

FishSafeWest.info

Home Page

Fish like there is a tomorrow - fish safe.

A web site for the Commercial Fishing Vessel Industry

Commercial fishing vessels that operate on the ocean, Great Lakes, or the Puget Sound beyond 3 miles from shore must get a mandatory exam.

[Generate a checklist for your particular fishing vessel](#) using our checklist generator.

Quick links

Link to the new Coast Guard Headquarters Fishing Vessel Safety Website
www.dco.uscg.mil/fishsafe

[Marine Safety Alert Oct. 6, 2017 - Vessel Stability - Remain upright by fully understanding vessel stability.](#)

[Voluntary Initiatives and Good Marine Practices](#)

[Marine Safety Alert Aug. 17, 2016 - Coast Guard releases reminder to trawlers and other vessel that work the ocean floor about discarded munitions.](#)

[Marine Safety Alert Aug. 9, 2016 - Reminder about hazardous atmospheres in holds](#)

[Marine Safety Information Bulletin July 20, 2016 - Suspends development of Alternate Safety Compliance Program \(ASCPs\) for voluntary safety guidelines.](#)

[NOAA equipment in the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca could cause gear entanglement.](#)

[Latest info on Engineers License Requirements](#)

[Asst Engineers extended deadline... 5/20/17](#)

[New construction requirements](#)

It's just another day mooring your vessel, until you fall overboard without a life jacket and no plan on how to get back aboard your boat.

Feb 25th 2019 Charleston Harbor, OR. The US Coast Guard received a call that someone from a commercial fishing vessel had fallen overboard while mooring the vessel to the dock. A Coast Guard station Coos Bay rescue boat was called to respond. The person that was safely recovered was the only person working the boat. Marine Safety Unit Portland Oregon has released a Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) to remind mariners about the dangers of performing routine tasks that can have devastating consequences... [See MSIB.](#)

The US Coast Guard releases the Marine Board of Investigation report on the FV DESTINATION and an Impacts of Concern document to the commercial fishing industry.

The commercial fishing vessel DESTINATION sank and was lost with all six crewmembers missing and presumed deceased approximately 4.4 NM northwest of St. George Island, Alaska on February 11, 2017... [See the full report.](#)

Also read the Findings of Concern from the US Coast Guard Office of Investigations and Analysis titled "Impacts of Modifications, Alterations and Weight Creep on Stability"... [See the document here.](#)

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Dockside Exam Page

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Mandatory Dockside Safety Exams for most commercial fishing vessels.

Mandatory Dockside Safety Exams must be completed for all commercial fishing vessels that operate beyond 3 nautical miles from the territorial sea baseline. [View Coast Guard Marine Safety Information Bulletin.](#)

You will be issued a decal with an expiration date 2 years from the date issued. Your next mandatory exam must be completed within 5 years from the issue date of your most recent decal. That means your decal expires before you are required to get your next mandatory exam. Any vessel that completed a mandatory exam beginning on January 1, 2013 or any time after are in compliance.

Vessels without having completed a mandatory exam since January 1, 2013 if boarded can expect to get warning and must contact a fishing vessel examiner within 30 days to schedule the mandatory exam. Subsequent boardings after 30 days will result in the operator being issued a violation.

Vessels with a valid decal can expect to see abbreviated boarding times if issued in the last two years. Those vessels with decals that have expired can expect boarding officers to conduct a more extensive examination of the vessels required safety equipment. Fishing vessel that are required to carry national marine fisheries services observers are required to have a valid decal (not expired).

Preparing for your vessel exam

1. Use any desktop, laptop, tablet or smart phone device - to determine the equipment your vessel is required to have. Launch the [Checklist Generator](#) answer the questions and create a list of the safety equipment your vessel is required to have. Print out a checklist to use on your vessel or take the list on your device to your vessel.

2. Use the checklists to examine your vessel. Ensure you have all of the required equipment and that everything is in serviceable condition. Using the checklist generator will greatly increase the odds of passing the exam on the first visit.

You can view additional information on what to look at for each item by selecting the "info" button to the right of each item on the checklist. It is here that you can also view any additional information such as regulations related to the item as well as other information and guidance.

3. Call to schedule a dockside exam. Call your nearest [Coast Guard Dockside Examiner](#) or [USCG Accepted Third Party Examination Organization](#) to schedule a visit to your vessel to conduct the exam. If your vessel has all of the required serviceable equipment you will be issued a decal and written documentation that your vessel has passed the exam. The exam decal is issued for two years.

4. Keep equipment in serviceable condition during the period of your dockside exam decal. Items such as inflatable life rafts, life raft hydrostatic release units, EPIRB batteries and NOAA registration, certain first

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Regulations and References

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Regulations and References Related to the Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Program

Here is a central location to find NVICs, instructions, regulations, policy letters, policy decisions and reference material related to the commercial fishing vessel safety program.

Report any broken links to daniel.e.hardin@uscg.mil

[What is all this stuff?](#)

This section also provides interpretation or additional guidance on some topics.

- [📁 Alphabetical listing of topics](#)
- [📁 Bar Crossing Guidance \(Oregon/Washington states\)](#)
- [📁 Books / Manuals / Pamphlets](#)
- [📁 Definitions - If you do not find a definition but would like to have it added to this list please let me know at \[daniel.e.hardin@uscg.mil\]\(mailto:daniel.e.hardin@uscg.mil\)](#)
- [📁 Federal Register postings related to the CFIVS Program](#)
- [📁 Forms](#)
- [📁 HQ Safety Flyers](#)
- [📁 HQ Policy Letters](#)
- [📁 NVICs](#)
- [📁 Placards](#)
- [📁 Phone List of CFIVS Contacts for All Districts](#)
- [📁 Program Guidance \(Post 2010, 2012 & 2015 Auth Acts\)](#)
- [📁 Reports](#)
- [📁 Regulations \(Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)\)](#)
- [📁 Safety Recall Notices](#)
- [📁 US Code](#)