

TC Actions and Surveillance Measures Implemented Following the M/V Meridian 66 Accident and Targeted Inspection Campaign

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Findings

Transport Canada believes that the deficiencies leading to a death on the trawler “Meridian 66” may be found on other types of fishing vessels, regardless of their size and of the type of fishery carried out.

Actions and measures will be implemented as part of the fishing vessels monitoring program with the aim of correcting the safety issues exposed by this accident.

1st Safety Issue

Railings

Findings:

On board the “Meridian 66”, a handrail (upper rail) was the only railing at the location of the accident, without any intermediate rail, as it was corroded.

Measures:

During the monitoring visits they will do on board fishing vessels of a gross tonnage of more than 15, the TCMSS inspector will check that:

- The railings or ramparts are continuous on all the length of the open decks;
- The height of the railings and ramparts are at least 760 mm;
- The railings are in good condition;
- The railings consist of a handrail with at least two intermediate railings equally spaced between the deck and the handrail.

2nd Safety Issue

Maintenance of the Inflatable PFD

Findings:

On board the “Meridian 66”, the lifejackets and inflatable PFDs were not inspected and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions or recommendations.

Measures:

During the monitoring visits they will do on board all the fishing vessels, the TCMSS inspector will check that:

- The lifejackets and inflatable PFDs are in good condition;
- The lifejackets and inflatable PFD were maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and recommendations;
- The maintenance record of the vessel contains all the maintenance done.

3rd Safety Issue

Inappropriate Anchoring and Fastening of Cables

Findings:

On board the “Meridian 66”, the cable of the winch was anchored to the upper rail (handrail) of the railing after pulling up the trawls. The railing was not designed to bear the tension of the winch and it broke.

Measures:

During the monitoring visits they will do on board all the fishing vessels, the TCMSS inspector will pay attention to the anchoring and fastening points of the cables under tension and of the fishing gears.

Mailing

On December 30, 2019, Transport Canada sent a letter to the **1133** Quebec fishing vessels authorized representative to inform them of the actions and measures that will be implemented by the marine safety inspectors.

Compliance Measures

Transport Canada wants to inform fishermen who have already been notified by a notice of defects of non-conformity relating to the vessel's record keeping that it will impose administrative monetary penalties in the event of a second infraction.

This applies mainly in the cases where emergency exercises or familiarization sessions are not entered in the maintenance record.