

DFO Opening Season Call with Industry

Owner & Master are responsible to ensure compliance with all requirements.

- Make sure all safety equipment is onboard and is valid.
 - Life rafts and EPIRBs are stowed where they can float free or be quickly accessed. Ensure EPIRPS are registered with beacon registry and contact information is up to date.
- PFDs are required to be worn when there is a risk of drowning (provincial requirements may be higher so verify the requirements in your province.)
- Captains are required to ensure all certificates are on board and are valid.
 - Crew certificates (ex. MED)
 - Vessel Certificates (if vessel is over 15GT)

Please ensure your crews are familiar with the emergency procedures and it is recommended that Captains and Crews review these and conduct drills prior to the start of the season.

Ensure you follow the limitations on your vessel as outlined in the stability assessment. If the stability assessment has not considered ice buildup due to freezing spray, remember the vessel is required to remain in port or return to shore if Environment Canada issues a freezing spray warning.

Ensure deck hatches that are required to be watertight have been checked prior to starting the season. Check gaskets, mounting frames and hatch covers are not dented, cracked, or otherwise damaged.

A good catch is no good if it doesn't make it back to shore so do not overload your vessel.

Keep weights as low as possible (stacked pots, etc.) and secured so they don't move around on the deck.

Ensure all navigation lights and access to safety equipment, and the safety equipment itself, is clear of stored gear. Ensure Nav lights are not blocked and are visible in their required range and arc of visibility so other vessels can see you to avoid collisions, etc.

Fatigue has been found to be a contributing factor in many past incidents, please ensure all Captains and Crew have time to rest.

On behalf of Transport Canada Marine Safety & Security, we hope you all have a safe and successful season!