

ENSURING SAFETY IN FISHING OPERATIONS

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Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of our safety newsletter for the commercial fishing industry. For over 2 decades, CHIRP Maritime has empowered seafarers worldwide by raising awareness of safety lessons learned from real-life scenarios. Because we recognise the unique circumstances and challenges faced by the commercial fishing sector, we are proud to introduce a new publication specifically for fishers, based on reports submitted by fishers. We hope to create a safe and non-judgemental learning environment where fishers can share, and learn from, the experiences of others. This helps to prevent similar incidents in the future and contributes to a safer maritime environment overall.

In this edition, we explore a series of recent fishing incident reports sent to CHIRP. The failure to communicate maintenance intentions led to a grievous accident. In another, we showcase the hidden dangers that can arise from historical conflicts – in this case, unexploded ordnance.

A collision between a fishing vessel and a ferry within a port highlights the cascading effects of deviating from local communication protocols.

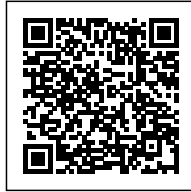
Maintenance-related incidents also feature prominently. In one report, a fisher sustained a serious hand injury while undertaking unplanned maintenance. In another, a fishing vessel's gear collapsed while being hoisted due to a parted steel wire rope, highlighting the significance of regular equipment inspection.

Lastly, an incident involving a fisher falling overboard underlines the importance of personal safety equipment and self-rescue measures. Carrying a waterproof handheld VHF radio or a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) and rigging self-rescue ladders are crucial steps in ensuring fishers' safety, especially when operating single-handedly.

These incidents share a common thread: proper communication, situational awareness, and adherence to safety protocols are paramount. Vessel operators, crew members, and port authorities must collectively uphold these principles to mitigate risks and prevent accidents. Safety is a shared responsibility, and it is essential to stay informed, follow guidelines, and continuously reassess and improve practices to foster a safer fishing environment for everyone involved. Please let us know your thoughts about this new publication, both good and bad, so that

we can make future editions even better. And do please keep your reports coming!

Yours in Safety,
The CHIRP Maritime team



There are no comments yet.