Background Protein contact dermatitis has frequently been reported in case studies (usually in cases involving contact with seafood products), but there are very few descriptive series. First, to determine the incidence of protein contact dermatitis among fishermen in France and compare it with data from onshore work involving seafood exposure. Second, to discover what factors could explain any differences.

Methods/materials/patients We analysed data from the French national occupational disease surveillance and prevention network (RNV3P) and occupational diseases declared to the French National Network for Monitoring and Prevention of Occupational Disease. This retrospective study was done for a 13 year period.

Results Between 2000 and 2012, we only found eight cases of protein contact dermatitis in the French network. There were no cases of protein contact dermatitis in the seafaring population. The eight cases from the French network are essentially from chefs who have to cook seafood and to gloves but no protein contact dermatitis. Atopy is present in half of these cases.

In the seafaring population we found several cases of eczema due to bryozoans and to gloves but no protein contact dermatitis.

Conclusions Chefs who have to cook seafood are more at risk of occupational protein contact dermatitis than fishermen. We think that skin protection (that is to say glove wearing) is better implemented in the fishing sector than in the catering profession on shore in France.

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OCCUPATIONAL CONTACT DERMATITIS FROM PROTEIN IN SEA PRODUCTS: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN 2 POPULATIONS

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