

HERRING FOOD & BAIT BEST PRACTICES



fish SAFE

FISHERMEN HELPING FISHERMEN

WHY BEST PRACTICES?

Fishermen recognize that the potential for stability incidents in the herring fishery are high and that the incidence of serious injury and fatalities has historically been very high as well. An accident or incident can happen to any fisherman at any time and these Best Practices have been developed to help lower the risk to everyone involved.

This 'Best Practices' document is a collaborative effort by fishermen and members of the Herring Industry Advisory Board (HIAB) in an effort to assist fishermen in reducing or removing threats to stability, improving safety procedures and providing a quality product.



TOP TEN CHECKLIST

1. Arrange for a pre-sailing Safest Catch Vessel Visit with Fish Safe at 604-261-9700.
2. Conduct a safety orientation and emergency drills with crew, observer and anyone else on board.
3. Ensure you and your crew understand the stability limits of your vessel.
4. FIND A BUDDY BOAT. The “buddy system” is an effective management measure contributing to safe fishing practices. (Observers can be shared between two vessels, but must be on the setting vessel).
5. Problems can escalate quickly—be ready and willing to make a call for assistance sooner rather than later.
6. Have a pre-setting checklist. Be prepared—have all equipment and procedures ready before you need them. Time is of the essence when handling fish.
7. Check the weather forecast for fishing conditions.
8. Develop and train crew on emergency procedures for releasing a set.
9. Wear a PFD at all times while on the working deck.
10. Everyone must take responsibility for their own safety.



PRE-SAILING

- Ensure you and your crew understand the stability limits of your vessel.
- Make sure the vessel is properly ballasted.
- Conduct an orientation on the vessel for all crew.
- Conduct emergency drills (radios, muster list, etc.).
- Ensure there are immersion suits for each crew member and that they are well fitted.
- Ensure communication methods with everyone on deck including skiff man are well established before fishing.
- Check bilge alarm and float switches and ensure alarm is audible throughout vessel.
- All crew members must have valid fishing licenses.
- Assess whether extra gear needs to be removed to maintain vessel stability.
- Contact JO Thomas to get a list of participating vessels (along with their contact numbers), and FIND A BUDDY BOAT.
- Check with other vessels and companies that have been assessed and where fish has been caught recently.
- Carefully check license conditions to familiarize yourself with all hailing and logbook requirements.
- Contact JO Thomas to arrange for an At Sea Observer and to hail out.
- Know your quota and quota transfer options.
- Confirm that you have the correct phone number for your offloader.
- Make sure you have all fishing gear and that it is in good working order (eg. straps, hoses, etc.).
- Inspect all rigging machinery for wear and tear (have a rigging checklist/log book).
- Check the power skiff to ensure it is in working order and that it is equipped with lights/emergency lights (flashlight) and re-boarding device.
- Provide a crew list and destination to shore manager.
- Check the weather regularly.
- Lengthen the breast line on the net to facilitate release of fish.
- Confirm with your buyer if there are any size restrictions on the size of fish you wish to catch.



PRE-SAILING

LOADING GEAR

- ❑ Secure all gear.
- ❑ Keep gear low to maintain vessel stability.
- ❑ Check that equipment is working prior to leaving the dock (power skiff, fish pump, etc. should be tested) and that all sampling equipment (hoop nets, buckets, etc.) is onboard.
- ❑ Check that all components for the fish pump are loaded.

ON BOARD OBSERVERS

- ❑ Vessel orientation and safety procedures must be reviewed with observer when he/she first comes on board.
- ❑ Observers must be treated with respect at all times.
- ❑ Observers must be allowed access as required to do their job.
- ❑ Biological samples should be taken when requested by observer.
- ❑ It is the skipper's responsibility to provide all the information the observer requires, including correct information for sample bucket labels.

TRAVELLING TO

- ❑ Check the weather regularly.
- ❑ Be mindful of fatigue. Do short wheel turns until the crew is rested.
- ❑ Watch alarms.
- ❑ Monitor and/or participate in Vessel Traffic—Channel 16.



ON GROUNDS FISHING

- Develop and train crew on net handling procedures including emergency procedures for releasing a set.
- Problems can escalate quickly—be ready and willing to make a call for assistance sooner rather than later.
- Keep boom centered.
- Secure boom with a strong enough stretch-resistant Dead Man safety line.
- Keep scuppers clear.
- Tie net off at deck to keep the weight of the net low (if possible). Fishermen identify this stage of fishing as being the most prone to affect vessel stability.
- Have testing equipment (eg. hoop nets, scales, buckets, etc.) ready and available for quick access after you make your set.
- Take samples as quickly as possible.
- It is recommended to take a sample with at least 30 fm of net out.
- Check that your “Buddy Boat” is nearby. Keep on-going communication with your buddy boat especially when lining up.
- Keep sets under 100 tons.
- When making a set, consideration must be given to available packing capacity.
- Minimize the time fish are held in the net for quality and safety.
- If you have caught too much fish, you may release some prior to drying up the net. Do not release fish from a net that has been tightly dried up.
- When the pump is in the net, all fish in that set must be pumped (if safe to do so).
- Document reasons for all sets released in your logbook (eg. safety, gear problems, fish quality, net split).
- All bycatch needs to be release with the least possible harm.
- Conduct fishing operations to minimize any impact on sea lions.

Make sure you have emergency procedures for releasing your set. Make sure that each of your crew knows that these procedures are and what their individual roles are in carrying out these procedures.



ON GROUND FISHING

LOADING FISH

- ❑ Keep vessel level.
- ❑ Ensure emergency communication procedures are maintained with crew in all vessel locations especially below deck.
- ❑ Keep hatches, manholes, doors that are not in use secured / closed.
- ❑ Keep all down flooding points closed.
- ❑ Always have someone on hydraulics.
- ❑ Prepare fish tanks be ready to load fish.
- ❑ Ensure you have a long enough pump hydraulic hose.
- ❑ Be ready for vessel along corkline.
- ❑ Remember that you are in the public eye when you are fishing. Don't dump any garbage overboard, or pump engine room bilge.

TRAVELLING FROM

- ❑ Check the weather regularly.
- ❑ Be mindful of fatigue. Ensure short wheel turns until the crew is rested.
- ❑ Watch alarms.
- ❑ Monitor and/or participate in Vessel Traffic—Channel 16.
- ❑ Pressed tanks.
- ❑ Net on drum if returning loaded in poor weather.
- ❑ Confirm with off loader and your company that you will be coming in with fish.
- ❑ Call JO Thomas to arrange dockside validation.



CONTACT NUMBERS

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Bryan Rusch	Regional Pelagics Coordinator	250-618-4066
Marisa Keefe	Regional Herring Officer	604-354-0352
Jim Meldrum	Fishery Manager: F&B/ SOG Roe Seine	Office: 250-286-5823 Cell: 250-895-0473
Terry Palfrey	Fishery Manager: SOG Roe Gillnet	250-616-8217
Steven Groves	North Coast Herring Coordinator	Office: 250-627-3455 Cell: 778-884-1446
Peter Halll	South Coast Herring Coordinator	Office: 250-720-4445 Cell: 250-918-8179

JO THOMAS (MONITORING PROGRAM)

Doug Tallman, Sylvia Chow & Karl Rekdal	1-866-930-4000 604-291-6340
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FISH SAFE OFFICE

604-261-9700

EMERGENCY

JRCC 1-800-567-5111
1-250-363-2333

Coast Guard Emergency
VHF Channel 16
*16 on cell phone

Prince Rupert Traffic
VHF Channel 11

Victoria Traffic
VHF Channel 11

STABILITY REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Transport Canada: Every fishing vessel over 9m in hull length requires a stability assessment if it has undergone a major modification or a change in activity that is likely to adversely affect its stability. Every fishing vessel above 15 GT built or converted to herring or capelin after 06 July 1977 and engaged in fishing or packing herring or capelin must have an approved stability book on board. Herring vessel over 15GT built before 1977 that have not been modified, in adversely affecting their stability characteristics, may be exempt from having a stability book. Completion of the Stability Questionnaire (SSB 04/2006), https://tc.canada.ca/sites/default/files/migrated/ssb_04_2006e.pdf will assist the fishing vessel owner in determining if any of the risk factors apply to their vessel, including the use of anti-roll tanks, in triggering the need for a stability assessment. Please contact the nearest Transport Canada office or your marine consultant for more information.

WorkSafeBC: Documentation describing the operational limits of stability must be on board and must be communicated and available to the crew.



STABILITY TOOLS AVAILABLE

Contact Fish Safe at 604-261-9700 or visit online at www.fishsafebc.com for the following programs:

Fish Safe Stability Education Program

This four day interactive fishing stability program was designed by fishermen for fishermen and is essential for participants in the herring fishery. It is highly recommended that everyone participate to ensure they have the tools they need to reduce or remove stability threats on their vessel. Cost is \$200.

Safest Catch Program

Fisherman Safety Advisors will assist you with emergency drills, safety equipment orientation and procedures for your vessel. No Cost.

Stability Workshops

A custom stability one day workshop specific to the herring fishery can be provided to participants in the food and bait and roe fisheries. No Cost.

Information

Stability Books - if your vessel has one - make sure you are aware of any limitations on packing capacity, downflooding points and worst operating condition. (The Fish Safe Stability Education Program includes the ability to decipher information from a stability book)

Other tools available from Fish Safe:

- Threats to Stability
- WCB Stability Handout
- Fish Safe Stability Handbooks
- Measuring Stability Video
- Safe at Sea Video Series

