

Québec's Occupational Health and Safety Plan

Prevention in the Fisheries Sector

Québec standing committee on safety in the fisheries
sector

February 25, 2009 – Grande Rivière

Agenda

- The CSST's Role
- Act and Regulations
- Fisheries Sector
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 - Guidelines
- The *Health and Safety on Fishing Boats Guide*
 - Purpose
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- Example of an Accident on a Lobster Boat

The CSST's Role: Public Insurer

- The CSST acts as a public insurer, administering mandatory insurance that provides for the compensation and, if necessary, rehabilitation of workers who have suffered an industrial accident or occupational disease.
- The CSST also deals with the prevention of work-related accidents and diseases. It ensures that the act and regulation are complied with in the workplace.
- The Commission is headed by a joint board of directors.

The CSST's Role: Prevention-Inspection

The CSST's prevention-inspection mission:

- To prevent work-related accidents and diseases;
- To support workers and employers in their efforts to improve their work environment and eliminate hazards;
- To inspect work premises;
- To require that hazardous situations be corrected;
- To ensure compliance with the act and regulations.

Act and Regulations

- ***Act respecting occupational health and safety***
 - Passed in 1979
 - Objective of eliminating hazards at source
 - Mechanisms for assuming responsibility
 - Rights and obligations of workers and employers
 - Right to refuse hazardous work
- **REGULATIONS**
 - Sector-based (forests, mines, construction)
 - Topics (*Regulation respecting occupational health and safety*, WHMIS, first aid, etc.)

Fisheries Sector

- Background
 - Transfer of jurisdiction
 - Interventions
- Guidelines
 - Lack of regulation
 - Guide

Health and Safety on Fishing Boats Guide



Purpose of Guide

- To provide employers and workers with guidelines on safety measures.

- Cooperation with industry stakeholders:
 - Committee made up of captains and deckhands;
 - Representatives of government agencies;
 - Associations representing the sector;
 - The École des pêches et de l'aquaculture du Québec (Québec school of fisheries and aquaculture).

Dissemination

- Fishermen registered with the CSST;
- Different federal agencies;
- The École des pêches et de l'aquaculture for student training;
- French version can be downloaded on the CSST's web site at www.csst.qc.ca;
- English version available.

Part A: General Safety on Fishing Boats

Health and Safety on Fishing Boats

7. Ropes and tackle

Risks	Means of prevention
Pinch point and being drawn in	• Use appropriate ropes, blocks and winches.

- Be careful to never put your foot in the bight of a rope or a cable.



- Use a tool to guide a wire. Never guide wire with your hands or feet.



- Crew members must not stand on a tensed rope or cable, step over it or use it as a handrail or guardrail.



- All ropes and cables shall be made from good quality material, be of sturdy manufacture and have a resistance level appropriate to the use for which they are intended.

- Always wear heavy gloves when handling wire cables.



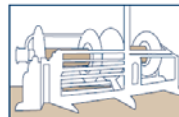
- Steel cables shall be rolled on a reel when not in use.

- All pins, axles, rope grooves, plates, bushings, nuts and bolts should be inspected regularly for signs of wear.

- Blocks should be regularly inspected, lubricated and maintained.



- All moving parts, drive belts and gears which are accessible shall be equipped with protective devices.



Part B: Safety Related to Specific Fishing Methods

Health and Safety on Fishing Boats

Deployment and hauling in of traps

The equipment used shall not obstruct the work area.

Beware of bights.

Crew members shall always have a sharp knife on hand.

Hoisting devices such as articulated booms shall have hydraulic cylinders fitted with retention valves.

No crew member shall stand directly under a cage raised by an articulated boom.

The worker operating the articulated boom shall have good visibility of the crew and shall remain at the controls at all times to stop the articulated boom in the event of an emergency.

The worker must never leave the controls of the articulated boom when a load is suspended in the air.

Adequate storage space shall be provided for buoy ropes.

Removing catches from traps

Crab fishing vessels shall be equipped with sorting tables and hoisting devices for cages.

Crew members shall always wear gloves when handling catches.



3. Gillnetting

Risks	Means of prevention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of vessel stability, capsizing Getting caught by or being drawn into fishing gear Musculoskeletal problems Chilblains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect navigation safety rules. Arrange the workstation ergonomically. Wear appropriate clothing that is adjusted. Make sure that there is a proper railing. Plan for frequent rest periods, out of the cold.

Bringing nets on board from the wharf

Nets must never be stored on top of the wheelhouse.

Casting and hauling in of nets

Gloves must be worn to protect hands when the nets are being cast.

Workers must stay away from the net when it is being cast.

Work areas on the deck and pontoons must be arranged in such a way as to prevent workers from coming into contact with moving parts such as drums and rollers.



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Content of Guide

- Requirements of federal regulations that governed safety;
- Well received by clients: contains health and safety fundamentals.

Accident on a Lobster Boat

- When the lobster traps on a lobster boat were being lowered at the beginning of the season, a worker was caught in a rope and pulled overboard.

Accident on a Lobster Boat

- The investigation enabled us to establish the following facts:
 - The deck was loaded with traps, leaving very little room for the fisherman's helper;
 - The worker's feet were, at all times, close to the ropes that were being thrown overboard;
 - There were no means of general protection for the worker (e.g., a guardrail).

Accident on a Lobster Boat

- The worker was not wearing any individual protection equipment (life jacket, harness attached to a lifeline);
- The worker did not have a knife on hand to cut the rope;
- The boat had a high freeboard deck and did not have any device for pulling the worker back on board;
- The captain did not require that workers wear individual protection equipment.

Question period

Thank you!