Completing the Pre-Trip Vessel Safety Checklist (PTVSC)

Background, Equipment, Procedures, and Requirements
Pre-Trip Vessel Safety Checklist (PTVSC)

• The PTVSC is required to be completed before every trip

• Arrive early to allow ample time to complete the PTVSC (this shouldn’t take long once you become familiar with safety equipment)

• **DO NOT** leave the dock before completing the PTVSC

• Ask the captain/crew for help locating equipment

• Always have a flashlight ready for documenting expiration dates in the dark
Observers must verify all required safety equipment are present, up to date, in working order, and in sufficient quantity for the entire trip duration.
Background

• December 2004: NMFS and USCG signed a Memorandum of Agreement that outlined how the two agencies could work together to improve at-sea safety for both fisheries observers and commercial fishermen
  – Supported by making the USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination (CFVSE) decal mandatory for all commercial fishing vessels selected to carry observers

• No Decal = No Observer
USCG Commercial Fishing Safety Examination Decal

Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety EXAMINATION

VEssel
- Documented
- Undocumented

Operations
- Cold Waters
- Warm Waters
- Inside Boundary Line
- Outside Boundary Line

From coastline
- < 3 NM
- < 12 NM
- < 20 NM
- < 50 NM
- > 50 NM
- > 100 NM

Expires
- 2016
- 2017
- 2018
- 2019

This vessel meets all USCG Commercial Fishing Industry vessel regulations for operating areas as marked.

No. 286257

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
### Vessel name

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HAPPY DAYS</th>
</tr>
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</table>

### Trip ID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hull number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XYZ123</td>
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### Date landed (MM/DD/YYYY)

<p>| |</p>
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### Vessel Orientation

<p>| |</p>
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### Current USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal

- **Required for all vessels carrying an observer on board**
  - Safety Decal Number: 286257
  - Expiration: 0919 (MM/YY)

### Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)

- **Required for all vessels operating beyond 3 miles**
  - Hydrostatic release service expiration: MM/YY
  - Battery expiration: MM/YY
  - Does the alphanumeric code (UIN) on the NOAA SARSAT decal match the UIN code on EPIRB?
  - Is the EPIRB registered to the vessel or vessel owner? Expiration: MM/YY

### Life raft(s)

- **Not required for vessels within 12 mi. of coast, < 3 people and length <36'**
  - Hydrostatic release service expiration: MM/YY
  - Raft service (repack) expiration: MM/YY
  - Capacity: |
  - Is the life raft configured correctly? See back of sheet for figure of the hydrostatic release

### Immersion suits and personal flotation devices

- **PFDs are required to be worn by the observer while out on deck**
  - Are there enough for everyone on board? Keep yours easily accessible.

### Life rings

- Vessels <26' = cushion, >26' = 1 life ring buoy, >65' = 3 life ring buoys

### Fire extinguishers

- **Not required for vessels <26' with outboard motor(s) and portable fuel tanks**
  - Emergency signaling flares: Check expiration dates
    - <3mi. = night light and smoke or 3 day/night flares; >3mi. = 3 parachute, 6 hand held, 3 smoke
  - First aid material
  - Radio(s)

### Stability concerns/Issues

- Were there any stability concerns/issues, either because of behavior or vessel design, during this trip? **See back of sheet for examples. If yes, please comment.**
- Did you provide any additional comments?
If the vessel is missing the USCG CFVSE decal, these forms can be used if the decal number is printed and the document is signed and dated.
“Big 6”

Regulated vessel safety equipment required for observer deployment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessel Orientation</th>
<th>Hull number</th>
<th>Date landed (MM/DD/YYYY)</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>NR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Current USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal

*Required for all vessels carrying an observer on board
Safety Decal Number 286257 Expiration 0919 (MM/YY)

Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)

*Required for all vessels operating beyond 3 miles
Hydrostatic release service expiration
Battery expiration
Does the alphanumeric code (UIN) on the NOAA SARSAT decal match the UIN code on EPIRB?

Is the EPIRB registered to the vessel or vessel owner? Expiration

Life raft(s)

*Not required for vessels within 12 mi. of coast, ≤3 people and length <36'.
Hydrostatic release service expiration
Raft service (repack) expiration
Capacity

Is the life raft configured correctly? See back of sheet for figure of the hydrostatic release

Immersion suits and personal flotation devices

*PFDs are required to be worn by the observer while out on deck
Are there enough for everyone on board? Keep yours easily accessible.

Life rings

Vessels <26’ = cushion, >26’ = 1 life ring buoy, >65’ = 3 life ring buoys

Fire extinguishers

*Not required for vessels <26’ with outboard motor(s) and portable fuel tanks

Emergency signaling flares *Check expiration dates
<3ml. = night light and smoke or 3 day/night flares; ≥3ml. = 3 parachute, 6 hand held, 3 smoke

First aid material

Radio(s)
Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)

Life saving equipment when activated, sends out a signal with current position to emergency response teams

- Observers should **not** open EPIRB housing units for any reason
- **Always** ask the captain or a qualified crew member to remove the EPIRB from its housing or mounting unit so you can visually inspect the expiration dates & other required information
- Difficulties obtaining the EPIRB expiration dates should be fully documented in the COMMENTS
Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)

**Category I**
- Automatic release between 5 and 13 feet under water
- EPIRB will be transmitting when it gets to the surface
- Hydrostatic release expires 2 years after purchase

**Category II**
- Requires manual release and activation
- No bracket requirements
- Approved for vessels <36 feet in length or any vessel with builder’s certificate for positive floatation
EPIRB Verification Methods

1. Visual inspection
   - An email copy of the SARSAT registration receipt may substitute for the registration sticker if the vessel recently renewed their registration but hasn’t received a new sticker. Confirm valid expiration date, matching UINs, and that it is registered to the vessel/vessel owner.

2. Previously issued EPIRB Visual Inspection Card (EVIC)

3. Signed and approved USCG documentation (USCG CFVSE Forms) issued within the last 90 days that documents all required fields (i.e., expiration dates, proof of registration and UIN information)

* Observers may always visually inspect the EPRIB regardless of alternate forms of verification provided by the vessel.
Verifying the EPIRB

Observer
03/11/2019

The following is a suggested list of examples that you should check or consider while doing a vessel walk through. They are listed here to assist you in determining the relative safety of a particular vessel. A more comprehensive list is included in the program manual.

- Note potentially hazardous areas/conditions (e.g. winches, overhead wires, raised or worn shockline and blocks, kevlar covers, exposed exhaust pipes/handles, drive chains, pulleys, etc.)
- Visualize escape routes for all possible emergency scenarios (fire, flooding, dark, capsizing) and envision note landmarks.
- Is the life raft and EPIRB located in a float free area?
- Would you be able to access these items if conditions were icy or the liferaft was on fire?
- Is there a station bill posted and is your name clear during all shipboard emergencies?
- Discuss with the captain if safety drills are conducted on this vessel? (May include fire, flooding, abandon ship, etc.) Will one be conducted when you are on board?

The following are examples of things to consider related to the vessel design or fishing practices which may compromise vessel safety.

- Note the roll period of the vessel (quick, snappy roll is more stable than a slower, sluggish roll)
- Does the vessel list excessively?
- Do the fishing practices involve a pattern of towing heavy bags or dumping the catch to one side of the vessel?

Check the appropriate box for the method that was used to verify EPIRB expiration dates:

- I visually inspected the EPIRB. Record EVIC information below if one was issued
  - EVIC number Date issued
- I used a previously issued EVIC. Record EVIC information below
  - EVIC number Date issued
- I used approved USCG documentation that was issued within the last 90 days (comments & expiration dates required)

Signature: Observer Date: 03/11/2019
EPIRB Expiration Dates, UIN and NOAA SARSAT Registration

**Battery**

![Battery Image]

**Hydrostatic Release**

![Hydrostatic Release Image]

**Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)**

- Required for all vessels operating beyond 3 miles
- Hydrostatic release service expiration: **11/19** (MM/YY)
- Battery expiration: **05/19** (MM/YY)

**Matching UINs**

- Does the alphanumeric code (UIN) on the NOAA SARSAT decal match the UIN code on EPIRB?
- Is the EPIRB registered to the vessel or vessel owner? Expiration: **05/19** (MM/YY)

**NOAA SARSAT Registration**

![NOAA SARSAT Registration Image]
EPIRB Visual Inspection Card (EVIC)

- Designed to ease the burden of both captains and observers
- Issued after a visual inspection of the EPIRB is completed
  - Explain card to the captain & ask that it be retained for future observers
- Valid up to 90 days from issuance
EPIRB Visual Inspection Card (EVIC)

1. Only record the expiration date of the EVIC or of EPIRB component(s) expiring within 90 days of EVIC issuance.
2. Do not record all EPIRB expiration dates.
3. Do not record expiration dates of other safety gear on the EVIC.

This card is for the vessel's records and may be presented to subsequent observers when completing their PRE TRIP VESSEL SAFETY CHECKLIST and safety orientation. Observers are not to open or handle the EPIRB to obtain these dates. Observers are not to record the expiration dates for other safety equipment on this form. The captain or other designee must handle the EPIRB. The USCG encourages monthly inspections of your EPIRB. OMB Control No. 0648-0599 thru 11/30/2015.
Verification Method 1 – Visual Inspection, Issue EVIC

Observer: 03/11/2019

Verification Method 1 – Visual Inspection, Issue EVIC
Verification Method 2 – Use a Previously Issued EVIC

Observer 03/11/2019

When was the last time you checked your personal safety equipment?

I used a previously issued EVIC. Record EVIC information below.

EVIC number: 1 2 3 4 5
Date issued: 02 19

I used approved USCG documentation that was issued within the last 90 days (comments & expiration dates required).
Verification Method 3 –
Use USCG Documentation (Must have required information, signed and issued within last 90 days)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessel name</th>
<th>HAPPY DAYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trip ID</td>
<td>X99009C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hull number</td>
<td>XZY123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date landed (MM/DD/YYYY)</td>
<td>09/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y N NR</td>
<td>Vessel Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal</td>
<td>28625719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)</td>
<td>11119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Life rafts | Not required for vessels within 12 mi. of coast, ≤ 3 people and length <36'.
  | Hydrostatic release service expiration |
  | Raft service (repair) expiration |
  | Capacity |
| Immersion suits and personal flotation devices | PFDs are required to be worn by the observer while on deck.
  | Are there enough for everyone on board? Keep yours easily accessible. |
| Life rings | Vessels <26' = cushion, >26' = 1 life ring buoy; >65' = 3 life ring buoys |
| Fire extinguishers | Not required for vessels <29' with outboard motor(s) and portable fuel tanks |
| Emergency signaling flares | Check expiration dates:
  | <3 mi. = night light and smoke or 3 day/night flares; >3 mi. = 3 parachute, 6 hand held, 3 smoke |
| First aid material | |
| Radio(s) | |
| Were there any stability concerns/issues, either because of behavior or vessel design, during this trip? *See back of sheet for examples. If yes, please comment. |
| Did you provide any additional comments? |

Observer 03/11/2019

* Do not issue an EVIC
Liferaft

• Expiration dates for raft hydrostatic release and service must be checked before every trip

• The capacity of the liferaft must be sufficient for everyone onboard, including the observer
  • If the raft will not hold all persons on board:
    – Vessel may borrow additional raft and properly install it onboard
    – Vessel may leave a crew member behind
    – The observer may coordinate with provider to bring a NMFS issued valise liferaft with them for the trip

• To be installed properly and able to be used, the hydrostatic release or weaklink must configured correctly
Liferaft

Hydrostatic Release

- Life raft(s)
  - Not required for vessels within 12 mi. of coast, ≤ 3 people and length <36'.
- Hydrostatic release service expiration: 11/19 (MM/YY)
- Raft service (repack) expiration: 09/19 (MM/YY)
- Capacity: 08

Raft Service Sticker

- Year Due 2019
- U.S.C.G. Service Station Number: R19-00101
- Month Servicing Required:
  - Jan: 0
  - Feb: 0
  - Mar: 0
  - Apr: 0
  - May: 0
  - Jun: 3
  - Jul: 3
  - Aug: 3
  - Sep: 3
  - Oct: 3
  - Nov: 3
  - Dec: 3

Raft capacity

- 8 PERSONS
Hydrostatic Release Configuration

- Retaining strap
- Pelican hook
- Weak link
- Shackle to painter line
- Painter line
- Hydrostatic release
- Shackle to cradle
Valise Liferaft

- May be carried in addition to the vessel’s installed liferaft to meet aggregate capacity to accommodate the total number of individuals on board the vessel.
- A valise packed liferaft **cannot** be used in place of a vessel’s liferaft if their raft is expired or not on the vessel.
- Must be placed or stowed where it is unobstructed and readily accessible for launching in an emergency.
“Float Free” Liferaft

no hydrostatic release

Secured to the deck in an open cradle with a weaklink between the painter line and strong point on the vessel
**Float Free Life Raft**

Leave hydrostatic release dates blank and COMMENT

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trip ID</td>
<td>X 9 9 0 0 9 C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hull number</td>
<td>XYZ 1 2 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date landed</td>
<td>MM/DD/YYYY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y N NR</td>
<td>Y N N R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is MANDATORY that all safety items on board a fishing vessel that are highlighted in BOLD print be current (not expired) in order for an observer to deploy on a trip.

Please comment on any safety or stability related issues in the provided spaces on the back of the PTVSC.

- Observer 03/11/2019

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**Observer's Comments**

Float free life raft, no hydrostatic release

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**Safety Comments**

- Date: 03/11/2019

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**Stability Comments**

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**When Was the Last Time You Checked Your Personal Safety Equipment?**

- I visually inspected the EPIRB. Record EVIC information below if one was issued. EPIRB number. Date issued 9 8 7 6 5 0 3 1 9
- I used approved USCG documentation that was issued within the last 90 days (comments & expiration dates required)

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**Observer**
Hard Shell/Pod Liferaft
no annual service requirement

Hydrostatic Release

Leave Raft Service Expiration date blank on PTVSC and COMMENT on raft type
USCG Life Craft Requirements

### Warm Water:

#### DOCUMENTED FISHING VESSELS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessel Under 36 Feet</th>
<th>POB</th>
<th>Inside Boundary Line</th>
<th>Outside Boundary Line</th>
<th>12 Mile Line</th>
<th>20 Mile Line</th>
<th>50 Mile Line</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three or Less POB</td>
<td>None Required</td>
<td>None Required</td>
<td>Life Float</td>
<td>Inflatable Lifeboat SOLAS A</td>
<td>Inflatable Lifeboat SOLAS A</td>
<td>Inflatable Lifeboat SOLAS A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than three POB</td>
<td>None Required</td>
<td>None Required</td>
<td>Buoyant Apparatus</td>
<td>Buoyant Apparatus</td>
<td>Inflatable Lifeboat SOLAS A</td>
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#### STATE NUMBERED FISHING VESSELS

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### Cold Water:

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Liferaft “NR”

Check off “NR” for Liferaft, leave expiration dates and capacity blank on PTVSC. Include COMMENTS

Buoyant Apparatus:

Life raft(s) “Not required for vessels within 12 mi. of coast, ≤ 3 people and length ≤ 36’.”
- Hydrostatic release service expiration [ ] [ ] (MM/YY)
- Raft service (repack) expiration [ ] [ ] (MM/YY)
- Capacity [ ]
- Is the life raft configured correctly? See back of sheet for figure of the hydrostatic release

Liferaft

Hard-sided device capable of floating either side up. No suspended net or platform inside

LIFERAFT

Inflatable

Deploys like a liferaft, without canopy or SOLAS kit (may have Coastal kit). Stored in hard canister or soft valise packs

INFLATABLE

Life float:

Hard-sided float capable of floating either side up with a platform designed to drop thru the center

LIFE FLOAT
Liferaft “NR”

If there is a liferaft on board, it must be current and have capacity for all persons on board for an observer to deploy.

ALWAYS CHECK INSTALLED SAFETY EQUIPMENT

If expired, the liferaft may remain on the vessel as long as it is clearly marked as a “DEMO” raft or for “TRAINING PURPOSES ONLY”
### Remaining Checklist Items

All are required to be present, current, in sufficient quantity, and capable of being used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessel name</th>
<th>HAPPY DAYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trip ID</td>
<td>X990909C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hull number</td>
<td>X2123</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date landed</td>
<td>MM/DD/YYYY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remaining Checklist Items</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observer</td>
<td>03/11/2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Vessel Orientation

- **Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Fisheries Sampling Branch**
- **PRE TRIP VESSEL SAFETY CHECKLIST (PTVSC)**
- For each safety item shade ■ in the appropriate box. Y = yes, N = no, NR = not required.
- **It is MANDATORY that all safety items on board a fishing vessel that are highlighted in **BOLD print** be current (not expired) in order for an observer to deploy on a trip.**

#### Please comment on any safety or stability related issues in the provided spaces on the back of the PTVSC.

#### Current USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal

- **Required for all vessels carrying an observer on board**
- **Safety Decal Number**
- **Exp Date**
- **Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)**
- **Required for all vessels operating beyond 3 miles**
- **Hydrostatic release service expiration**
- **Battery expiration**
- **Does the alphanumeric code (UIN) on the NOAA SARSAT dekal match the UIN code on EPIRB?**
- **Is the EPIRB registered to the vessel or vessel owner?**
- **Exp Date**
- **Life rafts**
- **Not required for vessels within 12 mi. of coast, 3 people and length <36’.**
- **Hydrostatic release service expiration**
- **Raft service (repack) expiration**
- **Capacity**

#### Immersion suits and personal flotation devices

- **Required to be worn by observer while out on deck.**
- **Are there enough for everyone on board? Keep yours easily accessible.**
- **Life rings**
- **Vessels <26’ = cushion, >26’ = 1 life ring buoy, >65’ = 3 life ring buoys**
- **Fire extinguishers**
- **Not required for vessels <26’ with outboard motor(s) and portable fuel tanks**
- **Emergency signaling flares**
- **Check expiration dates**
- **First aid materials**
- **Radio(s)**

#### Safety Comments

- **Were there any stability concerns/Issues either because of behavior or vessel design, during this trip?**
- **See back of sheet for examples. If yes, please comment.**

- **Did you provide any additional comments?**

#### Stability comments

### WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CHECKED YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT?

- **Check the appropriate box for the method that was used to verify EPIRB expiration dates:**
  - I visually inspected the EPIRB. Record EYIC information below if one was issued
    - **EVIC number**
    - **Date issued**
  - I used a previously issued EVIC. Record EVIC information below
    - **EVIC number**
    - **Date issued**
  - I used approved USCG documentation that was issued within the last 90 days (comments & expiration dates required)

**Signature**

**Observer**

**Date** 03/11/2019
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Y</th>
<th>N</th>
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**Immersion suits and personal flotation devices**

*PFDs are required to be worn by the observer while out on deck*

Are there enough for everyone on board? Keep yours easily accessible.

**Life rings**

Vessels <26' = cushion, >26' = 1 life ring buoy, >65' = 3 life ring buoys

**Fire extinguishers**

*Not required for vessels <26' with outboard engines*
# Life Rings

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**Immersion suits and personal flotation devices**
*PFDs are required to be worn by the observer while out on deck.*
Are there enough for everyone on board? Keep yours easily accessible.

**Life rings**
Vessels <26’ = cushion, >26’ = 1 life ring buoy, >65’ = 3 life ring buoys

**Check expiration dates**
For 3 day/night flares; >3mi. = 3
Fire Extinguishers

---

**Immersion suits and personal flotation devices**
*PFDs are required to be worn by the observer while out on deck*
Are there enough for everyone on board? Keep yours easily accessible.

- Y
- N
- NR

**Life rings**
Vessels <26' = cushion, >26' = 1 life ring buoy, >65' = 3 life ring buoys

- Y
- N
- NR

**Fire extinguishers**
*Not required for vessels <26’ with outboard motor(s) and portable fuel tanks*

- Y
- N
- NR

---

3 parachute, 6 hand held, 3 smoke
# Emergency Signaling Flares

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Y</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>NR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Immersion suits and personal flotation devices" /></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Life rings" /></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Fire extinguishers" /></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Emergency signaling flares" /></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Immersion suits and personal flotation devices
  *PFDs are required to be worn by the observer while out on deck. Are there enough for everyone on board? Keep yours easily accessible.*

- Life rings
  Vessels <26' = cushion, >26' = 1 life ring buoy, >65' = 3 life ring buoys

- Fire extinguishers
  *Not required for vessels <26' with outboard motor(s) and portable fuel tanks*

- Emergency signaling flares
  *Check expiration dates
  <3mi. = night light and smoke or 3 day/night flares; >3mi. = 3 parachute, 6 hand held, 3 smoke*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>NR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**First Aid Material**

**Immersion suits and personal flotation devices**
*PFDs are required to be worn by the observer while out on deck*
Are there enough for everyone on board? Keep yours easily accessible.

**Life rings**
Vessels <26’ = cushion, >26’ = 1 life ring buoy, >65’ = 3 life ring buoys

**Fire extinguishers**
*Not required for vessels*

**Emergency signaling flare**
<3mi. = night light and signal flare

**First aid material**
### Radio(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>NR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Immersion suits and personal flotation devices**
*PFDs are required to be worn by the observer while out on deck*
Are there enough for everyone on board? Keep yours easily accessible.

**Life rings**
Vessels <26’ = cushion

**Fire extinguishers**
*Not required for vessel*

**Emergency signaling f**
<3mi. = night light and

**First aid material**

**Radio(s)**
### Vessel Orientation, COMMENTS, and Date Landed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessel name</th>
<th>HAPPY DAYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trip ID</td>
<td>X99009C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hull number</td>
<td>XYZ123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date landed (MM/DD/YYYY)</td>
<td>03/14/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vessel Orientation</td>
<td>![Image of Vessel Orientation]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Fisheries Sampling Branch**

**PRE TRIP VESSEL SAFETY CHECKLIST (PTVSC)**

For each safety item shade □ in the appropriate box. Y = yes, N = no, NR = not required

It is MANDATORY that all safety items on board a fishing vessel that are highlighted in BOLD print be current (not expired) in order for an observer to deploy on a trip.

Please comment on any safety or stability related issues in the provided spaces on the back of the PTVSC.

---

**Current USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal**

- Required for all vessels carrying an observer on board
- Safety Decal Number: 286257
- Expiration: 09/19 (MMYY)

**Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)**

- Required for all vessels operating beyond 3 miles
- Hydrostatic release service expiration: 11/19 (MMYY)
- Battery expiration: 05/19 (MMYY)
- Does the alphanumeric code (uin) on the NOAA SAR SAT decal match the UIN code on EPIRB?
- Is the EPIRB registered to the vessel or vessel owner? Expiration: 05/19 (MMYY)

**Life rafts**

- Not required for vessels within 12 mi. of coast, 3 people and length <36'
- Hydrostatic release service expiration: 11/19 (MMYY)
- Raft service (repack) expiration: 09/19 (MMYY)
- Capacity: 8

- Is the life raft configured correctly? See back of sheet for figure of the hydrostatic release

**Immersion suits and personal flotation devices**

- PFDs are required to be worn by the observer while on deck
- Are there enough for everyone on board? Keep yours easily accessible.

**Life rings**

- Vessels <28' = cushion, >28' = 1 life ring buoy, >65' = 3 life ring buoys

**Fire extinguishers**

- Not required for vessels <28' with outboard motor(s) and portable fuel tanks

**Emergency signaling flares**

- Check expiration dates
- <3mi. = night light and smoke or 3 day/night flares; >3mi. = 3 parachute, 6 hand held, 3 smoke

- First aid material
- Radio(s)

---

**Observer**

**Date Landed** 03/11/2019

---

**Stability comments**

- When was the last time you checked your personal safety equipment?

  - I visually inspected the EPIRB. Record EVIC information below if one was issued
    - EVIC number: 98765
    - Date issued: 03/19
  - I used a previously issued EVIC. Record EVIC information below if one was used.
    - EVIC number: 
    - Date issued: 
  - I used approved USCG documentation that was issued within the last 90 days (comments & expiration dates required)

  **Signature**

---

Did you provide any additional comments?
Double check ALL recorded dates before sailing!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessel name</th>
<th>HAPPY DAYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trip ID</td>
<td>X90009C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hull number</td>
<td>XYZ123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date landed</td>
<td>03/14/2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is MANDATORY that all safety items on board a fishing vessel that are highlighted in BOLD print be current (not expired) in order for an observer to deploy on a trip.

Please comment on any safety or stability related issues in the provided spaces on the back of the PTSC.

---

The following is a suggested list of examples that you should check or consider while doing a vessel walk through. They are listed here to assist you in determining the relative safety of a particular vessel. A more comprehensive list is detailed in the program manual.

- Note potentially hazardous areas/conditions (e.g., vents, overhead wires, rusted or worn shackles and blocks, combustible items, exposed exhaust pipes, manholes, drive chains, pulleys or blocks)
- Visualize escape routes for all possible emergency scenarios
- Fire extinguishing equipment
- Manholes
- Ladders
- Life raft
- Fire extinguishing equipment
- Emergency lighting

The following are examples of things to consider related to the vessel design or features that may compromise vessel stability.

- Note the roll period of the vessel. A steady roll is more stable than a slow or sluggish roll.
- Does the vessel list excessively?
- Does the bilge pump operate?

---

Check the appropriate box for the method that was used to verify EPIRB expiration dates:

- [ ] I visually inspected the EPIRB. Record EVIC information below if one was issued
- [ ] I used a previously issued EVIC. Record EVIC information below
- [ ] I used approved USCG documentation that was issued within the last 90 days (comments & expiration dates required)

---

Observer 03/11/2019
What if You Cannot Complete the Safety Checklist?

- Notify the captain of the expired gear
- Work with the captain to resolve the issue if it can be done relatively easily (e.g., expired flares, liferaft capacity) so the trip may sail as planned
- If you encounter an issue that cannot be resolved in a timely manner (e.g., expired EPIRB battery) or the captain does not permit you to inspect the installed safety equipment, continue with Safety Deficiency Reporting (SDR) procedures
Safety Deficiency Reporting (SDR)

Issued when the Vessel:

A. Does not have a current USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Examination decal or written exemption

AND / OR

B. One or more of the “Big 6” items are currently expired, in non-working order, or in insufficient quantity
1. **Notify** captain of the expired gear
2. **Contact** your Area Coordinator or Program Manager
3. **Complete** 2 copies of OLE Corrective Measures Letter (1 for captain, 1 for FSB)
4. **Fill in** as much of the PTVSC as possible
5. **Upload** Incident Report within 12 hrs
6. **Mail** OLE letter and PTVSC to FSB within 24 hrs
Office of Law Enforcement (OLE)  
Corrective Measures Letter

After receiving this letter, the vessel may not fish without an observer unless issued a waiver.

If fishing occurs, the vessel may be subject to seizure and forfeiture of catch, monetary penalties and permit sanctions.
Incident Report

** Since there is no trip deployment when an SDR is issued, only enter ObsID, not a TripID
Do Not Deploy, Do Not Issue SDR

Examples:

- Weather conditions make it unsafe to inspect gear
- You cannot confirm an expiration date for PTVSC
- Vessel stability issues are identified during safety check
- The crew reports there are bed bugs on board
- The crew reports other health concerns

Procedure:

- Call your Area Coordinator or Program Manager immediately
- Disembark from the vessel
- Document the issue on the PTVSC & mail to FSB
- Submit Incident Report immediately (within 12 hours)
Observer Responsibilities

- Completion of the PTVSC prior to departure
- Follow SDR Procedures (submit Incident Report, OLE Letter, PTVSC) when appropriate
- Timely notification to the program
- **No Discretionary Interpretation**
  - If observers sail on an unsafe vessel (e.g., no decal) they could:
    - Face probation and/or decertification
      - As of May 2006, **against** NOAA policy
    - Jeopardize the vessel’s fishing trip
      - If boarded at sea, USCG may terminate trip or be subject to fines
Remember!

• These regulations are for your safety and to also improve fishermen’s safety at sea.
• In incidents of non-compliance, you are not enforcement, but should not take the trip and document appropriately.
• You have the right to refuse a trip based on any real safety concern.
Questions?