

# Conference Wrap-up and Plenary Report

Workshop Reports  
Summary Comments  
Thank you - Obrigado

# Workshop Reports

- Open Water Drowning Prevention - Dr. Linda Quan and Dr Elizabeth Bennett (USA)
- World Drowning Report Future Strategies - Ortwin Kreft (Germany)
- The List of Research Topics - Angela Lawson (New Zealand)
- Climate Change and Drowning - Barbara Byers (Canada)



## International Life Saving Federation

Strategies for open water drowning prevention

WWS 2007 Workshop

Elizabeth Bennett  
Chair

# Climate Change and Drowning



Parameters for this task:

- 1) We acknowledge that there is debate and uncertainty over the issue of global warming and predicted severity.
- 2) ILS takes no position on the issue at large (i.e. is global warming a reality or not and how serious a problem if so).
- 3) Considering the distinct possibility regarding the reality of global warming and its results, ILS wishes to help Member Federations and other similarly focused groups to prepare for the possibilities.

# Background document

- The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - Summary for Policymakers - Impact, Adaptations and Vulnerability 2007 Report.
- This is one part of a larger report that is on line at <http://www.ipcc-wg2.org/index.html>.

# How do we do this?

- We can go through the relevant sections of the UN report and list the issues for lifesaving/Drowning.
- Is this inclusive?
- We may prioritize that list.
- We advise of the awareness/action step.
- Where does this go?

**2007** 27 - 29  
September



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Saving Lives Worldwide: Prevention, Rescue and Treatment

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## Workshop Reports

Strategies for open water drowning prevention

# List of Participants: 18

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Portugal

Brasil

Singapore

USA

Greece

Australia

Bangladesh

Canada

China

New Zealand



## Issues: Key drowning prevention messages

- Never swim alone
- Do not drink alcohol and swim
- Recognize, prevent, take action
- Learn survival skills
- Peer pressure
- Know your physical limitations relate to the activity
- If in doubt, don't go out
- Use a PFD in action sports

Issues: What **supervision** is needed for a preschooler, school age, adolescent?

- Level of supervision is not just age dependent but depends on skill and experience
- Close supervision of young children is within arm's length
- Go to water only with an adult
- Never swim alone
- Be CPR trained

# Issues: What **rules** should parents have around the water?

- Always watch the children
- Never swim alone
- Don't drink alcohol
- Know local environment
- Know how to access emergency services
- Educate children on dangers
- Belly button deep is a sign of danger

# Issues: What drowning prevention **skills** do parents and adolescents need around water?

- Survival swimming in open water
- Ability to follow directions of lifeguard
- Rescue skills
- Recognition of water features
- Ability to float, tread water, cover a distance of at least 25 meters
- Ability to recognize dangers
- Ability to recover if falls into water

Issues: What open water **hazards** should a teen/adult be able to recognize?

- Rip currents/type of waves
- Possibility of unseen underwater hazards
- All water can be hazardous
- Depth
- Sudden drop offs

# Next Steps

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- Compile feedback from the WWS conference
- Incorporate findings from the literature
- Review by another group of experts
- Publish results

# Recommendations

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- Develop a process for indepth discussion of these issues and top recommendations
- Consider consensus statement by ILS
- Develop a research agenda based on the identified issues



# Workshop Report to Conference World drowning report

OPEN FORUM - World drowning report:  
future strategies



# List of Participants

- Ortwin Kreft (Germany)
- Ludeger Schulte-Hülsmann (Germany)
- Peter Barss (United Arab Emirates)
- Dhaya Sewduth (South Afrika)
- + 4 Participants



# Key Issues



Definition on drowning:

„Drowning is the process of experiencing respiratory impairment from submersion/immersion in liquid.“

Drowning outcomes are classified as death, morbidity and no morbidity.“ (Congress on Drowning, Amsterdam 2002)

# Key Issues



There is no statistics available covering data to all aspects of this definition!

Because lack of data a number of nations do not realize the problem

# Recommendations



- We need further information about the individual cases from all places, to fight death by drowning all over the world
- We cannot rely only on public statistics because they are not available everywhere and they don't tell all important aspects of the circumstances of drowning
- We need to figure out more detailed information on a common basis to be able to get results compared for all different risks

# Recommendations



- We should get the data early (in a following year) to act in time
- ILS member organisations should play a more and more active role to provide the specific data
- We must cooperate between private and public organisations and institutes with the support of structures like WHO and the European Union

# Next Steps



1. The ILS World Drowning Report should be published with regular frequency.
2. The International Life Saving Federation should develop the gold standard for reporting by ILS member countries. This should include the Utstein Style and information consistent with the international statistical classification of diseases and related health problems (ICD-10). Specifically:
3. The International Life Saving Federation should adopt intervention models that can be used by its Member Organisations to raise awareness about methodical measures that can be taken to provide proactive water safety programmes



# Workshop Report to Conference

The ILS Research “List”

# List of Participants (16)

- Denmark
- Switzerland
- New Zealand
- Canada
- Portugal
- Brazil
- Ireland





# Evidence

- The Handbook of Drowning has a large list of research projects that we have collected into a list.



# Key Issues

- The research “list” provides little guidance in current state



# Recommendations



## 1. In the new ILS Website:

- Prioritize the categories
  - Subgroup focus/task group
- Indicate when a project is:
  - Done, pending, research in progress, who is working on this, email contact
- Clearinghouse for researchers
- Library links to articles and search systems

## 2. Create a registry of trials

## 3. ILS ethics committee approval role

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## Workshop Report

Climate Change and Drowning

# List of Participants: 18

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- Australia
- Canada
- Singapore
- UK
- USA

# Climate Change and Drowning



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# Key Issues

- No reference to drowning in document
- Water quantity changes in areas unused to dealing with
  - Increased run off; rise in sea level
  - Drought
- Increased temperatures
  - warming water in lakes and rivers
  - increase season for recreational activity which increases drowning risk
- Water quality: Increased salinity and acidity
  - Infectious disease-contaminated waters, new distribution of diseases
- Extreme events
  - Tsunamis, floods, hurricanes/typhoons



# Impact

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- Changes in exposure to water
- Insidious and sudden negative events
- Changes in infectious disease
- Impacts will be regional
- Varying abilities to respond to impacts

# Recommendations/Next Steps

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- Letter to UN IGP on Climate change
- ILS Task Force
  - Awareness and education
  - Preparedness: Prevention/Rescue/Treatment of drowning

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## Workshop Report

Climate Change and Drowning

Thank you

# ILS Values on Display



- We value learning
- We value scholarly inquiry
- We listen hard - we speak soft
- We share
- We respect each other

# Highlights Summary



## Drowning is:

- a public health issue
- endemic/epidemic

# Highlight Summary



## Drowning reduction needs:

- public health approach
- systematic, strategic, evaluated programs
- delivered globally
- a priority ILS focus

# The Science of Lifesaving



**WOW!!!**

**It is alive and growing !!!**

**We have seen fantastic examples of how to  
use evidence to build best practices**

# Congratulations



To keynote, oral, poster and workshop presenters

Our hosts

To all the audience participants



# Thank you - Obrigado



To **ILS** for this opportunity to share and learn  
To our **Hosts** for this venue and the support staff  
To the **ILS Partners** who have come to share with us  
To the on site and preparation **Staff**