

Fishing crews are reminded to take necessary precautions and follow all safety rules and guidelines when commercial lobster fishing. Fishing is a hazardous profession and taking the necessary safety precautions is crucial to making sure everyone gets home safe.

# Getting Ready for Dumping Day

Date Discussed:

Signature:

Safety begins before heading out for the day. Go over this list with your crew members so they are knowledgeable on what their roles and responsibilities are before heading out:



Make sure your boat is seaworthy. Do a Pre-Sailing Checklist to make sure everything on the vessel is in working order, secure and that the weather conditions allow for a safe trip. Is your safety equipment properly secured onboard and in working order? Check your traps, fishing gear, lines, ropes, and cables.



Go over safety and emergency drills before heading out and log them in your safety logbook. Make sure these drills cover a variety of different types of emergency scenarios such as Man Overboard, Fire, Flooding, Abandon Ship, and Medical. It is important to do safety drills as much as possible to ensure you and your crew are properly trained for an emergency.



Keep track of all safety equipment onboard in your safety logbook. Do an Onboard Familiarization to ensure all crew members (new and existing) are aware of where the safety equipment is located and how to properly use it. If you see anything out of place, put it into the correct spot.



Discuss with the crew what their role would be in various emergency situations. Make sure you have this documented on your Emergency Muster List and post this list in a visible area.



Discuss with your crew how to prevent being tangled in nets, ropes or traps and being taken overboard. Always keep your feet on the deck when working around rope!



Make sure the crew knows the man overboard procedure and how to locate someone who is missing from the boat. Knowing how to recover a crew member that falls overboard is one of the most important skills you and your crew members will need to know.



Maintenance and inspection of all safety equipment should be done before leaving the dock. All of the following should be inspected and in working order: Immersion Suits, Life Raft, EPIRB, Hydrostatic Release Units, PFD's, Fire Extinguishers, Ladders, Recovery Device, Flares, Life Rings. Go over what to do in case of a fire, flooding or what to do when the order is given to abandon ship. Everyone on board should know the evacuation procedure. Practice is important.



Check if the radios and other communication devices are functioning properly. All crew members must know how use communication equipment and who to contact in the event of an emergency.



Keep your decks clear, prevent blocking doorways, hatches, and access to safety equipment. Keeping your vessel clean and tidy is important.



Make certain that the contents in the first aid kit have not past their expiry dates and they are well stocked before heading out. Make sure that the crew knows where the first aid kits are located.