

# FISHING VESSEL STABILITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

STABILITY...make it your business



## Who Should Take the Course?

The Fishing Vessel Stability Education Program is designed for all commercial fishing skippers, deckhands, vessel owners, fleet managers and anyone who has a stake in the best interests of safety at sea for commercial fishermen. Fishermen with existing marine certification will find the fishing focus and practical application an important enhancement to their existing knowledge and experience.

The program is facilitated by fishermen qualified in FISH SAFE teaching methodology. No sea time or pre-requisites are required, but pre-registration is required.

## An Overview

The Fishing Vessel Stability Education Program has been developed in response to the need for education about fishing vessel stability as identified by Transport Canada, the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) and most importantly fishermen themselves.

This 30 hour, four day, course has been designed as a practical program including basic theory and real time operating guidelines all delivered in a casual, hands on, adult learning environment.

## Program Objective and Course Goals

Commercial fishing continues to be one of the most dangerous occupations in Canada. Transportation Safety Board Reports indicate that fishing vessel stability occurrences are generally the result of multiple factors. As a result, the overall FISH SAFE program has been designed to reach fishermen coast wide on a cultural level and make safety their number one priority in their everyday decisions.

The primary goal of the Fishing Vessel Stability Education Program is to inform fishermen about the cumulative nature of multiple factors that can lead to capsizing including:

- vessel modifications and gear changes to participate in different fisheries;
- reduced freeboard;
- lack of water tight integrity of hatches and scuttles;
- where weight is situated on a vessel; and,
- the effect of free surface on vessel stability.

## Program Activities / Course Outline

The Fishing Vessel Stability Education Program is based on participatory learning using models, videos and hands on activities to explain stability principles.

The program starts with "why do fishing vessels float"? This is a hands on activity using a tank and "vessels" that allow participants to prove **Achimedes Principle** and recognize the relationship between construction considerations, vessel modifications and fishing operations.

Examples of other activities include reviewing Transportation Safety Board findings on fishing vessel losses and identifying the cumulative factors that led to the losses. Case study activities ask participants to be "investigators" and determine where the cumulative aspect of a capsizing began and how it could have been prevented. On day three participants take a field trip to a conduct an inspection of a vessel to identify threats to stability and assist them in writing stability procedures.

## Program Results

At the completion of the course you will be able to successfully:

- Talk about stability using the correct words and terms;
- Read a Stability Book and use the information;
- Explain the threats to stability and appreciate the cumulative effect of threats;
- Start writing stability instructions specific to your vessel and fishing operations;
- Take ownership of fundamental principles of stability that will assist you in your daily operations.

## Certification

Several forms of evaluation will be used throughout the course including the use of case studies, role playing and card games as well as a form of written evaluation for participants to provide personal feedback. You are required to attend all four days and achieve 50% on the written evaluation to receive a certificate of completion. If you make below 50% you will receive a certificate of attendance and your facilitator will provide you with options so you can receive your certificate of completion.