x2, trawling, Scotland
 Skipper x1, potting, Scotland

Prior use of lifejackets:
 None

Trip frequency and duration (per month):
 Average 18 trips of 9 hours

Reason for choosing this product:
 Lightweight
 Feels comfortable

	Review 1	Review 2
After (average)	3 months	6.5 months
Use	Most of the time x1, some (rough weather) x1, rarely x2	Rarely, some (deck)
Comfort when working	7.8 (8,9,8,6)	8
Comfort when wearing	7.5 (7,9,8,6)	7
Durability	9 (10,9,8,9)	6
Minor irritations/hazards	Getting a bit smelly and toggle can snag	Smelly
Major irritations/hazards	None	None
Continue to wear?	Yes x3, No x1	Yes x1, No x1
Coordinator's comments	Skipper appears to be very happy with lifejacket. Jacket has falsely inflated once. Didn't really want to try this one, but no Secubib available!	None

Findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

Product description:
 A single chamber halter-style lifejacket with a rounded collar. The cover is orange PVC and has zip fastenings. The belt has a plastic push-lock buckle and the inflation mechanism is the Hammer hydrostatic.

Tank test:
 The two samples inflated efficiently and supported the wearer well. The testers stated that it was very comfortable and in calm conditions they had no problems. However, in wave conditions they both reported that a lot of water was flushing between the two sections of the inflated bladder and hitting their mouths.

Conclusion:
 A good wearable and durable lifejacket suitable for fishing. The tank test gave doubts about its performance in wave conditions.

Chosen by:
 Crew x1, trawling, Scotland
 Skipper x1, trawling, South West
 Crew x1, potting, South West

Prior use of lifejackets:
 None x2
 Flotation suit in Winter x1

Trip frequency and duration (per month):
 Average 20 trips of 11 hours

Reason for choosing this product:
 Looks hard wearing
 Small, flat and compact, good washable material

	Review 1	Review 2
After (average)	10 months	19 months
Use	Some (rough weather) x2, all x1	Some (rough)
Comments	I'm trying to get into the habit of wearing all the time.	
Comfort when working	7.7 (8,7,8)	7
Comfort when wearing	8 (8,8,8)	8
Durability	9 (9,8,10)	8
Minor irritations/hazards	None	None
Major irritations/hazards	None	None
Continue to wear?	Yes x2, No x1	Yes
Coordinator's comments	Happy with lifejacket. Likes lifejacket and wears when remembers! Has sold boat, but found it easy to wear while fishing.	Would like to try another Winter with the lifejacket.

Findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

Product description:
 A halter-style single chamber lifejacket with a fold down collar. The cover is blue nylon fabric fastened with a zip and has toggles fitted. A crutch strap is supplied but needs to be fitted. The inflation mechanism is a Hammer hydrostatic.

Tank test:
 Of the two samples tested one inflated quickly and supported the wearer well. The other did not inflate for several seconds but then inflated effectively. Both testers considered it comfortable in the water situation.

Conclusion:
 A good effective lifejacket that is comfortable to wear. Its long length may not make it suitable for use in potting. (It should be noted that questions have been raised about the reliability of Hammer hydrostatic mechanisms.)

Chosen by:
 Skipper x1, hooking, South West
 Crew x1, trawling, Scotland
 Skipper x1, potting, Scotland

Prior use of lifejackets:
 Very little x1
 None x2

Trip frequency and duration (per month):
 Average 21 trips of 13 hours

Reason for choosing this product:
 Small and compact, good material
 Feels very comfortable and easy to put on
 Nice and light

	Review 1	Review 2
After (average)	4 months	12 months
Use	Some (rough weather), some, rarely (expect more in Winter)	Some, most, rarely
Comfort when working	8 (7,9,8)	5.3 (6,6,4)
Comfort when wearing	8 (7,9,8)	5 (7,5,3)
Durability	7.7 (8,5,10)	6.5 (7,6)
Minor irritations/hazards	Can feel restrictive at times. Very comfortable but getting very dirty and smelly and toggle can snag.	It's wearable, but toggle snagging and very dirty.
Major irritations/hazards	None	Too uncomfortable, rubs on neck.
Continue to wear?	3 x Yes	1 x Yes, 2 x No
Coordinator's comments	None	None

Product: Secumar Alpha (20 and 21 (window))	Approx. price: £109
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Findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

Product description:

A halter-style single chamber lifejacket with a fold down collar that has a fleece comfort strip. The cover is blue fabric secured with Velcro and the belt has a plastic/stainless steel push-lock buckle. A clear plastic window covers the inflation mechanism allowing the green indicator to be readily seen. The window is secured with a zip giving easy access to the inflation mechanism. This lifejacket is also available without the window for a slightly lower cost.

Tank test:

Both samples inflated efficiently: with one lifejacket there was a slight (1 second) hesitation whilst the second half of the cover released. Both testers found that the inflated lifejacket was tight around their neck and was not comfortable. One man found that the lifejacket was a little slow to right him and in wave conditions quite a lot of water was striking the face.

Conclusion:

A comfortable lifejacket and the window facility results in it being very easy to check the mechanism and cylinder.

Chosen by:

Skipper x2, trawling, Scotland
 Skipper x1, netting, South West
 Crew x1, hooking, South West
Trip frequency and duration (per month):
 20 trips of 6 hours (netting, hooking)
 17 trips of 24 hours (trawling)
 3 trips of 9 days (trawling)

Prior use of lifejackets:

None x3
 Occasional x1

Reason for choosing this product:

Lightweight and comfortable
 Good material, comfy round neck
 Liked the look and was good quality
 Nice and easy to put on

	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
After (average)	4.6 months	15 months	14 months (Review 2 for this fisherman was at 9 months)
Use	Most (deck) x2, most x1, some (rough weather) x1	Most x3	all
Comments	Sometimes it's too hot to wear a lifejacket. Found it warm during the Summer.	Getting more used to the idea.	Very pleased, although it's a bit muddy and smelly.
Comfort when working	Bit tight across the back of the neck. A bit flimsy for deck work.		
Comfort when wearing	7.3 (7,8,6,8)	7.7 (7,8,8)	10
Durability	7.3 (7,8,6,8)	7.7 (7,8,8)	10
Minor irritations/hazards	8 (9,8,9,6)	8	9
Major irritations/hazards	Toggle got caught in nets when hauling and went off.	Toggle still a problem x2	Too many loose toggles.
Continue to wear?	Potential hazard if toggle gets caught when shooting.	Toggle	None
Coordinator's comments	Yes x4	Yes x3	Yes Skipper says he is totally convinced and will wear every time he goes to sea.

Findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:

Product description:
 A halter-style single chamber lifejacket with a fold down collar. The cover is red nylon fabric and is secured by Velcro. Toggles are attached to the lifejacket. The belt has a stainless steel loop-in-loop buckle and a crutch strap is supplied and fitted.

Tank test:
 Both samples inflated efficiently but both testers complained that the crutch straps were uncomfortable. In wave conditions the loading around the groin area was unacceptable and both men released the crutch straps to find that all load was now being taken on the neck.

Conclusions:
 A lightweight lifejacket but the fabric is perhaps not robust enough for constant use in fishing.

Chosen by:
 Skipper x1, potting, Scotland
 Crew x1, potting, Scotland
 Skipper x1, potting, South West
Trip frequency and duration (per month):
 Average 20 trips of 8 hours

Prior use of lifejackets:
 None x2
 Very rarely x1

Reason for choosing this product:
 Lightweight
 Flat and good length of crutch strap

	Review 1	Review 2
After (average)	4 months	15 months
Use	All x1, some x1, most x1	Never
Comments		Has not got into the habit of wearing it – would have preferred Secubib, but admits he chose this one himself!
Comfort when working	6.7 (7,6,7)	
Comfort when wearing	7.3 (8,7,7)	
Durability	7.3 (7,9,6)	
Minor irritations/hazards	Rubbing on neck a bit x2. Toggle gets in the way a bit x1.	
Major irritations/hazards	None	
Continue to wear?	Yes x3	
Coordinator's comments	Has been wearing underneath oilskin top, have asked him to reverse this – opinion on neck rub may change.	

Findings from Fleetwood Tank trials:**Product description:**

A waistcoat design that incorporates 150N of inflatable buoyancy with 50N of inherent buoyancy to ensure that minimum buoyancy will always be provided even if the inflation should fail. The product has a nylon fabric cover in orange with the front section faced with orange PVC. Velcro is used to fasten the cover and the main belt has a stainless steel loop-in-loop buckle and a 'D' ring fitted. Two small belts with plastic push-lock buckles are fitted at the top and bottom of the waistcoat. There are reflective strips both at the front and back and double crutch straps are fitted and contained ready for use in a pocket at the back.

Tank test:

Inflation was rapid but both fishermen found the inflated lifejacket very tight around the neck and had to deflate it slightly. Support from the lifejacket was good, the head being well out of the water. In wave conditions some water was hitting the face.

Conclusion:

A durable product that gives good buoyancy and can be guaranteed to always provide a minimum of 50N of buoyancy. Possibly, it is too bulky to be worn constantly when working on most fishing vessels.

Chosen by:

Engineer x1, trawling, Scotland

Prior use of lifejackets:

Yes on deck

Trip frequency and duration (per month):

3 trips of around 9 days

Reason for choosing this product:

Trying something new

	Review 1
After (average)	2.5 months
Use	Some (deck)
Comments	It is very bulky but would last for ages.
Comfort when working	6
Comfort when wearing	6
Durability	9
Minor irritations/hazards	Bulky, restricts movement
Major irritations/hazards	None
Continue to wear?	Yes
Coordinator's comments	None

6.0 Findings: Part four – results by type of fishing

6.1 Types of fishing

Four main types of fishing were identified within the trial participants:

- Potting (including crabbing and creeling)
- Trawling (including scalloping)
- Hooking (including longlining and handlining)
- Netting

Some types of fishing are very similar in technique and therefore the impact on the use of lifejackets and buoyancy aids is the same. This is why three of the types of fishing include other types in order to provide a more robust sample.

The sample sizes for hooking and netting are still very small and therefore these results should be treated as anecdotal rather than statistically robust. Two of the results included in the hooking section are originally part of the netting section but have been double-counted in order to provide additional samples, as the fishermen involved carry out both types.

In addition, other fishermen carry out more than one type of fishing, even though this was not necessarily stated on the feedback sheets, and it is anticipated that they will be interested in the results for other types of fishing too.

The following pages detail basic results split by type of fishing. They are designed to provide the basic information required to help fishermen understand the products tried by their peers and the results of those trials (shaded boxes indicate the higher scores). They are not intended to provide an absolute answer for all fishermen within that type, just a guide to what might be suitable for them. The sheets are also written as an aid for the fishing safety coordinators when talking to fishermen. For more information about a particular product, please refer to the product sheets given in previous sections of this report.

Results by type of fishing – Potting (including crabbing and creels)

Number in trial:	62 (50% of overall trial)
Regional split:	Scotland 47%; South West 53%
Role:	Skipper 76%; crew 24%
Average trip frequency (per month):	20
Average trip duration (hours or days):	9 hours
Pre-trial use of lifejackets whilst fishing:	None 71%; rarely/very rarely 5%; occasionally 23%; yes, when working alone 1%
Number of different products tried:	19

Product (those in bold were tested by enough fishermen on the trial overall to provide in-depth analysis)	Review 1 Number of testers	Average comfort when WORKING (10 = high)	Average comfort when WEARING (10 = high)	Average DURABILITY (10 = as new)	After (average number of months)	Review 2 Number of testers	Average comfort when WORKING (10 = high)	Average comfort when WEARING (10 = high)	Average DURABILITY (10 = as new)	After (average number of months)
Aspli A36	2	4	7	8	6	1	8	8	7	16.5
Crewsaver Crewfit	3	5.7	7.3	9.3	4	1	4	3		10
Crewsaver jacket (non approved)	2	8.5	8.5	9	1.5	2	4.5	5.5	7.5	12
Crewsaver Voyager	1	8	8	10	6.5	0				
Gael Force Hi-Line (incl. International Hi-Line)	6	7.5	7.8	8.3	6	3	8	8.7	8.7	12
Guy Cotten Secubib (with or without 3D top)	12	7.5	7.4	8	6	8	7.9	8.4	6.1	14.5
Guy Cotten Waistcoat	1	7	9	10	2	1	5	7	6	5.5
International Safety Challenger	6	6.2	6.7	8.5	3.5	4	6.3	6.7	7.7	10
Lazilas Omega	1	1	6	7	6	0				
Mullion Floater Waistcoat	2	8	8	8.5	3	2	6	6	7.5	14
Mullion Neptune 150CE	3	6.7	6	8.3	3	3	7	7.5	7	12
Mullion Neptune ECO 150N	2	6.5	6.5	7.5	3.5	2	7.5	7.5	7	12
Mullion Seafloat Vest	1	7	7	7	17	0				
Ocean Safety Commodore	4	7.3	7.3	7.8	8.5	2	6	7.5	7.5	8.5
Ocean Safety Kestrel	3	6.7	7.3	7.3	4	0				
Ocean Safety Sport	1	7	7	9	2	0				
Seafish trousers	8	6.1	7.9	8.3	5	5	6.6	7	4.2	15
Viking Elka Oilskin Top (no longer produced)	3	8	8.3	6	2.5	1	7	7	8	10
Viking RescYou™ Conquest	1	8	8	8	2	1	8	7	6	7

Results by type of fishing – Trawling (including scalloping)

Number in trial:	45 (36.3% of overall trial)
Regional split:	Scotland 64%; South West 36%
Role:	Skipper 58%; crew 38%; engineer 4%
Average trip frequency (per month):	1–9 trips 20%; 10–14 trips 18%; 15–19 trips 16%; 20+ trips 47%
Average trip duration (hours or days):	6–12 hours 60%; 1–2 days 20%; up to 9 days 20%
Pre-trial use of lifejackets whilst fishing:	None 71%; rarely/very rarely 5%; occasionally 23%; yes, when working alone 2%
Number of different products tried:	19

Product (those in bold were tested by enough fishermen on the trial overall to provide in-depth analysis)	Review 1 Number of testers	Average comfort when WORKING (10 = high)	Average comfort when WEARING (10 = high)	Average DURABILITY (10 = as new)	After (average number of months)	Review 2 Number of testers	Average comfort when WORKING (10 = high)	Average comfort when WEARING (10 = high)	Average DURABILITY (10 = as new)	After (average number of months)
Aspli A36	3	6	6.3	8	3.5	1	4	4	6	17
Aspli Regatta 403 Hybrid	1	6	6	9	2.5	0				
Crewsaver Crewfit	4	7.8	7.8	7.3	4	2	7	6.5	6.5	12
Crewsaver Voyager	2	7.5	8	8.5	11.5	1	7	8	8	19
Gael Force Hi-Line	1	7	7	8	3	1	8	10	10	7
Guy Cotten Secubib (with or without 3D top)	9	6.7	7.1	8.7	5	6	5.8	6.7	5.8	15
Guy Cotten Waistcoat	3	9.5	9.7	9	4	2	6	8	8	12
International Safety Challenger	2	7	8	8.5	3	1	3	4	6	16
Lazilas Omega	1	7	8	9	2	1	8	6	9	6.5
Lazilas Sigma Auto	1	8	8	6	5	1	3	4	7	17
Mullion Floater Waistcoat	3	7.7	8	9.3	3	2	8	8	8.5	9
Mullion Seafloat Vest	2	6	7.5	9.5	2	1	9	9	5	12
New Guy Cotten	1	8	8	9	2.5	0				
Ocean Safety Commodore	1	6	8	10	1.5	0				
Ocean Safety Sport	3	5.7	6.3	9	3.5	1	3	3	6	17
Seafish Trousers	2	7.5	8	7.5	3.5	1	8	8	8	6
Secumar Alpha (with or without window)	2	7.5	7.5	7.5	2	1	7	7	8	8
Viking Elka Oilskin Top (no longer produced)	1	7	7	9	1.5	0				
Viking RescYou™ Conquest	3	7.7	7.3	9.3	3.5	0				

Results by type of fishing – Netting (Please note: very low base of respondents – anecdotal results)

Number in trial:	9 (7.2% of overall trial)
Regional split:	South West 100%
Role:	Skipper 89%; crew 11%
Average trip frequency (per month):	19
Average trip duration (hours or days):	9 hours
Pre-trial use of lifejackets whilst fishing:	None 56%; rarely/very rarely 22%; occasionally 11%; yes in bad weather 11%
Number of different products tried:	7

Product (those in bold were tested by enough fishermen on the trial overall to provide in-depth analysis)	Review 1 Number of testers	Average comfort when WORKING (10 = high)	Average comfort when WEARING (10 = high)	Average DURABILITY (10 = as new)	After (average number of months)	Review 2 Number of testers	Average comfort when WORKING (10 = high)	Average comfort when WEARING (10 = high)	Average DURABILITY (10 = as new)	After (average number of months)
Guy Cotten Secubib (with or without 3D top)	2	8.5	8.5	9	7.5	1	7	8	8	17
Lazilas Omega	1	6	8	9	1.5	0				
Mullion Floater Waistcoat	1	10	10	9	2.5	1	4	4	8	14.5
Mullion Seafloat Vest	2	4.5	5	10	3	1	7	8	8	15
Ocean Safety Commodore	1	10	10	9	5	1	8	9	8	16.5
Seafish Trousers	1	8	8	8	7.5	0				
Secumar Window Alpha	1	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	19

Results by type of fishing – Hooking (including longlining and handlining)

(Please note: very low base of respondents – anecdotal results)

Number in trial:	10 (8% of overall trial)
Regional split:	South West 100%
Role:	Skipper 70%; crew 30%
Average trip frequency (per month):	20 trips 80%; 17 trips 20%
Average trip duration (hours or days):	6 hours 80%; 1 day 20%
Pre-trial use of lifejackets whilst fishing:	None 88%; rarely 12%
Number of different products tried:	7

Product (those in bold were tested by enough fishermen on the trial overall to provide in-depth analysis)	Review 1 Number of testers	Average comfort when WORKING (10 = high)	Average comfort when WEARING (10 = high)	Average DURABILITY (10 = as new)	After (average number of months)	Review 2 Number of testers	Average comfort when WORKING (10 = high)	Average comfort when WEARING (10 = high)	Average DURABILITY (10 = as new)	After (average number of months)
Crewsaver Crewfit	2	8	8	7.5	7	2	6	7	7.5	18
Guy Cotten Secubib (with or without 3D top)	2	8.5	9	8.5	6	2	7	8	7.5	17
International Safety Challenger	1	7	7	8	6	0				
Ocean Safety Commodore	2	8.5	8.5	8	5.5	2	7.5	8.5	7.5	16.5
Ocean Safety Sport	1	5	5	4	7.5	0				
Seafish Trousers	1	7	7	1	6	0				
Secumar Window Alpha	1	6	6	9	6	1	8	8	8	17

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 As anticipated, there is not one lifejacket that will suit all fishermen

As shown by the results of the trial by type of fishing, different lifejackets are popular for different reasons: those which are more suitable for potters will not necessarily be suitable for trawlermen.

7.2 Some fishermen will be resistant to wearing a lifejacket, no matter how tailored to their needs

Some fishermen tried a lifejacket for a limited period of time and then returned the lifejacket at or before the first review (typically within 5 months). As demonstrated by some of the comments made by the coordinators, peer pressure and disappointment with the first product tried may have reinforced negative perceptions.

7.3 There is a lack of information available to many fishermen about the lifejackets that are available. Having a properly informed choice could make a difference

Although discovered anecdotally, there is a lack of information about the suitability of various lifejackets for the fishing undertaken. A good example is where one chandlery had a Guy Cotten Secubib on display and the shop assistant was not even aware it was a lifejacket! If choice is not readily available, we cannot expect fishermen to search out and pay for a lifejacket that potentially may not be suitable. However, if they can see an example and read about others' experiences, this may help them make an informed choice.

7.4 For the fishermen that found a lifejacket they liked, there has been a marked difference in the attitude towards wearing them

Although not as many fishermen were contactable for a second review as originally took part in the trial, the majority of those who were contactable have shown a marked increase in their propensity to continue to wear the lifejacket they selected.

7.5 The perception and reality of wearing a lifejacket are very different

The trial managed to increase the uptake of fishermen claiming to wear a lifejacket all or most of the time by 900% after the second review. This indicates that the perception and reality of wearing a lifejacket are very different.

7.6 There is clearly a lot more work that could be done to increase the uptake of wearing lifejackets among the fishing community

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 There is scope to carry out further analysis

This report has provided some basic analysis of the information collected. It is possible to look further into the data, although the small numbers would provide indicative results rather than conclusive findings.

8.2 It is possible to continue the trial in its current form

Additional follow up with those who were not originally contactable for a second or third review would provide more data. In addition, more participants for those lifejackets with low take-up originally may allow greater analysis.

8.3 It is possible to enhance the trial

New lifejackets to the market could be tested; alterations to those already trialled could also be tested.

Appendix A

Lifejacket trial data recording sheets

RNLI Fishing Safety / SEAFISH Lifejacket Trials Coordinator Master Sheet SCO / SW	PRODUCT:	Sheet number:
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Date received:	CONCLUSION: Buy or not? Yes/No Price:
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Boat:	Port:
Name:	Position onboard:

Type of fishing:	
Frequency (average trips per month):	Duration (average hours per trip):
Lifejacket use prior to trial:	

Reason lifejacket picked:

REVIEW 1: Date:

When worn:	<input type="checkbox"/> All the time	<input type="checkbox"/> Most of the time	<input type="checkbox"/> Some of the time	<input type="checkbox"/> Rarely
	<input type="checkbox"/> Only in rough weather	<input type="checkbox"/> Only at night	<input type="checkbox"/> Only on deck	<input type="checkbox"/> Never

Comments:

	Very bad										Excellent
Comfort when <u>working</u> :	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Comfort when <u>wearing</u> :	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	n/a
Comments:											

	Falling apart										As new
Durability:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Comments:											

Minor irritations/hazards:

Major irritations/hazards:

Continue to wear? YES/NO

Coordinator's comments:

REVIEW 2: Date:

When worn:	<input type="checkbox"/> All the time	<input type="checkbox"/> Most of the time	<input type="checkbox"/> Some of the time	<input type="checkbox"/> Rarely
	<input type="checkbox"/> Only in rough weather	<input type="checkbox"/> Only at night	<input type="checkbox"/> Only on deck	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
Comments:				

	Very bad		Excellent								
Comfort when <u>working</u> :	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Comfort when <u>wearing</u> :	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	n/a
Comments:											

	Falling apart		As new							
Durability:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Comments:										

Minor irritations/hazards:

Major irritations/hazards:

Continue to wear? YES/NO

Coordinator's comments:

REVIEW 3: Date:

When worn:	<input type="checkbox"/> All the time	<input type="checkbox"/> Most of the time	<input type="checkbox"/> Some of the time	<input type="checkbox"/> Rarely
	<input type="checkbox"/> Only in rough weather	<input type="checkbox"/> Only at night	<input type="checkbox"/> Only on deck	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
Comments:				

	Very bad		Excellent								
Comfort when <u>working</u> :	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Comfort when <u>wearing</u> :	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	n/a
Comments:											

	Falling apart		As new							
Durability:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Comments:										

Minor irritations/hazards:

Major irritations/hazards:

Continue to wear? YES/NO

Coordinator's comments:

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Charity number 209603



Lifeboats

