



Buan-Ionad na hÉireann  
chun na Náisiún Aontaithe  
Permanent Mission of Ireland  
to the United Nations



## Invitation: 'Advancing Evidence-Based Solutions for Drowning Prevention in Fisheries and the Blue Economy'

1.15pm - 2.30pm Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025

*Conference Room 11, United Nations Headquarters, New York*

The **Permanent Missions of Bangladesh, Ireland and Thailand**, the **World Health Organization, UNICEF**, the **Royal National Lifeboat Institution, EMEDO**, the **Global Alliance for Drowning Prevention, Northeast Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, WorldFish** and the **Global Seaweed Coalition** warmly invite you to a side event on 'Advancing Evidence-Based Solutions for Drowning Prevention in Fisheries and the Blue Economy' in the sidelines of the High-Level Political Forum.

The event will highlight global drowning prevention actions with a focus on fisheries, the blue economy and aquatic based livelihoods; demonstrate how drowning prevention advances the Sustainable Development Goals under review; and support preparations for the Global Drowning Prevention Strategy and World Drowning Prevention Day (25 July). Every year, drowning claims the lives of over 300,000 people globally. Over 3 million in the last decade alone. Drowning affects every nation in the world, but more than 90% of all deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. These are preventable deaths. This needs to change.

Fishing is one of the most hazardous occupations in the world, with high risk of injury or death. Nearly 60 million people globally are engaged in the primary sector of fisheries and aquaculture (SDGs 8, 14). Most of this workforce is employed in low- and middle-income countries and the majority are small-scale artisanal fishers and aquaculture workers. Women account for 21% of this workforce (SDG5).

Warming oceans, changing fish stocks, and more unpredictable weather patterns (SDG13) are increasing drowning risks. It is vital that these risks are addressed now.

Speakers include:

- H.E. Ambassador Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh
- H.E. Ambassador Fergal Mythen, Permanent Representative of Ireland
- Werner Obermeyer, Director, World Health Organization
- Angélica Jácome, Director, Food and Agriculture Organisation
- Rory Nefdt, Senior Adviser, Health, UNICEF
- Editrudith Lukanga, Executive Director, EMEDO, Tanzania
- Representatives from organisations focused on the Blue Economy