

Fishing Vessel Stability

Ship Safety Bulletin 04/2006 Application

Simon Pelletier
Transport Canada / Marine Safety
Quebec Region – RDIMS # 5576045



Fishing Vessel Stability

Between 1998 and 2007 in Canada...

- 2370 accidents to fishing vessels
- 86 deaths
- 50 capsizing



Ship Safety Bulletin 04/2006 ***Safety of Small Fishing Vessels***

Information to Owner/Master About Stability Booklets:

- Sets out the process for determining if a stability booklet is required
- Interim measure in anticipation of the new Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations
- Provides a standard interpretation of section 48 of the current Small Fishing Vessel Inspection Regulations

3



Application

- Applies to all owners and operators of fishing vessels
- New and existing vessels
- Between 15 and 150 gross tons or not more than 24,4 m
- Less than 15 gross tons strongly encouraged
- If more than 15 gross tons and any of the risk factors, TC will check that a stability booklet is on board before issuing an inspection certificate
- Possibility of 12-month grace period with a short term certificate

4



Background

- Stability is a fundamental safety aspect for any vessel
- The vessel design must fit its intended purpose
- Requires a knowledge and understanding of the vessel's operating limits
- The vessel must operate within its limits

5



Background

It is the master's responsibility to know and stay within the limits of the safe operation for the vessel and it is the owner's responsibility to support the master in this task.

6



Background

- A working knowledge of a vessel's limits can be developed over time by observing how it handles in different conditions
- To really understand a vessel's safe operating capabilities, a test is needed. Results of this test can then be used to calculate the vessel's ability to right itself under different loading conditions
- A stability booklet prepared using a vessel's design and operating characteristics sets out the steps to follow in order to carry the maximum load safely

7



Background

- Section 29 of the *Small Fishing Vessel Inspection Regulations* requires a stability booklet if a vessel is used to catch capelin or herring
- Section 48 of the *Small Fishing Vessel Inspection Regulations* permits an inspector to request any tests necessary to verify a vessel's seaworthiness