

# INVESTIGATION REPORT

Fatal accident involving a worker of Daniel Mercier's business enterprise (Le Côtier) on April 24, 2010, approximately one half (½) nautical mile offshore from Shigawake in Chaleur Bay



## Content of the presentation

- Introduction
  - Lobster fishing
  - Accident : Facts and analysis
- Causes of the accident
- Conclusion
- Question period



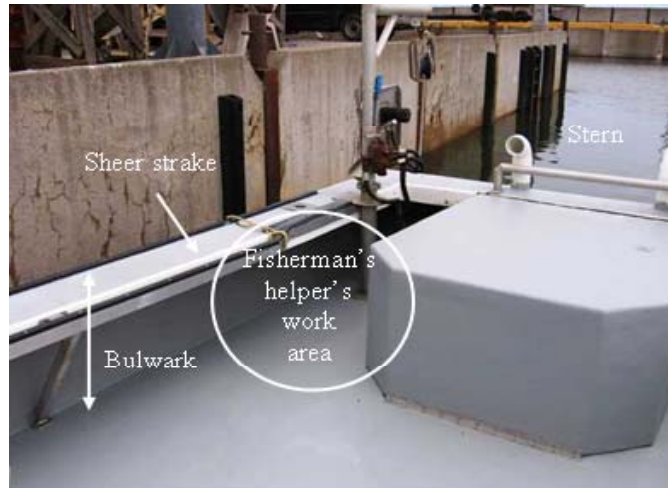
## Photo : Le Côtier lobster boat



Source : Sûreté du Québec

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j'y travaille!

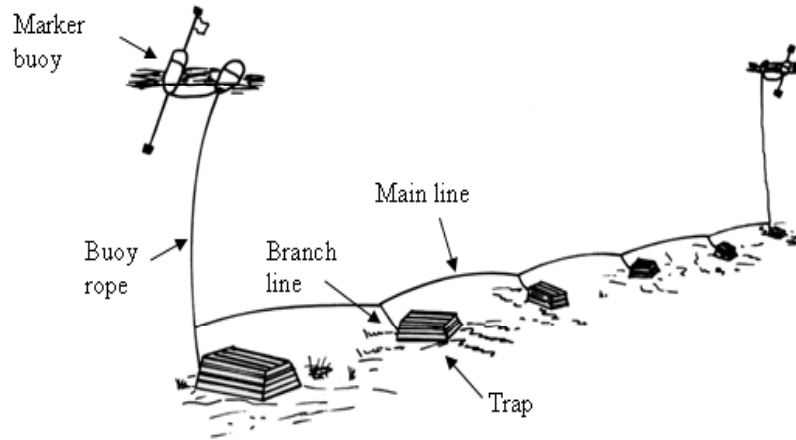
## Description of the job site



Source : CSST

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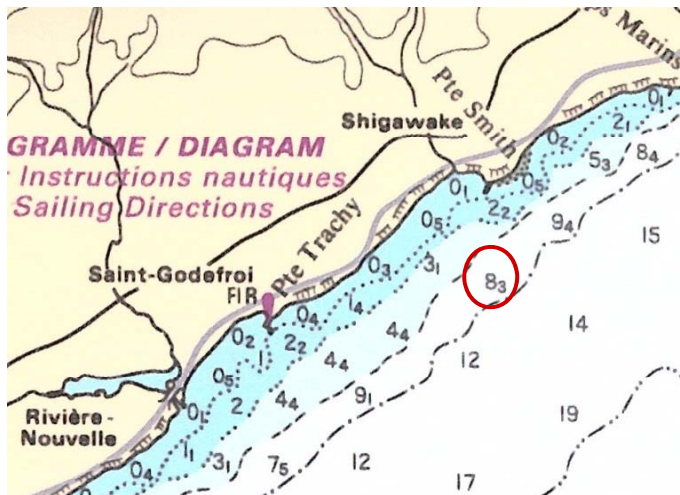
## Lobster trap line



- Source : Commercial Fishing Method



## Location of the accident



Source : Canadian Hydrographic Service



## Chronology of the accident

- Fatal accident involving a worker of Daniel Mercier's business enterprise (Le Côtier) on April 24, 2010
- A fisherman's helper fell overboard during the first setting of lobster traps
- The fisherman's helper died from drowning.

## Causes of the accident

Two causes has been analysed:

- The layout of the work area exposed the fisherman's helper to the risk of falling overboard.
- Some part of the fishing gear pulled the fisherman's helper into the water.

## The layout of the work area exposed the fisherman's helper to the risk of falling overboard

- Job site
  - 1.5 meters by 1 meters
  - Fishing gear
  - Limited size of the fisherman's helper's work area
- Height of the bulwark
- This cause is retained

## Part of the fishing gear pulled the fisherman's helper overboard

- First trap line, as the fifth or sixth trap went overboard
- The lobster boat was loaded with 78 traps with the marker buoys and coils of rope on the deck
- Any of three parts of the fishing gear could have pulled the fisherman's helper overboard :
  - the main line between the fifth and sixth traps
  - the sixth trap
  - the buoy rope where it was attached to the sixth trap
- Because the bulwark was not high enough to stop the fisherman's helper's movement and because there was nothing holding him on the boat, he was unable to remain on board when dragged by part of the **fishing** gear. Consequently, he fell overboard and drowned.
- This cause is likely.

## Conclusion

The following cause has been retained:

- The layout of the work area exposed the fisherman's helper to the risk of falling overboard.

The following is a probable cause:

- Some part of the fishing gear pulled the fisherman's helper into the water



## Corrective measures

- On April 30, 2010, the employer was issued three [notices of] violations regarding the wearing of a life jacket on the deck, the clearing of fishing gear from the work area and the means for bringing an overboard person back on board.
- On July 26, 2010, follow-up on the three violations was performed. The employer had complied with the [notice of] violation regarding the wearing of a life jacket by the fisherman's helper when moving about on deck. The employer had also installed a bulwark ladder on the lobster boat. As for the clearing of fishing gear from the fisherman's helper's work area, the employer is currently considering various solutions. As lobster season is now finished, the employer has until the beginning of the next fishing season to be in compliance.



## Follow-ups to the investigation 1/3

- The CSST will inform the following partners of the circumstances of this accident: the Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB); the Quebec Region Standing Committee on Fishing Vessel Safety; Transport Canada, Marine Safety Division; Quebec captain-owners associations; and Quebec fisherman's helpers associations.

The CSST will stress the importance of implementing means to prevent fishers from falling overboard. In addition, it will remind them that it is essential for an effective means of reboarding persons overboard to be present on the vessel.



## Follow-ups to the investigation 2/3

- As part of its partnership with the CSST to integrate occupational health and safety into vocational and technical training, the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport will distribute the investigation report for educational purposes to training establishments that offer the *Pêche professionnelle* (5257), *Aquaculture* (5094), *Techniques d'aquaculture* (231.A0), *Navigation* (248.B0), *Mécanique marine* (1250) and *Techniques de génie de mécanique marine* (248.CO) curriculum.

The goal of this measure is to assist the training establishments and instructors with their pedagogical actions so they can inform their students of the hazards to which they will be exposed and the preventive measures necessary to avoid them.





## Follow-ups to the investigation 3/3

- The CSST asked the Institut de recherche Robert Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST) to study the available means of protection to prevent falls overboard during fishing activities on lobster boats.



## Health and Safety on Fishing Boats Guide

Published in 2008





## Direct mail

To prevent falls overboard during fishing activities

### LE GUIDE

Santé et sécurité à bord  
des bateaux de pêche



POUR VOUS PROCURER LE GUIDE :  
1 866 302-CSST (2778) ou [www.csst.qc.ca](http://www.csst.qc.ca)

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### ATTENTION ! DANGER

POUR ÉVITER LES CHUTES  
PAR-DESSUS BORD :

Votre bateau doit être équipé  
de garde-corps ou rambardes  
conformes. S'il n'y a pas cette  
protection, tout membre de  
l'équipage doit porter un gilet  
de sauvetage ou un harnais  
attaché à une ligne de vie.

## Question period

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