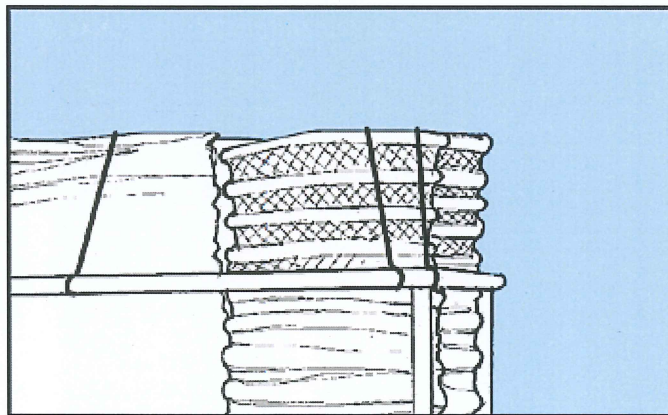


Trap

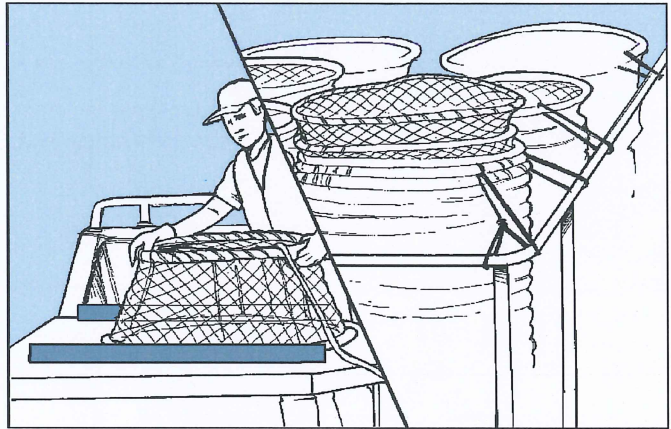
A key concern is overloading the vessel with too many traps. Several vessels have capsized because of too much weight or shifting weight. Safety steps and requirements for trap fishing include the following:



- Crew working on the stern, where they are snapping black cod traps to the ground line, **must** wear a safety belt or a harness and be secured to a lifeline.



- Make sure adequate vessel stability is maintained by properly loading and securing traps prior to travel, and by ensuring the weight and placement of traps on board meets stability requirements for the vessel.



- Secure the traps. Traps **must** be secured to stop them from swinging or moving during setting and hauling, and while the vessel is underway.
- Attach two safety lines to the bait when using the single fall to transfer it from the hold to the stern. That way the crew can guide it and stop it from swinging.
- Ensure the crew stays out of the bight of lines when setting and hauling traps.
- Be very careful when untangling the trap line if it becomes twisted around the ground line during hauling. Untangle the line slowly, keeping enough control so that the snap does not whip free and strike you.
- Always have at least two crew members position large traps for dumping. A trap full of fish can weigh 180–225 kilograms (400–500 pounds), and a crew member who tries to position a full trap alone could suffer serious strains or injury of the back or muscles.
- Try to make sure the deck has a flat, non-skid, level surface that is not obstructed by angle irons and other tripping hazards.

Tips from fishermen:

- Keep hauler sheaves in good shape to avoid violent slipping, especially while coiling down.
- Avoid pre-building too many traps in rough weather, as these can launch themselves in a rolling boat.
- Stay out of the bight and keep your coil neat.
- Use your legs with the weight centred close to the middle of your body to assist in lifting traps onto boat when hauling in the string of gear.
- Keep knives handy at all fishing stations.

