# FISHING VESSEL SAFETY STATEMENT

An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority

This non-exhaustive safety checklist identifies groups of frequently encountered hazards on fishing vessels. It also helps you to assess the safety status of your vessel and asks you to tackle those hazards that are present with appropriate action. Please note that this list might not cover some activities undertaken by you. In those cases a separate assessment should be carried out. Inspectors from the Health and Safety Authority may inspect your vessel and will ask to see your vessel's Safety Statement. **Your Safety Statement must be brought to the attention of all crew members.**

## VESSEL DETAILS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NAME OF VESSEL | | CALL SIGN | |
| LENGTH OVERALL (L.O.A.) | | REGISTRATION NUMBER | |
| HOME PORT | | | |
| NAME OF SKIPPER | | | |
| ADDRESS | | | |
| NAME OF OWNER (if not the skipper) | | | |
| ADDRESS | | | |

This Safety Statement sets out how we intend complying with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and other safety and health regulations and in the process minimise the risk of accidents and ill health on board this vessel. We will update it as necessary and it will be reviewed at least once a year. Personal protective equipment, information, training and the operating procedures necessary for the safety of the vessel and crew will be provided as required by the Act.

| |
|---|
| OWNER/SKIPPER SIGNATURES |
| DEPUTY |
| DATE |

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Never wear rings or watches on deck
- Never stand in the line of ropes under tension
- Never wrap ropes around your hand
- Never stand below derricks/cranes carrying loads
- Use light reflectors on external clothing
- Practice deck routines with crew members
- Practice new routines for all gear changeovers
- Avoid running turns on winch drums
- Practice safety drills
- Wear personal protective clothing

**All crew have a duty to report to the skipper, without unreasonable delay, any defect in plant, equipment, place of work or system of work, which might endanger safety, health or welfare that they become aware of.**

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## First Aid

**Trained first aiders and a first aid kit as approved must be carried on board the vessel.**

The Trained First Aider is

## Communications

*The communications equipment on board consists of the following:*

When not in use it will be left on this emergency channel:

## Lighting

**Proper lighting is important not only for work but also for welfare.**

- Are all working areas above, on and below deck properly lit?
- Are emergency lighting facilities available?
- Are enough spare bulbs on board?
- Is the boarding area properly lit?
- Are reflective bands worn on deck?
- Is the searchlight working?

## Fatigue

**Occupational risks increase dramatically with fatigue.**

- Prolonged periods without sleep impairs judgement, concentration and the ability to communicate.
- If you find it difficult to remain alert on watch, notify the skipper immediately.
- Minimum rest periods should be discussed and agreed before going to sea.

## Pre-Steaming Check List

- Are adequate supplies (for example diesel, food, water, lube oil etc.) on board for expected trip duration?
- Does someone ashore know who is on board and your expected return date and time?
- Are adequate spare parts (for example hydraulic, electrical, mechanical etc.) on board for the trip?
- Have emergency muster procedures been practiced?
- Are all relevant marine notices and charts on board?
- Is all ancillary equipment (e.g. generators and auxiliaries etc.) in good working order?
- Do you understand all emergency signals on board and know how to respond to them?

## Anchoring

- Are you aware of the anchoring arrangements on board?
- Do you know the procedure for laying it?
- How quickly can the anchor be shot in an emergency?
- Remember to stand clear of running gear.

## Drink and Drugs

**To risk your own or others' lives as a result of abusing drink and/or drugs is grossly irresponsible.**

- What arrangements have been made for boarding?
- Is the man on watch fit?
- Is anyone on board taking non-prescribed drugs while at sea?
- Is anyone on board on prescribed medication?
- If the answer to any of these questions is yes, has the skipper been advised?

## Ventilation

**Death and serious health damage can result from inadequate ventilation on board.**

- Carbon dioxide asphyxiation can result from inadequate ventilation of galleys and cabins.
- Carbon monoxide poisoning can result from incomplete combustion of gas/paraffin/diesel heaters.
- Engine exhaust fumes are extremely toxic.
- Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) leaks can kill. The gas is heavier than air and sinks to cabin floor/bilge levels and can explode or ignite.
- Methane and other gases produced by rotting fish can kill.

**If you feel dizzy or awaken with headaches, check heaters, cookers and ventilation fans and ducts, report symptoms to the skipper. If necessary, evacuate cabins etc.**

## Emergency Stops

**Emergencies can occur at any time – are you prepared for them?**

- Does everyone on deck know the emergency stop signals?
- Who controls machinery emergency stops, such as winches, haulers etc?
- Are emergency reverse signals and procedures clearly understood?

## Berthing

- Are all signalling procedures clearly understood?
- Remember to stand clear of ropes under strain.
- Avoid riding turns on drum ends.
- Beware of ropes chafing at the pier edge.
- Make sure that deck hose is not underwater when the pump is shutdown.
- Take care not to get crushed between the side of the boat – watch fingers, hands etc.
- Are rope/wire splices/bridles sound and are all ropes/wires/bridles in good condition?

## Painting and Dry Docking

- Take great care when using ladders to climb masts or onto boats.
- Ensure that electrical wires from ashore are rigged for outdoor use.
- Wear suitable protective clothing when using blow torches/cutting and welding gear and keep a fire watch.
- Proper staging platforms must be used when painting.

## Further Information and Guidance

Visit our website at **www.hsa.ie**, telephone our contact centre on **0818 289 389** or email **contactus@hsa.ie**

Use BeSMART, our free online risk assessment tool at **www.besmart.ie**

Check out our range of free online courses at **www.hsalearning.ie**

| HAZARDS<br>TYPES OF HAZARDS | RISKS<br>EXAMPLES OF RISKS | ACTION<br>ACTION REQUIRED |
|---|---|---|
| **Access** | | |
| Falling between pier and boat/between boats | Drowning/serious injury | |
| Obstacles on deck | Man overboard/serious injury | |
| Falling down hatches | Broken bones/death | |
| Lighting | Tripping/falling | |
| Slippery decks | Tripping/falling | |
| Gangway | Falling/drowning | |
| **Wheelhouse** | | |
| Falling asleep on watch | Collision/sinking/grounding | |
| Leaving wheelhouse on watch | Collision/sinking/grounding | |
| Fitness for watchkeeping | Collision/sinking/grounding | |
| **Shooting Gear** | | |
| External clothing getting caught on gear | Serious injury/man overboard | |
| Wearing of rings/watches on deck | Loss of fingers/hands | |
| Improper communications on deck | Serious injury/death | |
| Releasing doors/larsen weights | Amputation/broken bones/crushing | |
| Shooting lazy deckies/lifelines | Broken limbs/man overboard | |
| Shooting gillnets/pots/buoys/lines/ anchors | Broken limbs/man overboard | |
| Net drums | Crushing | |
| Gear parting | Amputation/death | |
| Emergency stop procedures | Man overboard/broken bones | |
| **Hauling** | | |
| Doors/fishing anchors coming up too fast | Injury/boat immobilised | |
| Improper communications on deck | Serious injury | |
| Cod-end lifts coming aboard | Crushing | |
| Hauling lazy deckies/lifelines | Amputations/lacerations | |
| Overloading boat | Capsizing/sinking | |
| Operating power blocks | Crushing/amputations | |

| HAZARDS<br>TYPES OF HAZARDS | RISKS<br>EXAMPLES OF RISKS | ACTION<br>ACTION REQUIRED |
|---|---|---|
| **Hauling continued** | | |
| Operating net drums | Crushing | |
| Gear parting | Amputation/death | |
| Operating winches | Amputation/death | |
| Emergency stop procedures | Man overboard/broken bones | |
| **Galley** | | |
| Deep fat fryer | Burns/suffocation | |
| Cookers | Fires/explosion/suffocation | |
| **Handling Fish** | | |
| Hand gutting | Cuts/infections | |
| Machine gutting | Amputation/serious injury | |
| Fish conveyors | Crushing | |
| Passing boxes/baskets to fish room | Bones broken/back injury | |
| Stacking fish boxes | Bones broken/back injury | |
| Dipping prawns in antioxidant | Heart damage/asthma attacks | |
| Bulk storage of fish in pounds/lockers/tanks | Suffocation/capsizing | |
| **Unloading** | | |
| Clipping on boxes in fish room | Head injury | |
| Lifting loads with derricks/cranes | Serious injury/death | |
| Landing boxes on pier/truck | Serious injury | |
| **Engine Room** | | |
| Belt and Power Take Off (PTO) drives and flywheels | Amputation of limbs | |
| Missing or damaged floor plates | Broken legs/serious injury | |
| Grinding and welding | Cuts/eye damage/electrocution | |
| Noise levels | Hearing damage | |
| Fire | Death/burns | |
| Water leakages | Equipment damage/sinking | |
| Batteries | Explosion/acid burns/suffocation | |

| HAZARDS<br>TYPES OF HAZARDS | RISKS<br>EXAMPLES OF RISKS | ACTION<br>ACTION REQUIRED |
|---|---|---|
| **Engine Room continued** | | |
| Deck head protrusions | Head injuries | |
| Failure of bilge pump | Equipment damage/sinking | |
| Access to engine room | Falling | |
| Contact with hot surfaces/pipes | Burns | |
| Pressure vessels/air bottles | Explosion/bursting | |
| Fire smothering system | Suffocation | |
| **Electrical Installation** | | |
| Electrical wiring and fitting | Fires/suffocation/electrocution | |
| Batteries | Explosion/acid burns/suffocation | |
| Portable tools | Electrocution | |
| **Accommodation** | | |
| Ventilation | Poisoning/dampness | |
| Emergency exit | Drowning/suffocation | |
| Inadequate lighting | Panic/falls/serious injury | |
| Open cabin floor hatches | Falling/serious injury | |
| Smoking in bunk | Fire | |
| Heaters | Fire/gas poisoning | |
| **Welfare** | | |
| Fatigue | Shipwreck/death/serious injury | |
| Loose/torn/damaged clothing | Exposure/entanglement | |
| Poor quality food | Poisoning/malnutrition | |
| Toilet/washing/drying facilities | Sickness/food poisoning/infections | |
| **Gases/Chemicals** | | |
| LPG/compressed air/refrigerant gases | Suffocation/explosion | |
| Antioxidants e.g. sodium metabisulphate | Heart damage/asthma | |
| Oxyacetylene cutting gear | Explosion/burns | |

| HAZARDS<br>TYPES OF HAZARDS | RISKS<br>EXAMPLES OF RISKS | ACTION<br>ACTION REQUIRED |
|---|---|---|
| **Confined Space** | | |
| Flammable or explosive atmospheres | Explosion/Burns | |
| Harmful Gas, fume or vapour | Poisoning/Suffocation | |
| Free flowing solid | Crushing/Suffocation | |
| Increasing level of Liquid | Drowning | |
| Oxygen Deficiency | Suffocation/Unconsciousness/Death | |
| Excess of Oxygen | Explosion/Poisoning/Suffocation | |
| Excessively high Temperatures | Heat Stroke/Collapse /Death | |
| Access/egress | Serious injury/Death | |
| Unsafe System of Work | Serious injury/Death | |
| Restarting/flushing systems. (Restarting or flushing of refrigerated seawater systems or fish handling systems can potentially release gases) | Poisoning/Suffocation/Serious injury/Death | |
| ***"The term CONFINED SPACE means any place, including any vessel, tank, container, vat, silo, hopper, pit, bund, trench, pipe, sewer, flue, well, chamber, compartment, cellar or other similar space which, by virtue of its enclosed nature creates conditions which give rise to a likelihood of accident, harm or injury of such a nature as to require emergency action due to: (a) The presence or reasonably foreseeable presence of: (i) flammable or explosive atmospheres, (ii)harmful gas, fume or vapour, (iii) free flowing solid or an increasing level of liquid, (iv) excess of oxygen, (v) excessively high temperature. (b) The lack or reasonably foreseeable lack of oxygen."*** | | |
| **Man Overboard** | | |
| Man overboard | Drowning/hypothermia | |

## PERIODIC CHECKLIST

| | EXAMINED | EXAMINED | EXAMINED | EXAMINED |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Condition of oldest warp on winch drums | | | | |
| Bridles/splices/eyes | | | | |
| Gilson derrick/blocks/ chains/shackles/wires | | | | |
| Landing derrick/blocks/chains/ shackles/wires | | | | |
| Warp blocks/pins/roller leads | | | | |
| Hydraulic hoses/pipes/fittings | | | | |
| Beckets | | | | |
| Power blocks | | | | |
| Stopper chains and cleats | | | | |
| Winch brakes | | | | |
| Deck lights | | | | |
| Emergency exit hatches | | | | |

## ALARMS

| | NUMBER | TESTED | TESTED | TESTED |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Heat/gas detectors in galley/cabin(s) | | | | |
| Oil pressure | | | | |
| Engine temperature | | | | |
| Fuel level | | | | |
| Bilge water level | | | | |
| Fire | | | | |
| Carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) | | | | |
| Engine room (ER) smothering | | | | |
| Fog horn | | | | |

Emergency drills and musters will be carried out as required by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and at least once a month on other vessels which do not come within the scope of current legislation.

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES
### including man overboard and helicopter rescue procedures

## SAFETY EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

| | NO. ON BOARD | DATE SERVICED | DATE SERVICED | DATE SERVICED |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Standard release liferaft(s) | | | | |
| Automatic release liferaft(s) | | | | |
| Lifeboat(s) | | | | |
| Rockets and flares | | | | |
| Line throwing apparatus | | | | |
| Life jackets (SOLAS) | | | | |
| Life rings | | | | |
| Fire extinguishers<br>- Powder<br>- Carbon dioxide ($CO_2$)<br>- Foam<br>- Water<br>- Other | | | | |
| Fire smothering system | | | | |
| Emergency lighting | | | | |
| Emergency fuel shut-offs | | | | |
| Emergency exit hatches from cabins | | | | |
| Man overboard recovery equipment | | | | |
| Portable waterproof VHF radio(s) | | | | |
| Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon(s) (EPIRB(s)) | | | | |
| First aid boxes | | | | |
| Anchor and anchor lines | | | | |

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

| | NO. ON BOARD | CONDITION | CONDITION | CONDITION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Constant-wear lifejackets | | | | |
| Full oilskin sets | | | | |
| Suitable footwear | | | | |
| Ear muffs | | | | |
| Gloves etc. | | | | |
| Personal Locator Beacon(s) (PLB(s)) | | | | |