



U.S. Coast Guard

Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance

Joseph Myers

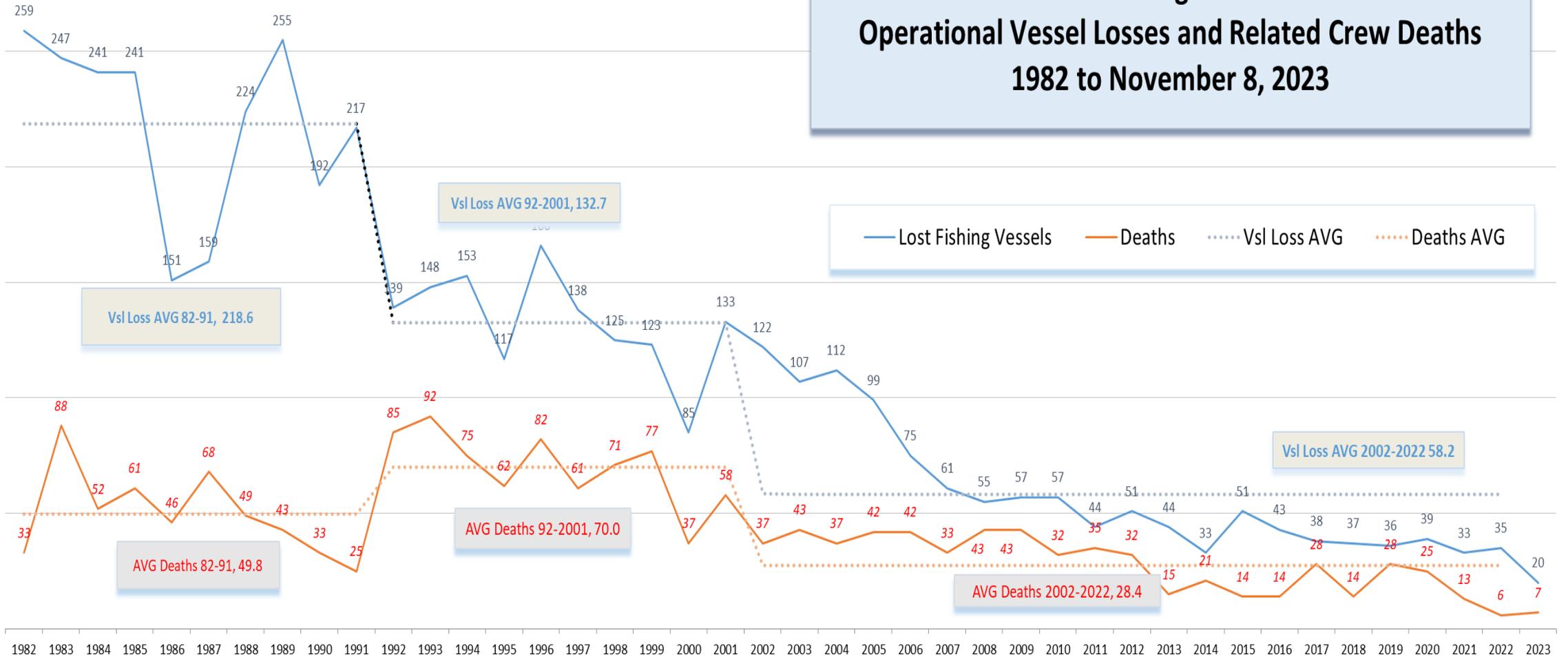
Chief, Fishing Vessel Safety Division



U.S. Coast Guard FV Safety Program (snapshot)

- Manage U.S. Domestic FV Program Policy (approx. 36,000 FVs)
- Promulgate/oversee CFVS Program policy initiatives
- National Commercial Fishing Safety Advisory Committee
- National FV Communications Plan
- Marine Casualty Investigation Safety Recommendations
- Training and Safety Outreach
- IMO Initiatives (STCW-F); IUU Fishing; Cape Town Agreement
- Manage U.S.C.G. Examiner Workforce (Active Duty, Civilian, Aux)

Commercial Fishing Vessel Statistics Operational Vessel Losses and Related Crew Deaths 1982 to November 8, 2023



Licensing Plan 1992

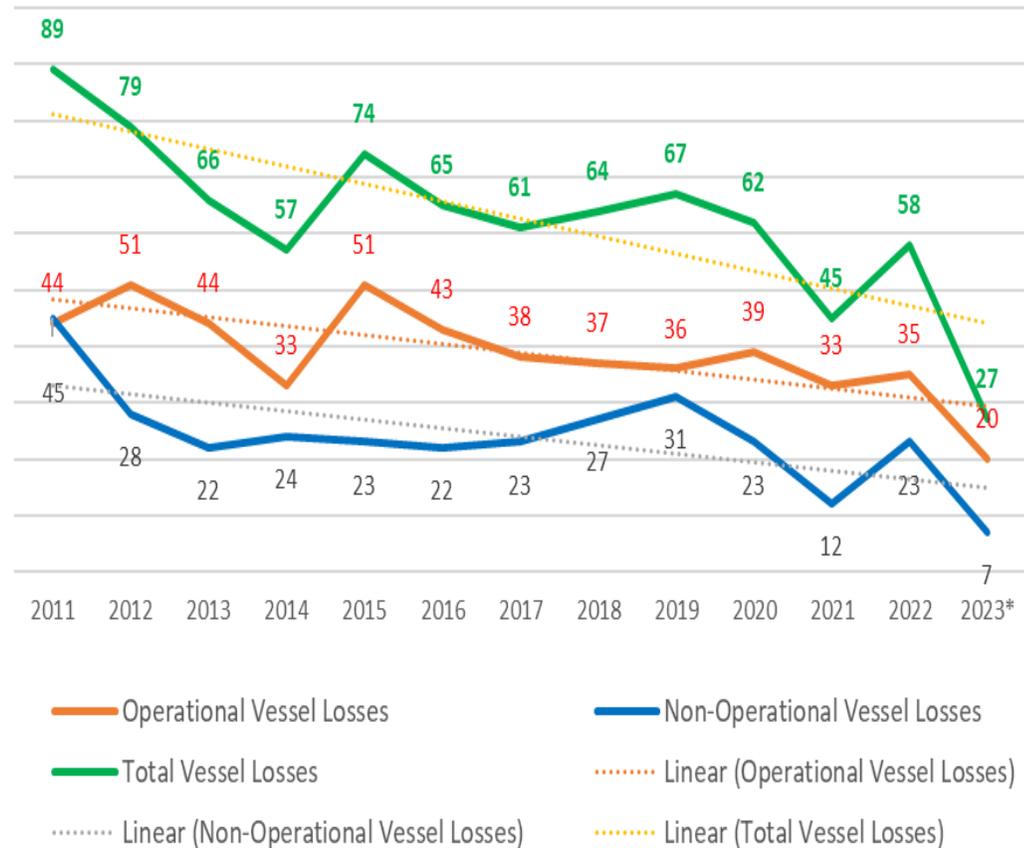
Training/ASCP 2010

Class/Load Line 2012

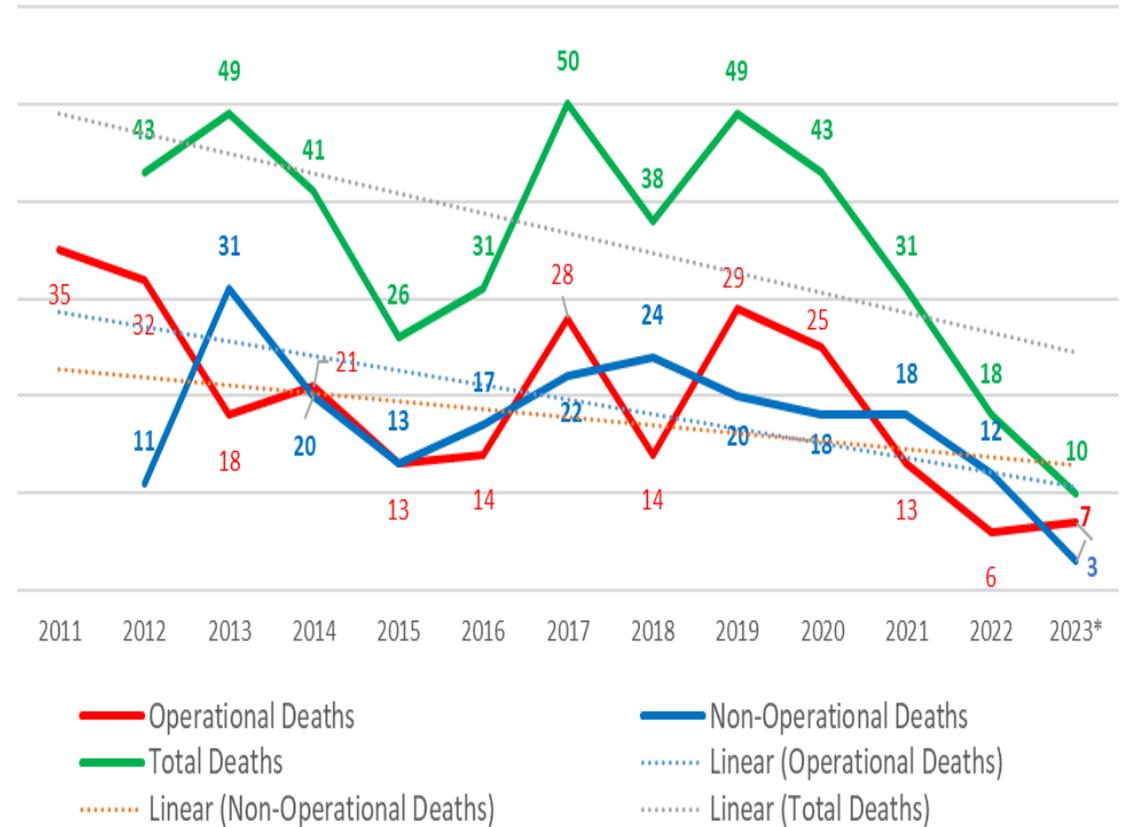
ASCP/Exams 2018 AIS 2020

CFV Losses/Crew Deaths 2011-2023

CFV Losses



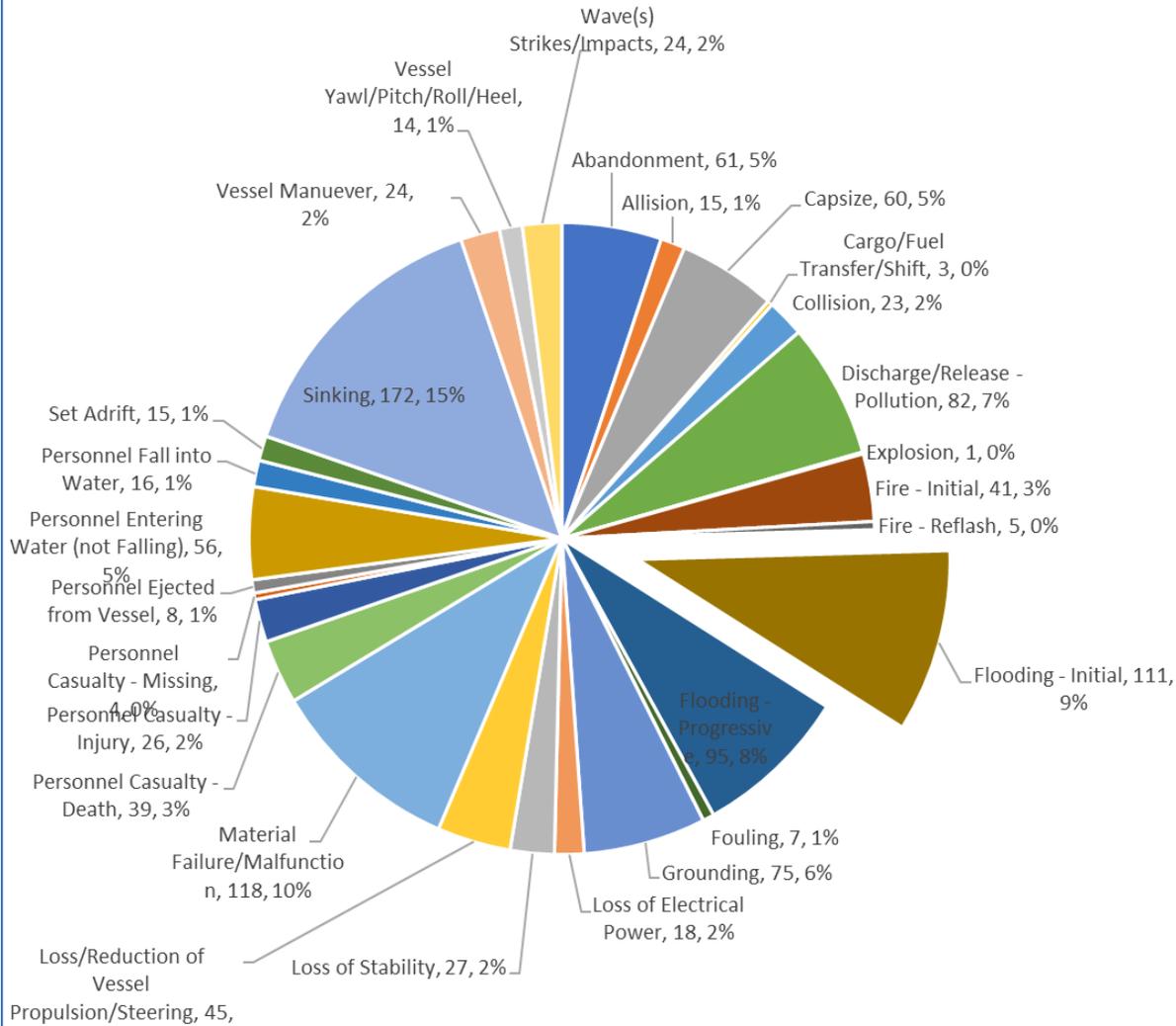
CFV Deaths



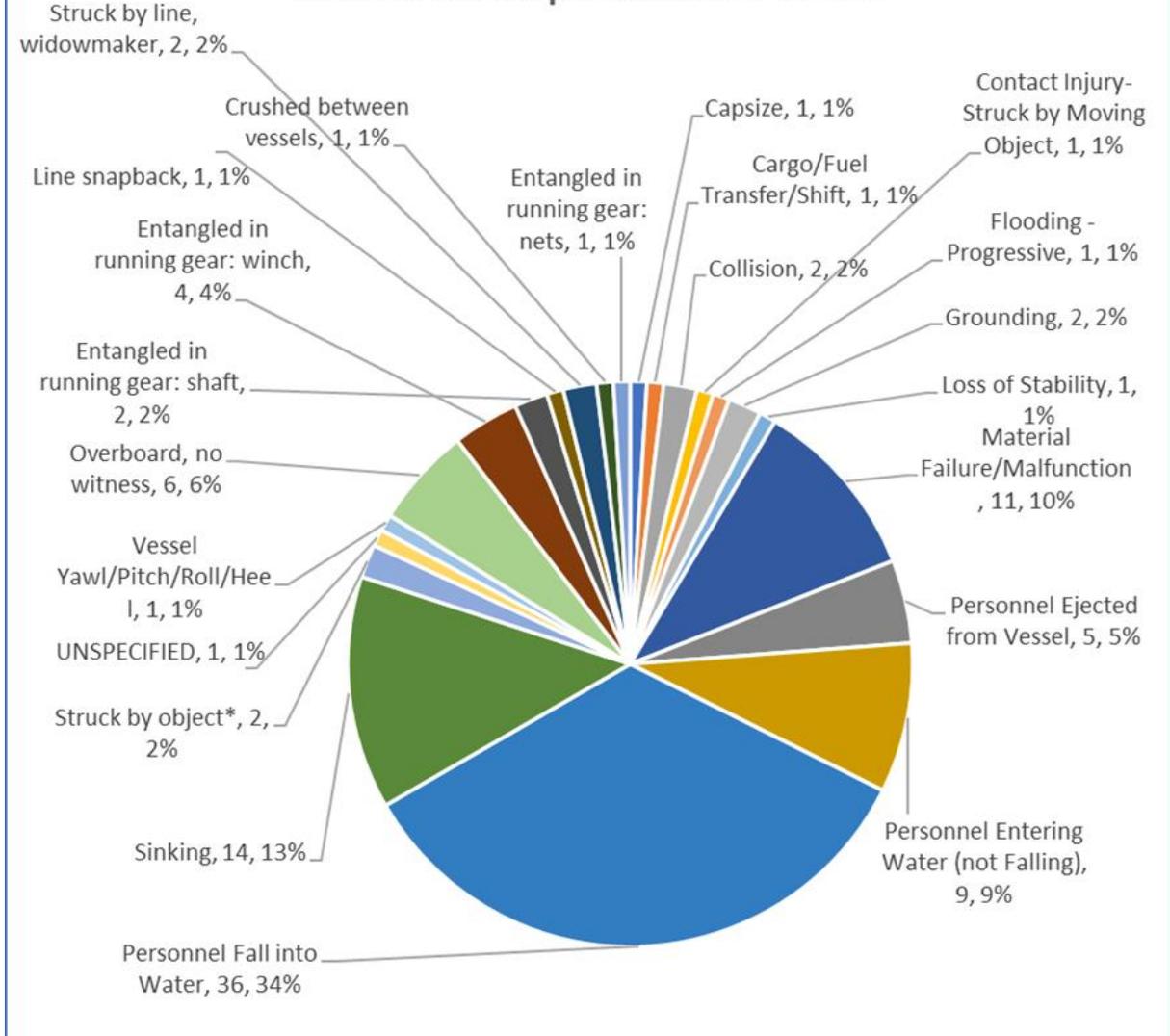
Fishing Industry Marine Casualty Causal Factors

- Vessel Maintenance
- Exceeding Safe Loading Conditions
- Weather
- Mariner Competencies, Credentials, Training
- Judgement; Situational Awareness
- Fatigue
- Substance Abuse

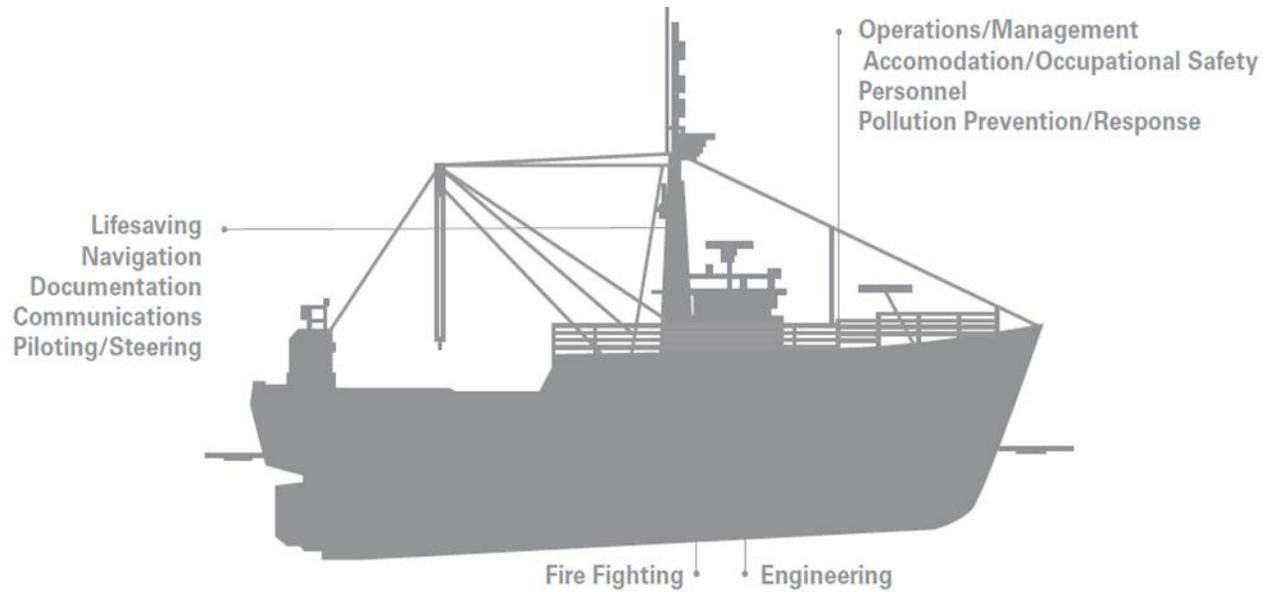
Determination Operational CFV Losses



Determination Operational CFV Deaths



Most Prevalent Deficiencies



ILO International Statistics

- The ILO estimates that at least 24,000 people die every year on commercial fishing vessels
- The casualty rate on fishing vessels is estimated to be more than 10 times that on merchant ships
- <https://www.fao.org/3/x9656e/X9656E.htm>



Safeguards & Best Practices that influence Vessel Safety Preparedness

Are required documents compliant?

- International Load Line Certificate (ICLL)
- Certificate of Financial Responsibility (COFR)
- International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (IOPP)
- Stability Instructions

Is vessel stability information maintained and *understood by Master/crew*?

- Safe Loading Conditions
- Free Surface Affect
- Securing for Sea

Safeguards & Best Practices that influence Vessel Safety Preparedness

Does the vessel Safety Plan incorporate safety initiatives/Good Marine Practices?

- Coast Guard Dockside Safety Exam
- Establish policies and safeguards against identified risks
- Promote a safe work environment
- Incorporating a safety and pollution prevention policy
- Record keeping (procedures for reporting accidents; transparent communications w/company)

Examples of model Safety Plans:

- Voluntary Safety Initiatives and Good Marine Practices (guides)
- Safety Management System (SMS)
- Cape Town Agreement (U.S. has not ratified)

Note: Though SMS requirements are **not** applicable to most U.S. Commercial Fishing Vessels, such vessels may **voluntarily** meet the standards of 33 CFR 96.220 and Chapter IX of SOLAS and have their SMS certified.

Questions?

Joseph D. Myers

USCG Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance,

Fishing Vessel Safety Division (CG-CVC-3)

Washington DC

joseph.d.myers@uscg.mil

