Fishing Vessel Safety Procedures Meeting Kit



WHAT’S AT STAKE

Fishing vessels can range in size and design, from small traditional fishing boats to large industrial trawlers or factory ships. The specific type of fishing vessel used depends on factors such as the fishing method employed, the target species, the fishing location (coastal or offshore), and the fishing regulations in place.

WHAT’S THE DANGER

HAZARDOUS PROCEDURES DURING FISHING VESSEL OPERATIONS

- Fishing vessels operate in unpredictable and challenging weather conditions, including high winds, rough seas, heavy rain, or fog. Crew members face the risk of being exposed to extreme weather, which can lead to increased chances of slips, falls, injuries, or fatigue.
- Fishing operations involve handling heavy equipment, such as nets, hooks, lines, and winches. Improper use or malfunctioning of equipment can result in injuries, entanglement hazards, or even amputations.
- Fishing vessels are often wet and slippery, posing a hazard for crew members moving around the deck. Slips, trips, and falls can result in injuries, including fractures, sprains, or head trauma.
- Fishing vessels may require crew members to work at elevated locations, such as masts, rigging, or platforms. Falls from heights can result in severe injuries or fatalities.
- The manual handling of heavy loads, such as fish catch, gear, or equipment, can lead to musculoskeletal injuries.
- Fishing vessels often have fuel tanks, engines, and onboard machinery that can pose fire and explosion hazards. Improper storage or handling of flammable materials, and electrical malfunctions can result in fires or explosions.
- The demanding nature of fishing operations can lead to crew fatigue and sleep deprivation. Fatigue increases the likelihood of accidents, reduced alertness, and impaired decision-making abilities.
- Crew may be exposed to various hazardous substances during fishing operations, such as fuels, or fish processing byproducts that lead to respiratory problems, skin irritations, or long-term health issues.
- Fishing vessels, particularly smaller ones, can be susceptible to capsizing or instability due to factors such as overloading, shifting loads, or rough seas.

- Crew members working near the vessel’s edge or on fishing gear face the risk of falling overboard.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

BEST FISHING VESSEL SAFETY PROCEDURES

- Crew members should wear appropriate PPE, including life jackets or personal flotation devices (PFDs), waterproof clothing, gloves, and safety boots.
- Crew members should receive comprehensive safety training, including emergency procedures, proper use of safety equipment, first aid, and firefighting techniques.
- Establish clear communication protocols for emergencies. Maintain functional communication systems, such as marine radios, satellite phones, or other reliable means of communication.
- Regularly inspect and maintain firefighting equipment, as fire extinguishers, hoses, and fire blankets.
- Train crew members on the use of man overboard recovery equipment, such as life rings, throwing lines, or rescue boats. Establish communication and alert systems to promptly respond to man overboard incidents.
- Regularly inspect and maintain safety equipment, such as life rafts, life buoys, distress signals, and survival suits. Ensure they are easily accessible, properly stored, and in good working condition.
- Follow safe navigation practices, including proper use of nautical charts, electronic navigation systems, and radar. Maintain a proper lookout for other vessels and navigational hazards.
- Continuously monitor weather conditions and forecasts to ensure crew safety. Establish protocols for ceasing or altering fishing operations based on weather conditions, such as strong winds, storms, or fog.
- Maintain a well-stocked medical kit onboard the vessel. Ensure crew members receive basic first aid training and know how to respond to common injuries or illnesses.
- Conduct regular safety inspections of the vessel to identify and address potential hazards. This includes checking the integrity of the hull, fuel and electrical systems, machinery, and fishing gear.
- Ensure crew members are not fatigued and have sufficient rest periods.
- Encourage open communication, where crew members can report safety concerns or near-miss incidents without fear of reprisal.

BEST WORKER QUALITIES IN FISHING VESSEL PROCEDURES

- **Safety Consciousness:** Be familiar with safety procedures, and emergency protocols.
- **Training and Knowledge:** Seek proper training and education related to fishing vessel operations.
- **Teamwork and Communication:** Foster a positive and cooperative working environment.
- **Work Ethic and Responsibility:** Demonstrate a strong work ethic by being punctual and reliable.
- **Physical Fitness and Stamina:** Maintain good physical fitness to handle tasks effectively and reduce the risk of injuries. Engage in regular exercise, eat a balanced diet, and get enough rest to stay in optimal shape.
- **Adaptability and Flexibility:** Fishing operations can be unpredictable, requiring adaptability to changing weather conditions, fishing grounds, and equipment needs.
- **Equipment Maintenance:** Take responsibility for the maintenance and care of

fishing equipment, gear, and personal protective equipment (PPE).
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Practice responsible fishing practices and follow sustainable fishing guidelines.
- **Continuous Learning:** Seek feedback from experienced crew members, attend training programs or workshops, and stay informed about advancements in fishing vessel procedures and technologies.
- **Respect and Professionalism:** Treat fellow crew members, superiors, and other stakeholders with respect.

FINAL WORD

Fishing vessel safety is essential for protecting the lives and well-being of crew members, preventing accidents and incidents, complying with regulations, preserving marine resources, managing financial risks, and upholding the industry’s reputation.