

The Most Dangerous Job

The movie, *The Perfect Storm*, well described the dangers of the fishing industry through the eyes of the crew of the fishing boat, the *Andrea Gail*.

Out of their need to bring home an excellent catch of fish, the captain and crew decide to risk everything and travel as far as the remote but fertile fishing ground called the Flemish Cap. It is an especially dangerous trek during the unpredictably stormy month of October.



On their way back to Gloucester, Mass., the *Andrea Gail* encounters the “perfect storm” of 1991 and is never heard from again.

While improvements in shipbuilding, navigational technology, weather reporting and rescue support have made boating safer, fishing has become, if anything, a more lethal occupation, killing more of its workers per capita than any other job in the United States.

Again in 2013, fishers and related fishing workers are listed as the No. 1 most dangerous job in America. This field experiences 127.3 fatal injuries annually per 100,000 full-time workers. Fishing is nevertheless loved by many who do it professionally. They work long hours in nearly all weather conditions, surrounded by water, rocks, and fish that don’t want to be caught.

Coming in second on the list of most-dangerous jobs were logging workers. This category annually has about 104 fatal injuries per 100,000 full-time workers.

“There are many kinds of work that are dangerous, but one of the interesting things about fishing is that it really hasn’t changed much over time,” said *The Perfect Storm* author, Sebastian Junger. “It’s been mechanized, of course, but the basic reality of going to sea for months at a stretch is the same as it was 100 years ago. You’re way beyond help from anyone else; you’re on your own. I think that forms a certain kind of character.

“Not only does everyone know someone who died at sea, but everyone who works in the fishing industry has almost died,” he added. “Every single fisherman you talk to has almost gotten nailed at one time or another.”

(more)

It takes courage to be a fisherman.

The associates involved in health care do not find their jobs listed among the most dangerous in the country, and they don't have to brave the elements (at least, most of the time) to perform at work. But it takes no less character, no less commitment, and a whole lot of the *Whatever It Takes And Then Some* resolve.

And like the fishermen, they work long hours, and serving others is nevertheless loved by many.

They, too, display their courage. We salute such dedication!

And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands (Psalm 90:17 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter