COMMUNITY CATCH

Guidance for Self-Assessment

Section 2: Health and Safety

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Introduction

This is a living document.

Some content in this document is presented in a yellow box to indicate normative language taken directly from the Community Catch Standard, including definitions and clarifications.
Text presented in a blue box represents additional guidance that is illustrative or discretionary, such as examples, further explanation, or types of acceptable evidence.

Measures shall be in place to safeguard the health and safety of fishers.

Section 2: Health and Safety

Guidance: The Community Catch Standard explains that The Community Catch Initiative does not affect the right and duties of the skipper of a fishing vessel from performing any work necessary for the immediate safety of the fishing vessel, the persons on board, or for the purpose of giving assistance to other boats or ships or persons in distress at sea.

Question: **Is fishing carried out from fishing vessel(s)?**

☐ Yes
☐ No

Management of Health and Safety

Sub-section: 2.1 Prevention of accidents and injuries

2.1.1 Commitment to Fisher Group Health and Safety

Fishery Client commits to actions to maintain the health and safety of fishers within the Fisher Group.

Question: **2.1.1.1 Can the client confirm that they are committed to promote the health and safety of fishers within the Fisher Group?**

Guidance: The Fishery Client describes how they express their commitment to health and safety of fishers. Consider including evidence such as meeting notes, verbal agreements, or group codes of conduct. Informal but consistent expressions of commitment are acceptable.

☐ Yes
☐ No

2.1.2 Health and Safety Procedures Implemented and Verified Across Group

Health and safety procedures are in place to support implementation, monitoring and maintenance of relevant health and safety requirements throughout the Fisher Group. Procedures shall be verified by the Fishery Client or designated representative or authority.

Question: **2.1.2.1 Are there existing procedures (legal or voluntary) in place to support health and safety throughout the Fisher Group (in terms of implementation, monitoring and maintenance of Health and Safety measures)?**

Guidance: The Fishery Client lists any health and safety procedures used by the Fisher Group. These may include legal safety standard or informal practices. These may include national regulations, local bylaws, cooperative-level safety procedures, or voluntary safety measures used by the Group. Evidence could include safety checklists, legal references, or fisher training materials. Specify whether they are documented or orally agreed.

☐ Legal procedures are in place and apply throughout the Fisher Group.
☐ Some legal and some voluntary procedures are in place and apply throughout the Fisher Group.
☐ Voluntary procedures are in place and apply throughout the Fisher Group.
☐ No procedures in place
☐ Not known

Question: 2.1.2.2 How are health and safety risks evaluated?

Guidance: The Fishery Client explains the process used to assess risks, including how frequently risks are reviewed and who is involved. Acceptable formats include Examples include documented hazard logs, reports from skippers or cooperative leaders, or routine boat inspections.

☐ Documented risk assessment
☐ Informal risk-assessment routinely carried out by identified 'responsible people'
☐ Not evaluated
☐ Don't know

2.1.3 Skippers Identify and Manage Health and Safety Risks

Skippers/operators shall assess potential threats to fisher health and safety, including hazards specific to the fishing operations, and implement effective measures to address these risks.

Question: 2.1.3.1 Who is responsible for evaluating health and safety risks within the Fisher Group?

Guidance: The Fishery Client identifies if there is someone or a group responsible for evaluating risks (e.g., vessel owner, cooperative manager, safety lead).

☐ Company representatives/owners
☐ Skippers/operators
☐ A nominated Health and Safety officer
☐ Don't know

Question: 2.1.3.2 How often are measures taken to reduce or eliminate risks to health and safety?

Guidance: The Fishery Client describes the frequency and type of risk-reduction measures (e.g., replacing equipment, reinforcing safety messages, changing work routines). Include examples of proactive steps and how regularly they are reviewed.

☐ No at all, or only in response to serious accidents and only for the directly affected fishers
☐ In some parts of the Fisher Group whenever a risk to health and safety is observed. In some parts of the Fisher Group this may not happen
☐ In any part of the Fisher Group whenever a risk to health and safety is observed. Measures may only be implemented in the vessel affected
☐ Operating procedures throughout the Fisher Group are formally modified in response to and incidents or accidents

2.1.4 Accidents Investigated and Corrective Actions Implemented

Where accidents and incidents occur, these shall be investigated to determine the cause and appropriate corrective action(s) put in place to prevent its recurrence. Investigations shall be recorded and corrective actions demonstrated.

Question: 2.1.4.1 Have there been reports of significant accidents or incidents in the last 3 years?

Guidance: The Fishery Client reports whether accidents have been recorded. “Significant” refers to incidents causing injury, vessel damage, or operational disruption. Documentation may include logs, internal reports, or insurance claims.

☐ Yes
☐ No

Question: 2.1.4.2 Were reports of significant accidents or incidents investigated and corrective measures put in place?

Guidance: If incidents were reported, explain what steps were taken to understand causes and prevent recurrence. Include formal or informal processes such as debriefs or new practices.

☐ Yes
☐ No

Question: 2.1.4.3 Are there formal or informal mechanism(s) for sharing lessons and preventative actions within the Fisher Group?

Guidance: The Fishery Client indicates how lessons from past incidents or safety concerns are shared. This could be through meetings, peer reminders, or boat group chats. Peer-to-peer learning and informal systems are acceptable if they show active sharing of information.

☐ Yes
☐ No

Sub-section: 2.2 Dealing with accidents and injuries

2.2.1 Emergency Medical Information Available to Skippers and Fishers

Information is available to skippers/fishers on contact details and locations of emergency medical facilities available in the event of serious accidents and injuries.

Question: 2.2.1.1 Are contact details and locations of emergency medical facilities known and available in the event of serious accidents and injuries?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

2.2.2 Employer Covers Emergency Treatment Costs for Crew

Costs of emergency treatment of crew are met by the employer.

Question: 2.2.2.1 Are the costs of emergency treatment of crew met by the employer?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not applicable
☐ Don't know

Sub-section: 2.3 Staffing of vessels

2.3.1 Client Ensures Vessels Meet Staffing and Qualification Laws

Fishery Client commits to vessels meeting applicable laws and regulations for minimum staffing levels and skipper and crew qualifications.

Question: 2.3.1.1 Are there regulations on staffing level and skipper and crew qualifications applicable to the fisher group? (Check all that apply)

☐ Yes on staffing levels
☐ Yes on skipper qualifications
☐ Yes on crew qualifications
☐ No

Question: 2.3.1.2 To the best of your ability, do you (the Fishery Client) commit to have vessels within the Fisher Group comply with the above laws and regulations?

☐ Yes
☐ No

2.3.2 Vessel Owners Comply with Staffing and Qualification Laws

Vessel owners comply with applicable laws and regulations for minimum staffing levels and skipper and crew qualifications.

Question: 2.3.2.1 Do vessel owners comply with applicable laws and regulations for minimum staffing levels?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: 2.3.2.2 Do vessel owners comply with applicable laws and regulations for skipper and crew qualifications?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

2.3.3 Crew Identification Mechanism in Place for All Operations

There is a mechanism in place, such as a crew list, that identifies all persons onboard fishing vessels or taking part in fishing operations.

Guidance: The Community Catch Standard explains that where relevant, crew lists should identify male and female fishers.

Question: 2.3.3.1 Is there a mechanism in place (such as a crew list or similar document) that identifies all persons onboard fishing vessels or involved in fishing operations? (Select all that apply)

☐ Yes, it is known to a person on board, but not recorded
☐ Yes, it is recorded on a paper list
☐ Yes, it is recorded on a software/app
☐ Other (please specify in comments box)
☐ Yes, it is held on-shore
☐ Not available
☐ Don't know

Working Conditions

Sub-section: 2.4 Fishing Vessels

2.4.1 Client Confirms Vessel Seaworthiness

Fishery Client confirms that vessels are seaworthy.

Question: 2.4.1.1 To the best of your knowledge, are vessels within the Fisher Group considered seaworthy?

☐ Yes
☐ No

2.4.2 Vessels Seaworthy and Fit for Purpose in Size and Equipment

Fishing vessels are seaworthy and fit for purpose in terms of their size, design and equipment.

Question: 2.4.2.1 Are there regulations to ensure vessel seaworthiness? (Select all that apply)

☐ Yes - Construction requirements
☐ Yes - Vessel Inspections
☐ Yes - Vessel and equipment inspections
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: 2.4.2.2 Are vessels meeting the regulations requirements to ensure vessel seaworthiness?

☐ Yes
☐ Partially
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: 2.4.2.3 If there are no regulations to ensure vessel seaworthiness, are there other mechanism(s) to ensure they are fit for purpose?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Sub-section: 2.5 Accommodation on fishing vessels

2.5.1 Accommodation Conditions

Conditions on the fishing vessel are safe and hygienic.

Guidance: The Community Catch Standard explains that compliance with this requirement shall include a description of vessel condition across the UoA fleet. This shall give some idea of the range of variation, and the likelihood that some vessels may fall outside an acceptable level of safety, health or hygiene. The description should include the typical duration of fishing trips; the number of persons onboard and the accommodations provided.

Question: 2.5.1.1 Are there female workers in the Fisher Group?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Question: 2.5.1.2 Are accommodations on vessels considered sufficiently safe and hygienic so as not to threaten crew health?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

2.5.2 Fisher Accommodation Meets Size and Furnishing Requirements

Fisher accommodation spaces are of sufficient size and appropriately furnished for the nature and duration of fishing operations.

Question: **2.5.2.1 Is adequate space provided for sleeping areas?**

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: **2.5.2.2 Are sleeping quarters appropriately equipped?**

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

2.5.3 Separate Accommodation Provided for Female Crew Members Where Possible

Where relevant, and as far as possible, separate spaces should be provided for female crew members.

Question: **2.5.3.1 Are separate accommodation spaces made available for female crew?**

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Sub-section: 2.6 Work environment

2.6.1 Client Ensures Fishers Receive Sufficient Food and Water

Fishery Client confirms that fishers receive sufficient food and water.

Question: **2.6.1.1 To the best of your knowledge, do fishers have access to sufficient food and potable water on vessels within the Fisher Group?**

☐ Yes
☐ No

2.6.2 Fishers Provided with Sufficient Food, Water, and Religious Needs

Fishers are provided with sufficient quantities of potable water and food of adequate nutritional value and meet any religious requirements of the crew. Food storage locations shall be clean and hygienic.

Question: 2.6.2.1 Are fishers provided with sufficient quantities of potable water and food of adequate nutritional value?

☐ Sufficient water
☐ Sufficient Food
☐ Insufficient Water
☐ Insufficient Food
☐ Don't know

Question: 2.6.2.2 Are any religious requirements of the crew met?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don’t know

2.6.3 Vessels Have Adequate Sanitary Facilities with Privacy

Fishing vessels have adequate sanitary facilities with appropriate privacy.

Question: 2.6.3.1 Are food storage locations appropriate and hygienic? (Select all that apply)

☐ Yes, storage has sufficient capacity
☐ Yes, storage areas are dry
☐ Yes, storage areas are cool or refrigerated
☐ No
☐ Don't know

2.6.4 Sanitary Facilities on Vessels Consider Female Crew Needs

Where relevant, and as far as possible, sanitary facilities on vessels should take into account the needs of female crew members.

Question: 2.6.4.1 Do fishing vessels have adequate sanitary facilities with appropriate privacy?

☐ Toilets, washbasins, showers appropriate to the size of vessel and length of trips
☐ Adequate water is available for washing
☐ Toilets are fitted with ventilation
☐ Facilities allow reasonable privacy
☐ Sanitary facilities take account of needs of female crew

Question: 2.6.4.2 Are the needs of women crew members met?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Training and Equipment

Sub-section: 2.7 *Health and safety training*

2.7.1 Client Ensures Health and Safety Information is Available to Fishers

Fishery Client confirms that essential health and safety information is made available to fishers within the Fisher Group.

Question: 2.7.1.1 To the best of your knowledge, can you confirm that essential health and safety information is made available to fishers to ensure serious or fatal injuries are avoided?

☐ Yes
☐ No

2.7.2 Fishers Receive Relevant Training for Safe Operations and Equipment Use

Fishers receive sufficient training or instruction - in an understandable form and relevant to their operational assignments – so as to ensure safe working, including the use of onboard equipment.

Question: 2.7.2.1 How often do fishers receive training, induction or instruction to ensure safe working (including onboard equipment)?

☐ Formal induction and training when start employment plus regular updates
☐ Informal induction, ongoing supervision and some formal training
☐ Informal induction and training, and ongoing supervision
☐ Informal induction only
☐ Always whenever new equipment or practices are introduced
☐ When major changes in equipment or fishing practices occur

2.7.3 Training is Effective, Timely, and Updated for Operational Changes

Operational and safety training or instruction is effective, understandable, timely and repeated as required. Training updates are provided when there are significant changes in fishing operations or changes in crew composition.

Guidance: The Community Catch Standard explains that safety training shall include use of Personal Protective Equipment and Personal Flotation Devices, emergency procedures, first aid, fire safety, rescue and evacuation.

Question: 2.7.3.1 Is training or instruction effective and understandable?

☐ Induction and/or training covers all aspects of work
☐ Induction and/or training covers the main aspects of work
☐ Training covers some aspects of work
☐ Training is in language(s) of all crew
☐ Training is in language(s) of most or some of crew

Question: 2.7.3.2 Does training specifically include use of PPE and PFDs, emergency procedures, fire safety, rescue and evacuation?

☐ Use of personal protective equipment
☐ Use of personal flotation devices (such as lifejackets)
☐ Emergency procedures (such as man overboard)
☐ Fire safety and fire fighting
☐ Evacuation and survival precautions
☐ First aid (at least one person per vessel/group)

Sub-section: 2.8 Safety equipment

2.8.1 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) as needed

Fishers have ready access to appropriate safety equipment including:
1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs).
2. First aid equipment, appropriate for the types of accidents, injuries and illnesses most likely to occur.
3. Firefighting equipment, emergency evacuation equipment and survival gear.

Guidance: The Community Catch Standard explains that when needed, appropriate safety equipment shall be made available throughout the Fisher Group within the first review period of the certification (i.e., within 5 years). Safety equipment may not be needed in certain situations (for example, where vessels

Question: 2.8.1.1 Do fishers have ready access to appropriate safety equipment including: (Check all that apply)

☐ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (such as waterproof gear, gloves and footwear, head protection)
☐ Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) (such as buoyancy aid, lifejacket)
☐ Other PPE for specific tasks (such as safety lines, ear protection, goggles)
☐ First aid equipment
☐ Radio and Communication equipment
☐ Firefighting equipment
☐ Emergency evacuation equipment (such as liferafts)
☐ Alarms
☐ Bilge pumps
☐ Other (please explain)

2.8.2 Safety Equipment Maintenance

Safety equipment is appropriately maintained.

Question: 2.8.2.1 Are there regulations and/or inspections to ensure safety equipment maintenance?

☐ Yes - Personal Protective Equipment
☐ Yes - Emergency Equipment
☐ Yes - First Aid Equipment
☐ Yes - Radio / Communications
☐ No
☐ Don't know

2.8.3 Regulatory Requirements

Vessels meet regulatory requirements for registration and inspection of fishing vessel and onboard equipment including radio and satellite communication devices.

Question: 2.8.3.1 *Do vessels have certification/registration in line with regulatory requirements?*

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know