



Australian Government

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Examples of risk assessment considerations and lifejacket wear procedures

Trawlers

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Example: East Coast and Torres Strait Trawl Fishery (Bundaberg)

Risk assessment considerations and lifejacket wear procedure developed by trawl fishers operating near Bundaberg, Queensland.

Fishery details

Fishing method	Demersal otter trawling.
Vessels	Steel, timber or fibreglass monohull vessels, length around 14 to 20 metres.
Crew	Master and 1 or 2 deckhands.
Fishing season	East Coast Northern area (Cape York to 22° south) 1 March to 15 December. Southern Area 1 November to 20 September. Torres Strait 30 January to 1 December.
Operating conditions	Offshore. Mainly night operations. Some seasonal daylight banana prawn fishing.

Risk assessment considerations

Crew tasks

- Steaming
- Watchkeeping
- Engine room duties
- Try gear
- Shoot away
- Winch up
- Sorting catch
- Product handling
- Racking gear – out on arms
- Unracking gear
- Net maintenance
- Breaks



Weather risk controls

Vessel is designed and proven appropriate for these conditions and this type of fishing.

Skippers monitor regional forecast and updates and local conditions to determine if safe to work.

Other person overboard controls in place

Equipment:

- Railings
- Gaff
- Life ring (light and lanyard)
- Grab rail
- Ladders on transom
- Search light

Engine policy:

- Dual controls
- Pull main engine into idle
- Winch up gear immediately

Crew jobs:

- Planning – who does what
- Communication

Training and drills:

- Training
- Induction
- Procedure for all crew
- Drills
- Make crew aware of position to re-enter vessel

Lifejacket wear procedure

From Bundaberg operators

Lifejacket wearing to be directed at the master's discretion.

From Gladstone operators

Lifejacket with automatic identification system alert attached to be worn when working on the arms or if crew are on their own on the deck at the master's discretion.



Example: East Coast and Torres Strait Trawl Fishery (Tin Can Bay)

Risk assessment considerations and lifejacket wear procedure developed by trawl fishers operating near Tin Can Bay, Queensland.

Fishery details

Fishing method	Demersal otter trawling.
Vessels	Steel, timber or fibreglass monohull vessels, length around 14 to 20 metres.
Crew	Master and 1 to 3 deckhands.
Fishing season	East Coast Northern area (Cape York to 22° south) 1 March to 15 December. Southern Area 1 November to 20 September. Torres Strait 30 January to 1 December.
Operating conditions	Offshore. Mainly night operations. Some seasonal daylight banana prawn fishing.

Risk assessment considerations

Crew tasks

- Travel to and from grounds
- Out on boom
- Getting nets and boards out and in (i.e. racking gear)
- Raising booms and lowering
- Anchor in and out
- Hook up

Other person overboard controls in place

Prevention:

- Wire harness
- Railings



- No one on deck on their own – certain weather perhaps
- Rails on booms

Equipment:

- Life rings with lights
- Ladder (aluminium) to get out
- Chutes to hang onto
- Slings/winch to use to get someone out
- Ropes

Engine policy:

- Stop boat. Revs off (steaming).
- Gear in (trawling). Can't turn around if gear out.

Search jobs:

- Grids
- Be aware of fatigue (if up all night)
- Tracks on
- c/plot – drop pin for person overboard

Training and drills:

- Important
- Record it
- Have a plan – do real drills

Lifejacket wear procedure

Task	Lifejacket wear procedure
Travel to and from grounds	No
Out on boom	Yes
Getting nets and boards out and in (i.e. racking gear)	Yes
Raising and lowering booms	Yes
Anchor in and out	Yes
Hook up	Yes

This guidance depends on location, time of day and weather. The master makes decision on crew wearing lifejacket.

Different lifejackets for different situations. Bum bag style personal flotation device (PFD) for working. Vest life jacket for evacuating the vessel.



Example: East Coast and Torres Strait Trawl Fishery (Townsville)

Risk assessment considerations and lifejacket wear procedure developed by trawl fishers operating near Townsville, Queensland.

Fishery details

Fishing method	Demersal otter trawling.
Vessels	Steel, timber or fibreglass monohull vessels, length around 14 to 20 metres.
Crew	Master and 1 to 3 deckhands.
Fishing season	East Coast Northern area (Cape York to 22° south) 1 March to 15 December. Southern Area 1 November to 20 September. Torres Strait 30 January to 1 December.
Operating conditions	Offshore. Mainly night operations. Some seasonal daylight banana prawn fishing.

Risk assessment considerations

Crew tasks

- Transiting
- Deploy gear
- Recovering gear
- Sorting
- Boom work
- Hook ups
- Anchoring



Other person overboard controls in place

Prevention:

- Keeping track of crew
- Making way to reduce weather impacts

Equipment:

- Life ring
- Carly float
- Boarding ladder
- Person Overboard LED lights – thrown into the sea. Float in same direction as a person. Crew trained to swim towards them and spotter on trawler to focus on them.

Engine policy:

- Shut down exhaust fans to reduce noise

Crew jobs:

- Early identification, count

Search jobs:

- Identify locality of person overboard
- Vessel tracks for retracing route
- Spotter

Training and drills:

- Person overboard procedure

Lifejacket wear procedure

Master's discretion based on situational awareness and risk assessing weather and task.