BOBP/REP/112

SAFETY GUIDE FOR SMALL FISHING BOATS







SAFETY GUIDE FOR **SMALL FISHING BOATS**

By Ø GULBRANDSEN FAO Consultant











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FOREWORD

One can broadly say that fishing boats engaged in the small-scale sector account for the bulk of marine fish landings in south Asia. Yet, this sizeable fleet of fishing vessels is ignored when it is a matter of compliance with safety standards, since such standards do not exist in the region for fishing vessels less than 24m in length. More often than not, fishing vessels are built by boat yards that: do not meet minimum standards of quality; do not pay heed to minimum safety requirements and; do not have the benefit of professional inputs in terms of design, construction and specification.

While traditionally built boats have stood the test of time, the advent of motorization and newer boat-building materials like FRP have changed many variables of operation. Traditional fishers used to near shore operations are now fishing in distant waters requiring a new set of safety norms.

Fishery management interventions have generally been on conflict-resolution and resource management. Any interventions at improving safety at sea have been kneejerk reactions consequent to a major natural disaster such as the December 2004 Asian Tsunami.

The Fishing Technology Service (FIIT) at the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, is developing various safety guidelines for small fishing vessels. One of the expected outputs of the global FAO project **Safety at sea for small scale fisheries in developing countries**, GCP/GLO/200/MUL, with activities in West Africa and South Asia, is to assist in the development of rules and regulations for the design, construction and equipment of fishing vessels in the small-scale fisheries sector, adapted and amended from the FAO/ILO/IMO Voluntary Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Equipment of Small Fishing Vessels, 2005; the draft FAO/ILO/IMO Safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels; relevant sections of Part A of the FAO/ILO/IMO Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels, 2005; and other international standards for fishing vessels of less than 24 metres in length.

A Safety Guide for Small Offshore Fishing Boats, BOBP/MAG/16 produced by the Bay of Bengal Programme in 1993 was very popular and received tremendous response not only from the Bay of Bengal region, but worldwide. Explaining safety standards using sketches and diagrams and presenting technical data in an easy-to-understand format was the key to its success. The present publication is an updated version of the 1993 Safety Guide taking into account work done in this field internationally in the past decade. We are sure that it is a very important step to emerging fishery management regimes that treat safety-at-sea as an integral part, in developing countries in general and south Asia in particular.

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INTRODUCTION

Fishing is a very dangerous occupation with a high accident risk. Experience has shown that it is often when a fishery develops from traditional sail-powered craft and near shore fishing to motorized craft venturing further out to sea and with new fishing methods that accidents happen. In many developing countries, fibreglass reinforced plastic (FRP) boats are replacing traditional wooden boats and this new construction material requires new thinking when it comes to strength, stability and the ability to keep afloat when swamped. It is often difficult to do something about boats already in operation, but significant safety measures can be incorporated at relatively low cost in boats yet to be built. Close cooperation between the government departments responsible for safety legislation and the boatyards is required.

The purpose of this safety guide is to present simple measures to ensure that new boats will satisfy internationally accepted safety standards. The target group consists of boat designers, boatbuilders, boat owners, skippers and government officials responsible for drafting new regulations and for safety supervision. This safety guide is not intended to be comprehensive and deal with all kinds of safety issues, but it will highlight the main problems and indicate what practical measures can be taken to avoid them. The guide mainly deals with small boats of less than 15 m in length, which, from experience are most prone to accidents.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) are working together to draft new safety recommendations for decked fishing boats of less than 12 m and undecked fishing boats of any length. This work is expected to be finalized by 2010.

The present guide is a revision of BOBP/MAG/16: A safety guide for small offshore fishing vessels issued by the Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) in 1993. The main change is that this publication not only focuses on small offshore fishing boats in the 10-13 m range, but also includes smaller coastal boats. The revision has benefited from recent work regarding the safety of small craft as given below.

- IMO document SLF 51/5: Safety of small fishing vessels Consolidated text of the draft Safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 m in length and undecked fishing vessels.
- FAO/ILO/IMO Voluntary Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Equipment of Small Fishing Vessels 2005.
- Det Norske Veritas: Standard for certification No 2.21. Craft, 2008.
- International Organization for Standardization:
 - ISO 8666 Small craft-Principal data.
 - ISO 11812 Watertight cockpits and quick-draining cockpits.
 - ISO 12215-5 Design pressures, design stresses, scantling determination.
 - ISO 12217-1 Small craft Stability and buoyancy assessment and categorization-Part 1: Non-sailing boats of length of hull greater than or equal to 6 m.

ISO 12217-3 Small craft-Stability and buoyancy assessment and categorization-Part 3: Boats of hull length less than 6 m.

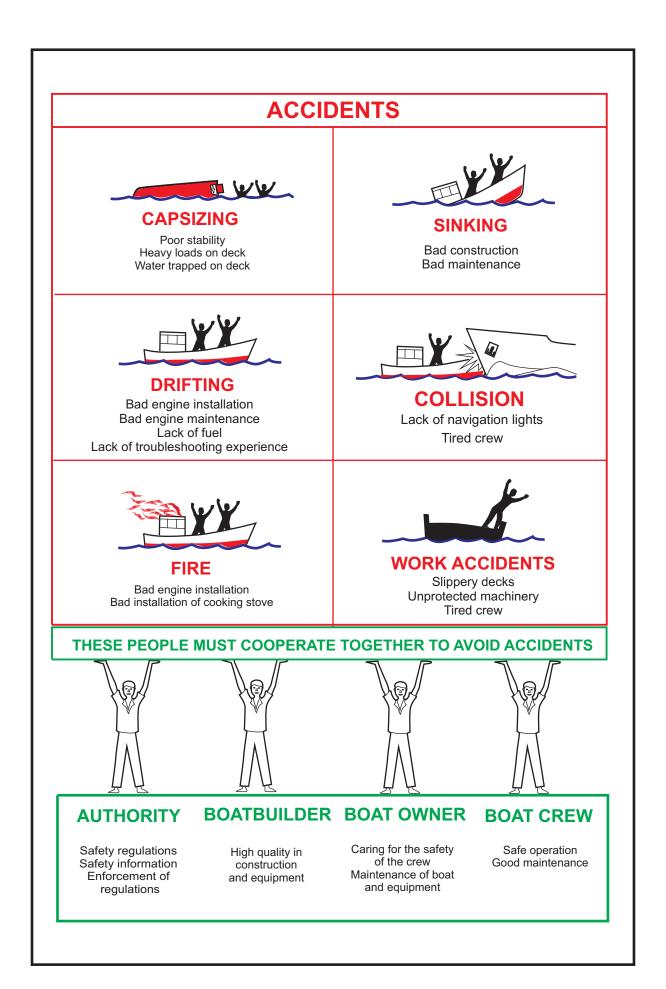
Transport Canada

The terms for boat dimensions in this publication follow the ISO 8666, except for the definition of Depth moulded of the hull = $D_{\rm M}$.

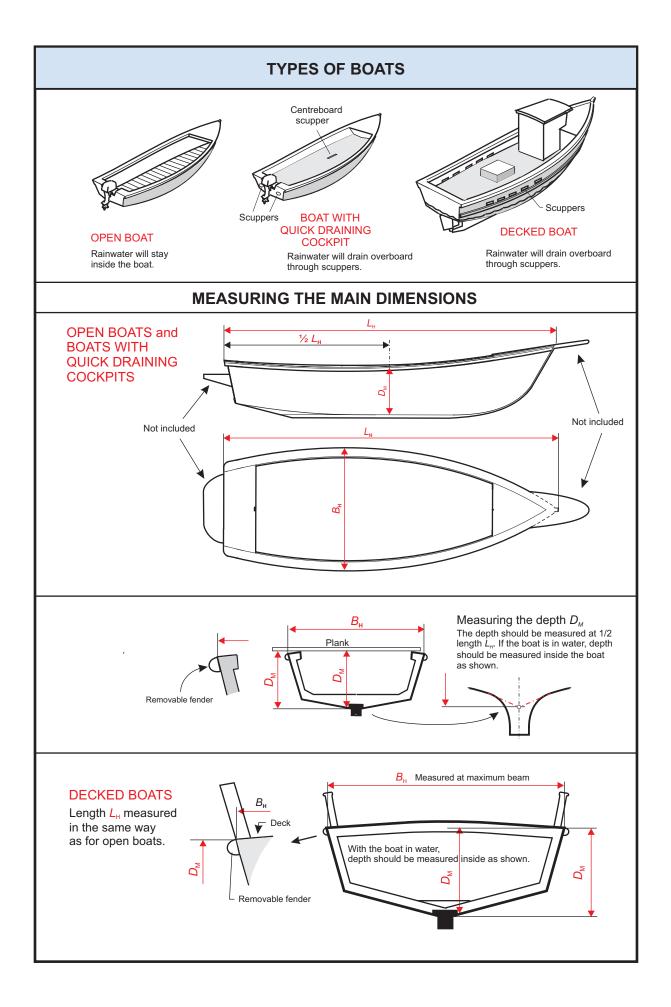
Some guidelines may not be in keeping with recommendations made by FAO/ILO/IMO or other international agencies for similar boats. The intent is to make them as simple as possible while ensuring an acceptable standard. It must be stressed that this publication is open for comment. It is expected that further revisions will be required in the future, in the light of discussions and general experience gained regarding the safety of small fishing boats.

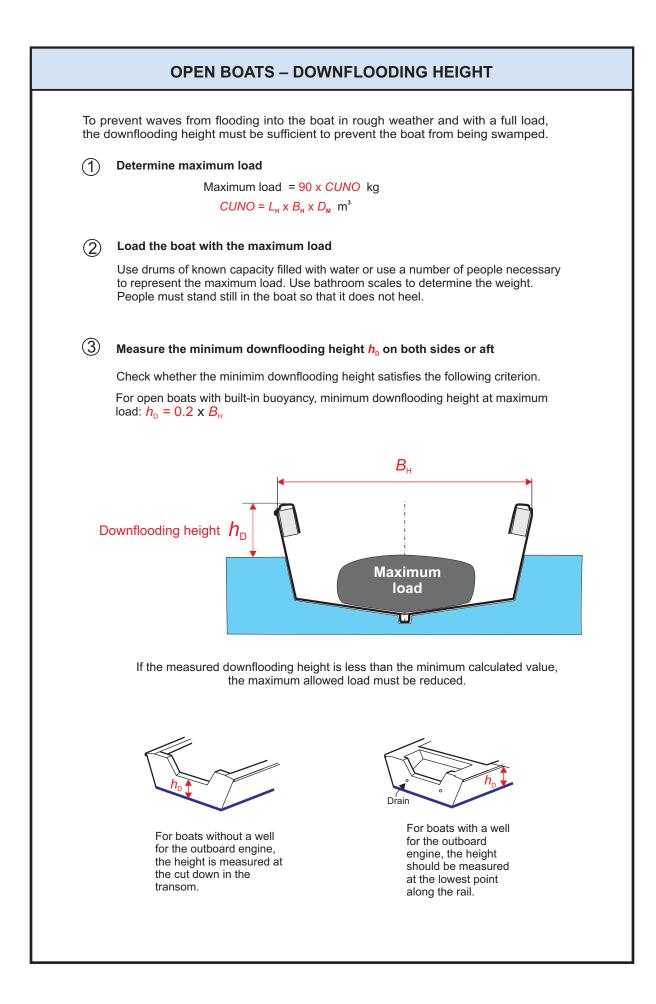
This safety guide has been prepared and issued under the Joint IMO-FAO Tsunami Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in the Bay of Bengal Region with a focus on small fishing vessel safety - TC/0124, a sub-project of the FAO - Safety at Sea for small-scale fisheries project - GCP/GLO/200/MUL.





DESIGN CATEGORIES Boats meet different sea conditions. The International Organization for Standardization ISO 12215-5 standard for boats under 24 m use four different design categories to characterize the maximum waveheight and wind speed for which a boat should be suitable for. It uses the term, "significant wave height" which is the average of the 1/3 highest waves. However, some occasional waves may sometimes be almost twice as high as the "significant wave height". Design category A - "Ocean" Boats suitable for seas higher than 4 m with a significant wave height of more than 4 m. These conditions may be encountered on extended voyages, for example, across oceans, or inshore when unsheltered from winds and waves. Design category B - "Offshore" Boats suitable for seas with a significant wave height of up to 4 m. These conditions may be encountered on offshore voyages or on coasts Occasional waves where shelter may not be immediately available. can be 7 m high Wind of Beaufort Force 8 or less. 15 m boat 4 m Significant wave height = 4 m Design category C - "Inshore" Boats suitable for seas with a significant wave height of up to 2 m and a typical steady windforce of Beaufort Force 6 or less. These conditions may be Occasional waves encountered in coastal waters and exposed inland can be almost 4 m high waters in moderate weather conditions. Significant wave height = 2 m Design category D - "Sheltered water" Boats suitable for seas with a significant wave height up to 0.3 m. Such conditions may be encountered on sheltered coastal and inland waters in fine weather. Occasional waves can be almost 1 m high Significant wave height = 0.3 m





OPEN BOATS – SWAMPED BUOYANCY TEST

The main safety criterion for an open boat is that it will float level when it is swamped.



FAO-designed 4.5 m (15 ft) boat being tested in the Maldives

This picture shows that the boat has ample reserve buoyancy. The people should however stand up in the boat during the test.

Buoyancy test

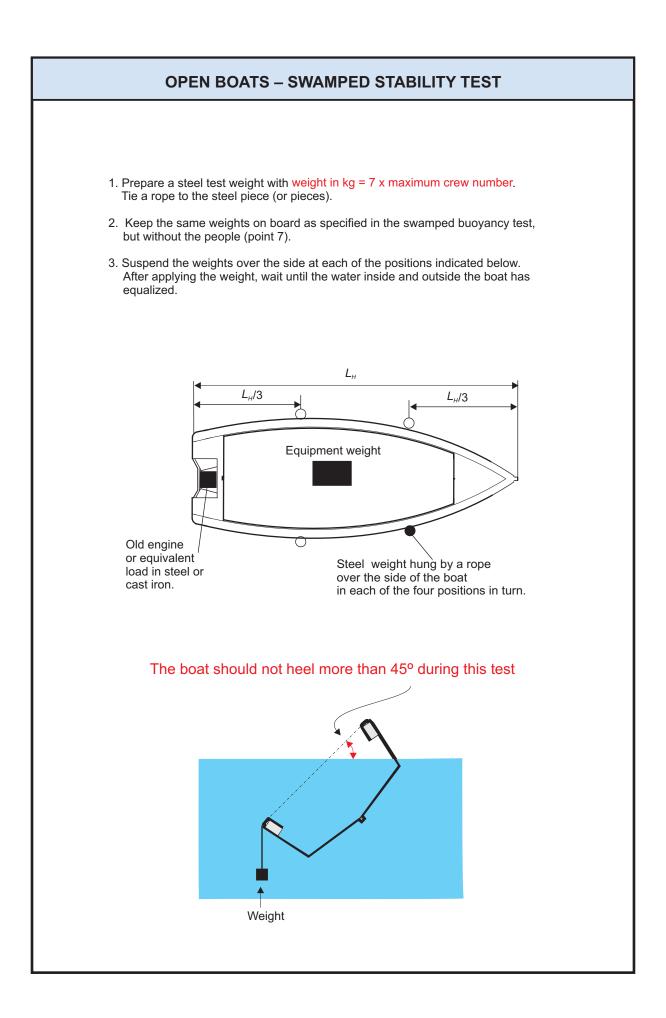
This should be carried out on all open FRP boats of a new model not previously tested.

During the test, the boat should be in calm water, in the light craft condition and equipped as follows.

- 1. Outboard engines can be replaced with an equivalent weight in steel or cast iron. Alternatively, a defunct engine can be used.
- 2. Portable fueltanks should be removed.
- 3. Inboard engines can be replaced with an equivalent weight in steel or cast iron representing 75 percent of the weight of the engine.
- 4. Replacement weights must be placed in the same position as the real weights.
- 5. Equipment such as anchors, and fishing gear such as sinkers on fishing nets, or their equivalent weights should be on board in the correct position.
- 6. Empty compartments that are part of the boat's structure and have not been pressure tested for airtightness should be left open so that they too can be flooded with water.
- 7. People are represented with a total weight in kg as shown in the table below (check with a bathroom scale). They should not be immersed above their knees. Alternatively, iron weights can be used, placed in the centre of the boat to represent the crew.
- 8. Fill the boat with water and wait for five minutes.
- 9. The boat should float level with approximately two thirds of the length of the top of the rail above water.

Maximum number of crew	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Design category D (kg)	70	80	90	100	110	120	135	145	155	165
Design category C (kg)	85	100	120	140	150	170	185	200	215	230

Equivalent person weight in kg



OPEN BOATS – CALCULATING REQUIRED BUOYANCY

All materials weigh less when submerged in water which is why buoyancy to support the boat when it is filled with water is always less than the weight in air. Materials such as wood weigh less than water; therefore they float and contribute to the buoyancy. To calculate the submerged weight of different materials the buoyancy factor is used.

Buoyancy factor

+0.25

- 0.33

- 0.88

- 0.63

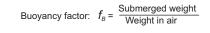
- 0.92

- 0.50

- 0.75

- 0.1

 $f_{\scriptscriptstyle B}$



Material

Wood

Steel

Lead

Fibreglass

Aluminium

Concrete

Engines

People

Positive buoyancy: + Negative weight: -

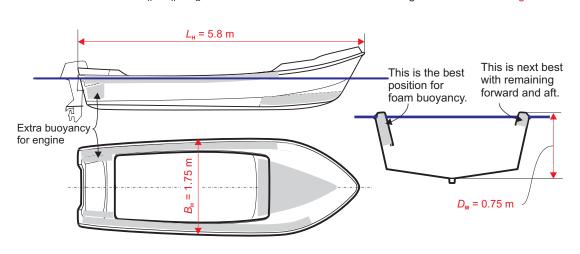
Continued

To find the submerged weight, the weight in air has to be multiplied with the corresponding buoyancy factor.

EXAMPLE 1. 5.8 m (19 ft) FRP boat from Sri Lanka

The weight of an FRP open boat without engine can be estimated at 60 x CUNO kg

In this case: $CUNO = L_{H} \times B_{H} \times D_{M} = 5.8 \times 1.75 \times 0.75 = 7.6 \text{ m}^{3}$ Hull weight = 60 x 7.6 = 460 kg



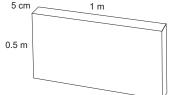
Besides the weight of the crew, the load on a fishing boat is mostly fishing nets and fish. The weight of the fishing nets is in the sinkers and this has to be estimated. The net and the floats will not have any submerged weight, and nor will the fish.

Item	Weight in air (kg)	Buoyancy factor (f _B)	Weight submerged (kg)
Hull above water (10 percent)	46		- 46
Hull submerged	414	- 0.33	- 136
Sinkers of fishing nets, concrete	50	- 0.50	- 25
Anchors	20	- 0.88	- 18
People - 4 x 75 kg	300	- 0.1	- 30
Total required buoyancy, distributed			- 255
Engine concentrated	60	- 0.75	- 45



Required buoyancy distributed to support the flooded boat = 255 kg. This is equivalent to 0.28 m³ of buoyancy blocks or 0.14 m³ on each side of the boat. The buoyancy material should preferably be placed high up along the sides. Over a length of 4.5 m on each side, this means 0.14/4.5 = 0.04 m² cross area. If the block is 10 cm thick it means a height of 40 cm. In this case, there is not sufficient space under the rail, so some must be placed forward and some aft. Foam inside the hollow transverse frames can also contribute to the buoyancy. For the engine, a total buoyancy of 45 kg is required and this must be placed along the sides where the engine is located.

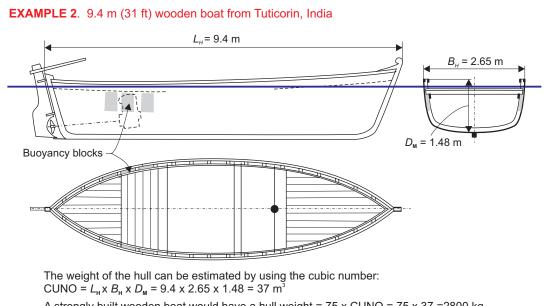
> A polystyrene sheet of 5 cm thickness and 0.5 x 1 m will have a buoyancy of 24 kg. To support the boat, a total of of 255 /24kg = 11 sheets are required. To support the engine a total of 45 /24 kg = 2 sheets are required.



Buoyancy material is commonly polystyrene or polyurethane. The polystyrene should be of the expanded, closed cell type that will not become waterlogged. To check the buoyancy material, it can be kept under water for eight days. The water absorbtion should not exceed 8 percent of the volume.

NOTE: POLYSTYRENE MUST BE PROTECTED AGAINST PETROL, DIESELAND RAW POLYESTER RESIN.

Polystyrene must be protected by a polyetethylene plastic sheet before it can be given a protective layer of FRP.



A strongly built wooden boat would have a hull weight = 75 x CUNO = 75 x 37 = 2800 kg

Item	Weight in air (kg)	Buoyancy factor (f _B)	Weight submerged (kg)	
Hull above water (10 percent)	300		- 300	
Hull submerged	2500	+ 0.25	+625	
Sinkers of fishing nets, concrete	50	- 0.5	- 25	
Anchors	20	- 0.88	- 18	
People - 4 x 75 kg	300	- 0.1	- 30	
Total positive buoyancy			+ 252	
Engine. concentrated	450	- 0.75	-138	* Boat without engine will not s

Extra concentrated buoyancy required for the engine = 138 kg. Number of polystyrene sheets as shown above: 138/ 24 kg = 6 sheets. These must be placed along the sides of the hull between the frames and protected against diesel and oil.

COCKPIT DRAINS

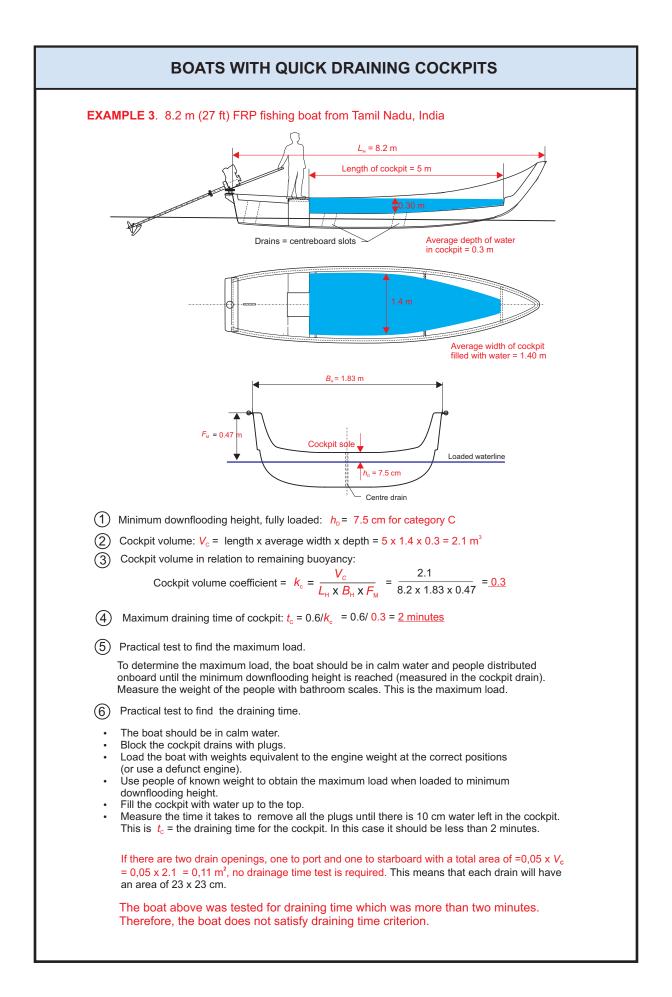


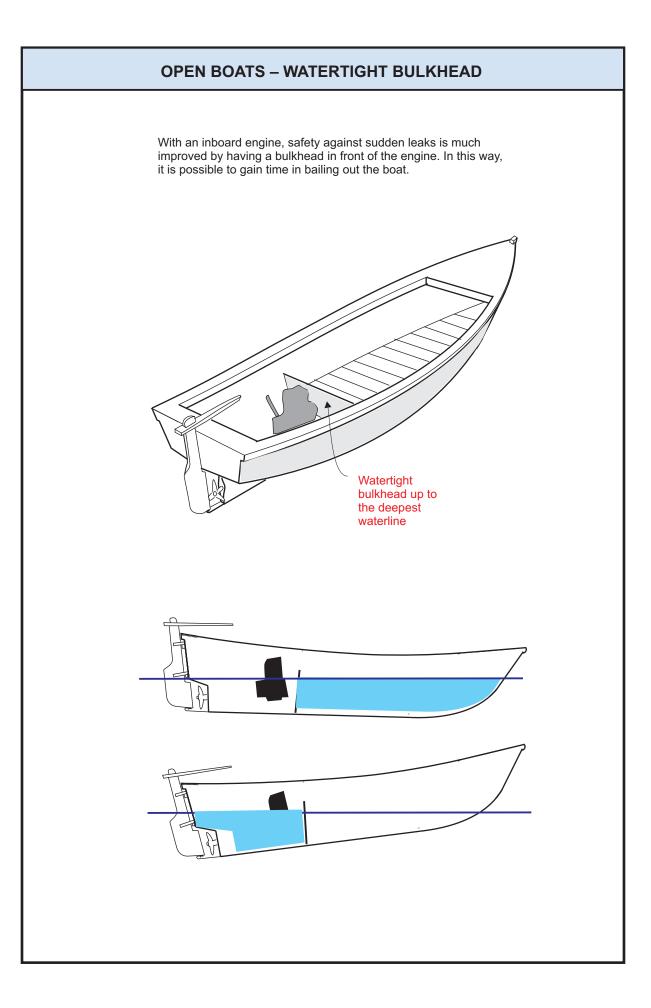
Slots for centreboards also drain water on deck but...

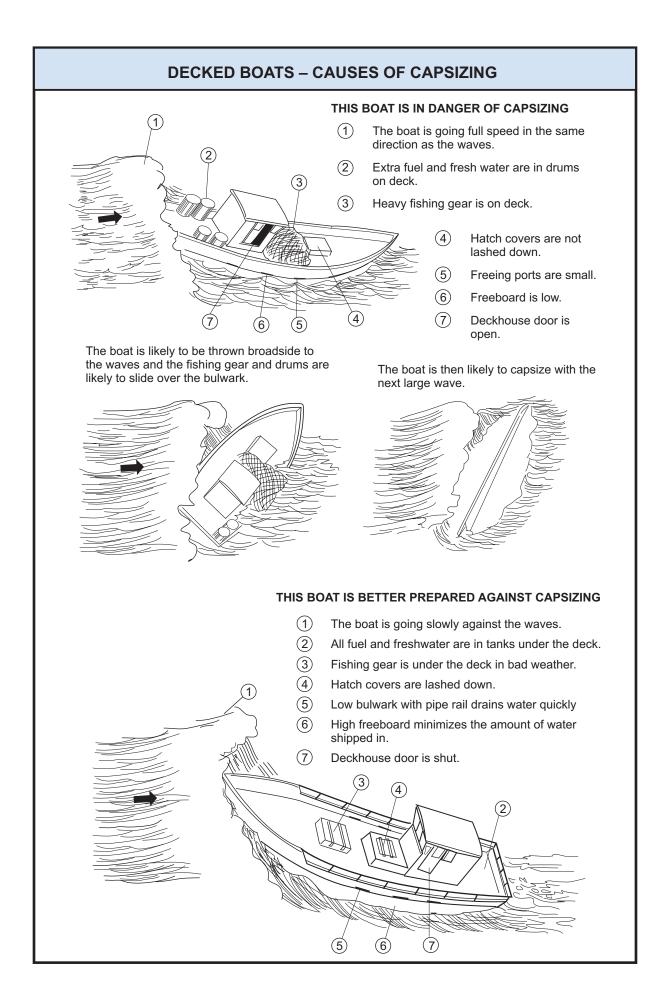


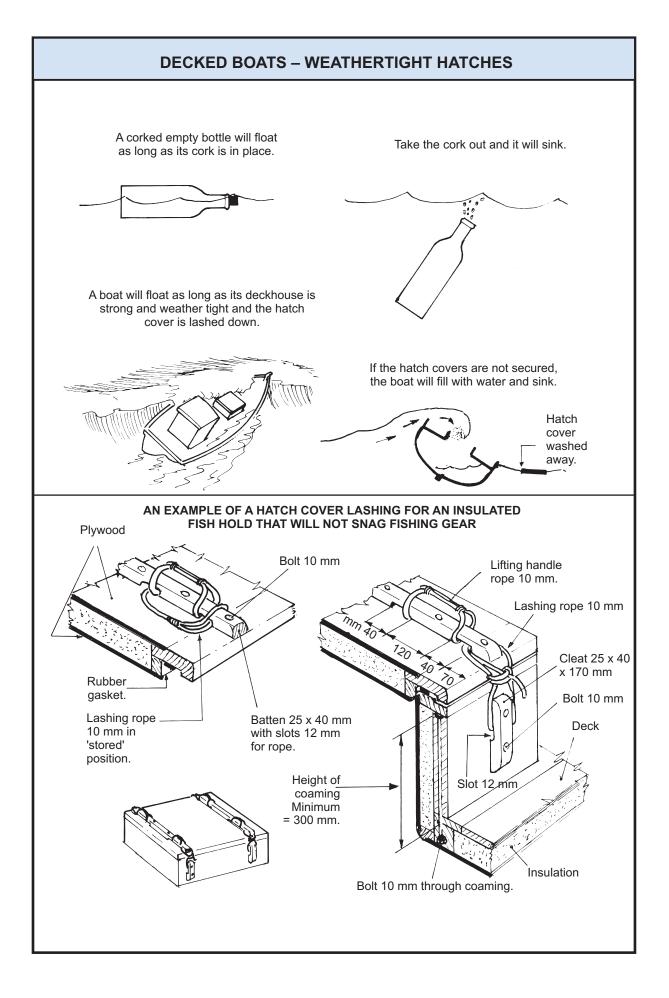
...blocked drains, heavy catch and cockpit filled with water can capsize the boat.

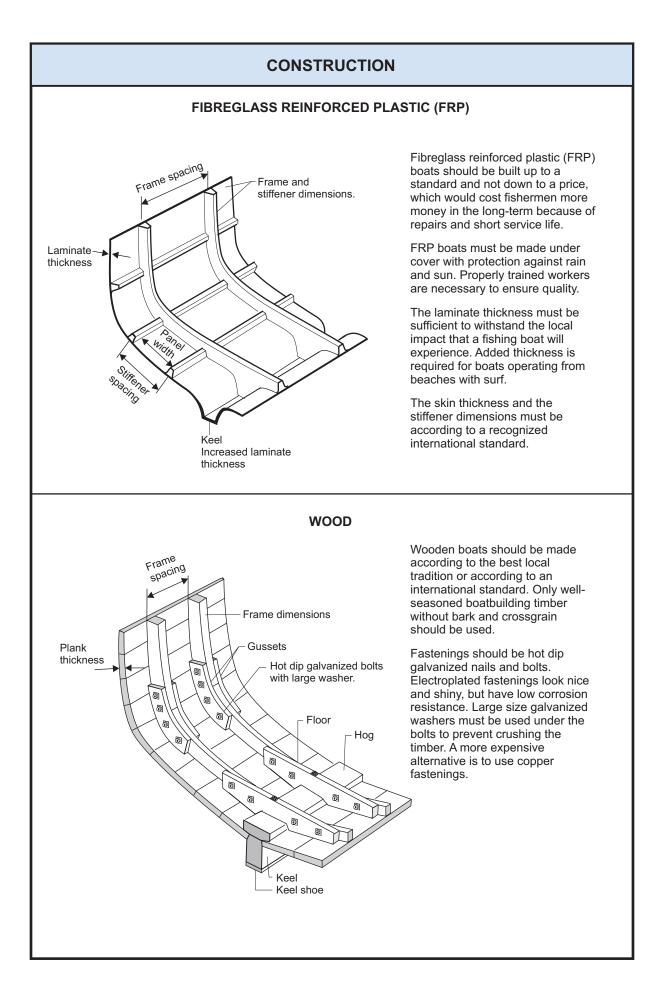
To ensure safety, drains must be large enough to drain the water on deck quickly. Drains should be placed port and starboard and should not be obstructed at any time, to ensure adequate and quick drainage even when the boat has heeled.



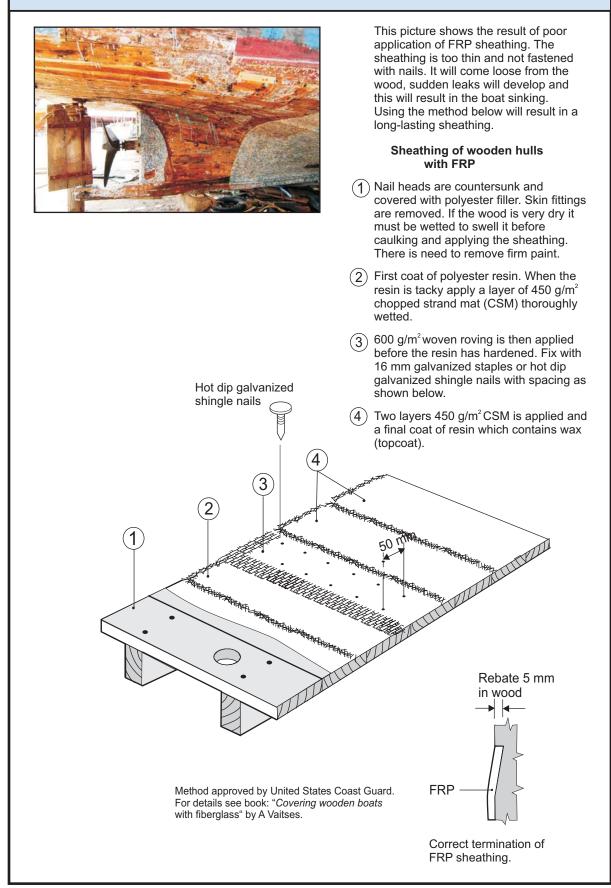


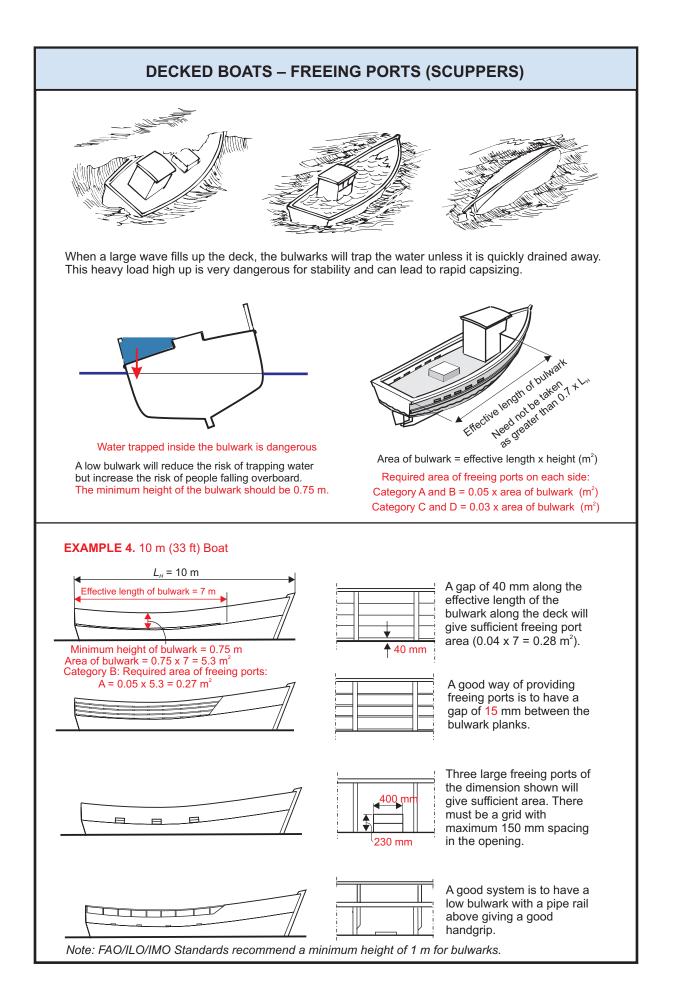


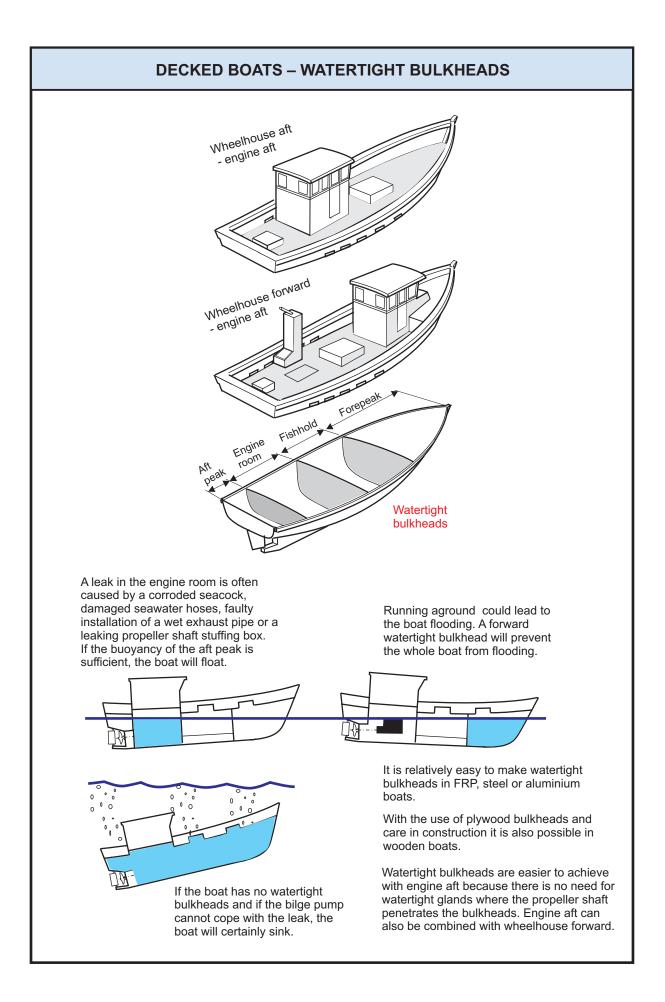


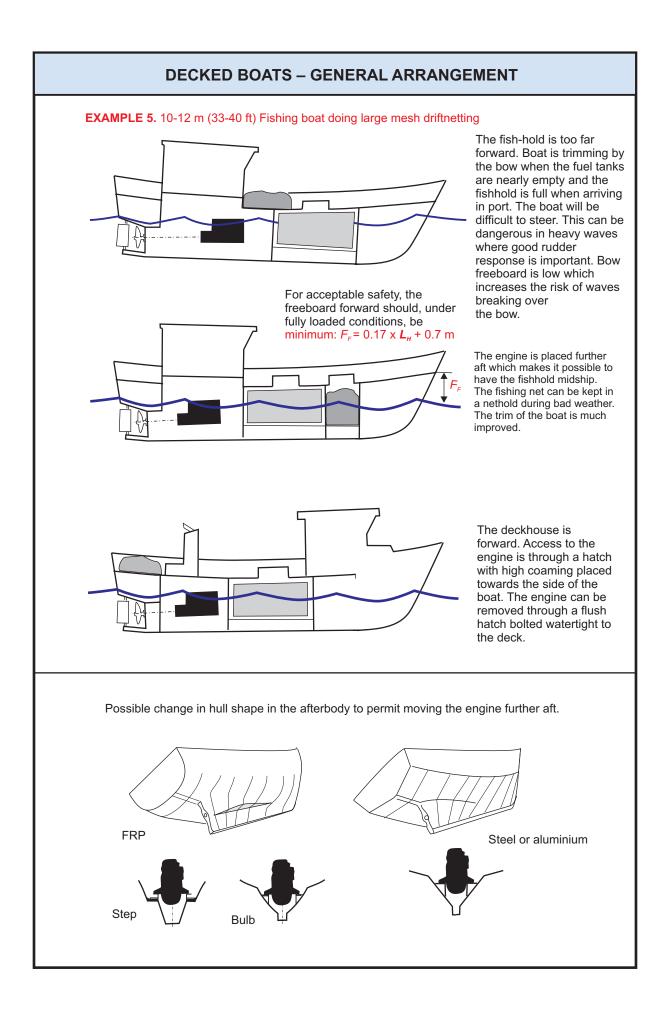


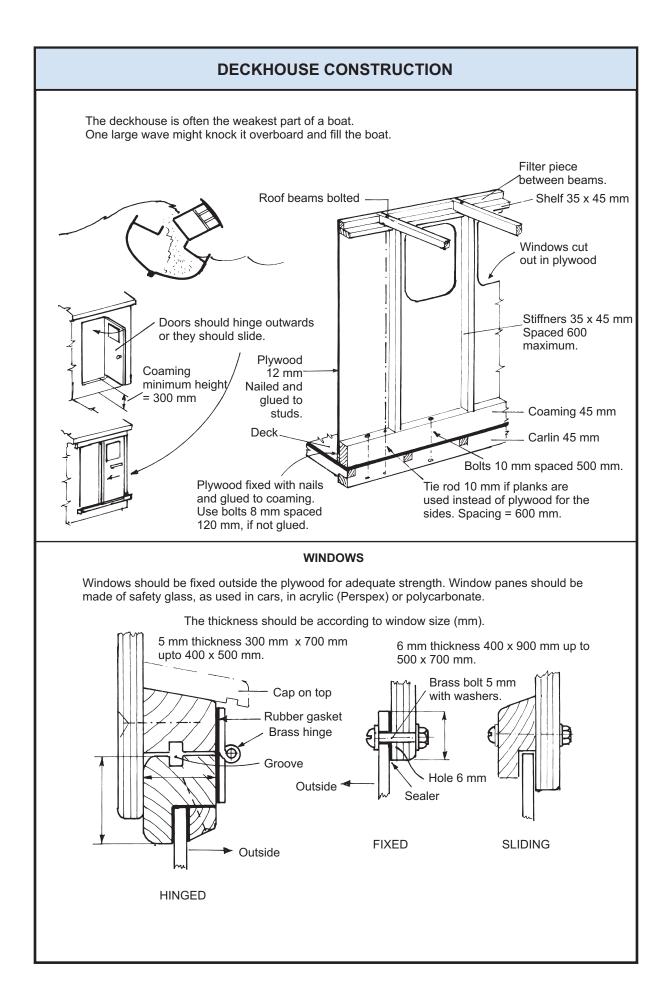
FRP SHEATHING OF WOODEN BOATS

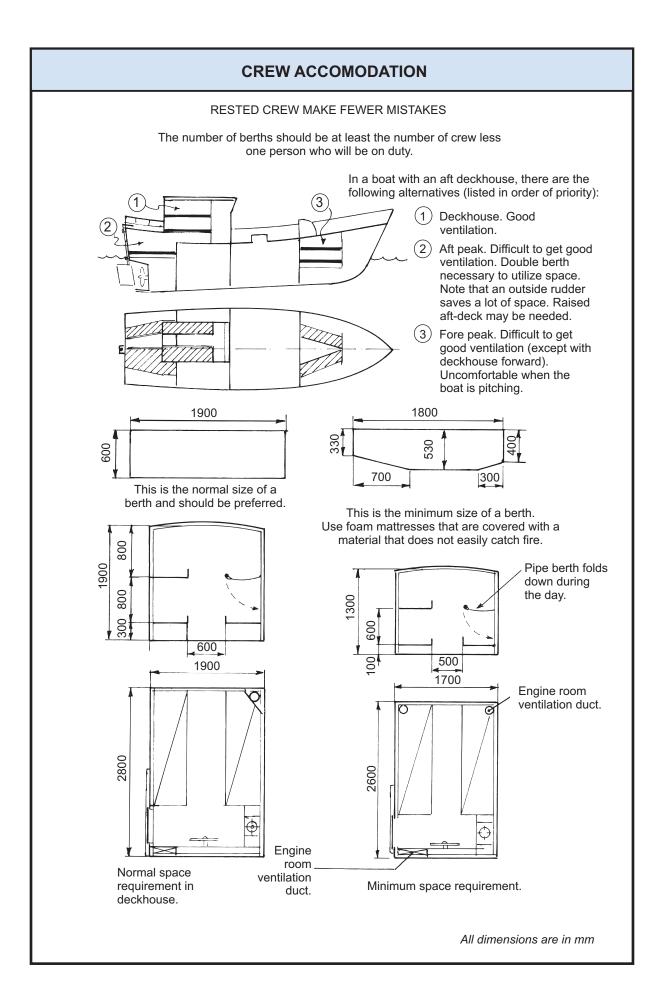


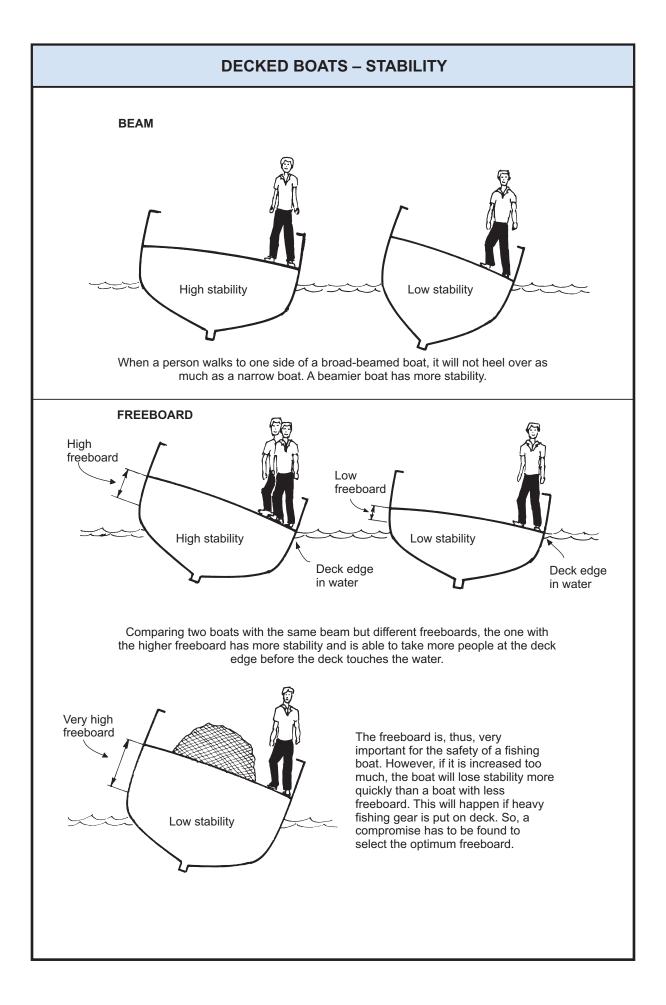


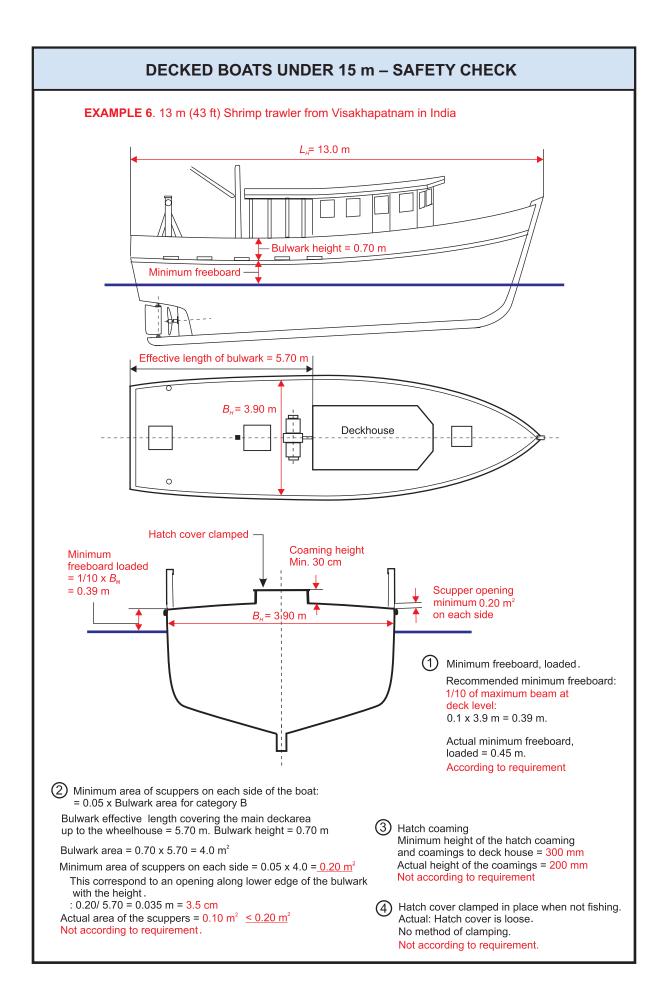












DECKED BOATS UNDER 15 m – OVERLOADING PRECAUTION



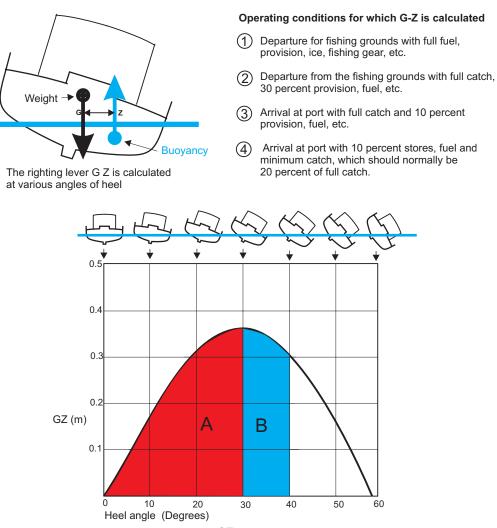




HEAVY FISH CATCH ON DECK AND OVERLOADING ON DECKHOUSE SHOULD BE AVOIDED

STABILITY OF BOATS IN CATEGORY A AND B

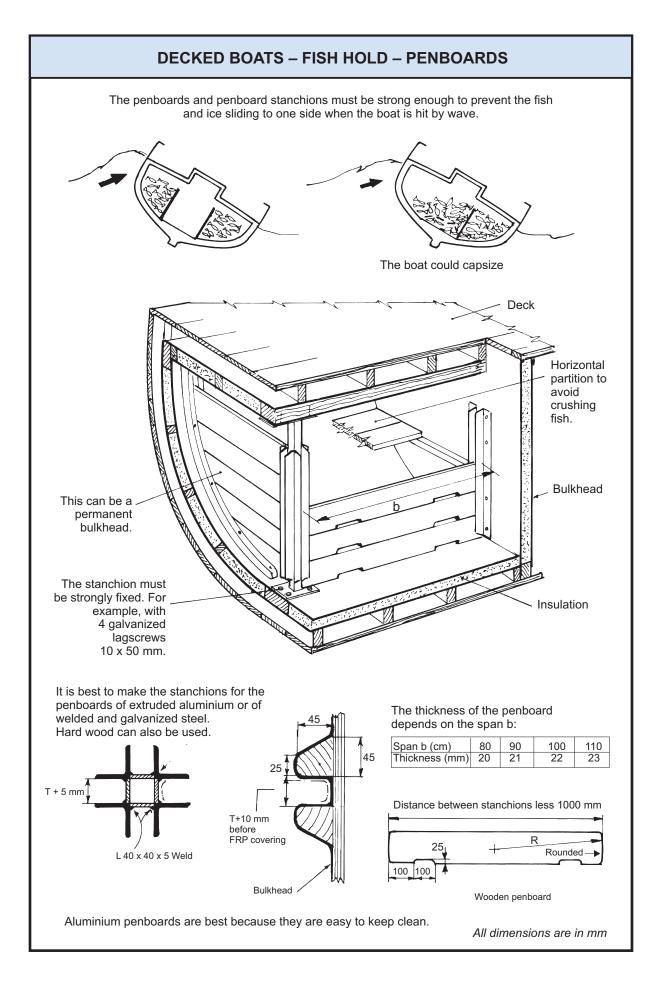
Boats in category A and B should have a complete stability check by calculating the GZ curve in various operating conditions and verifying the height of the centre of gravity with an inclining test after the boat has been launched.

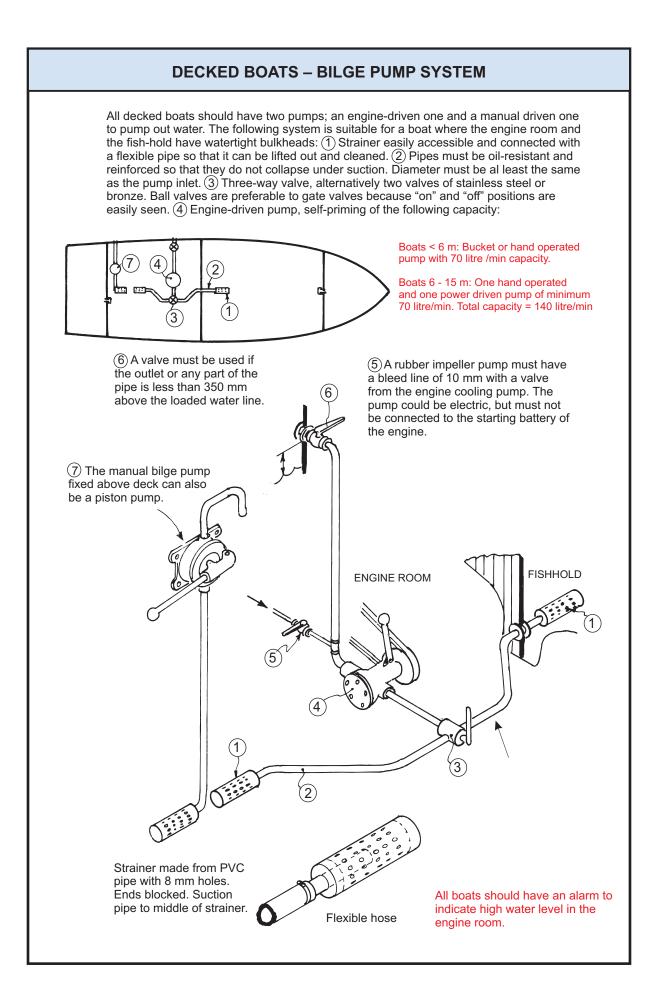


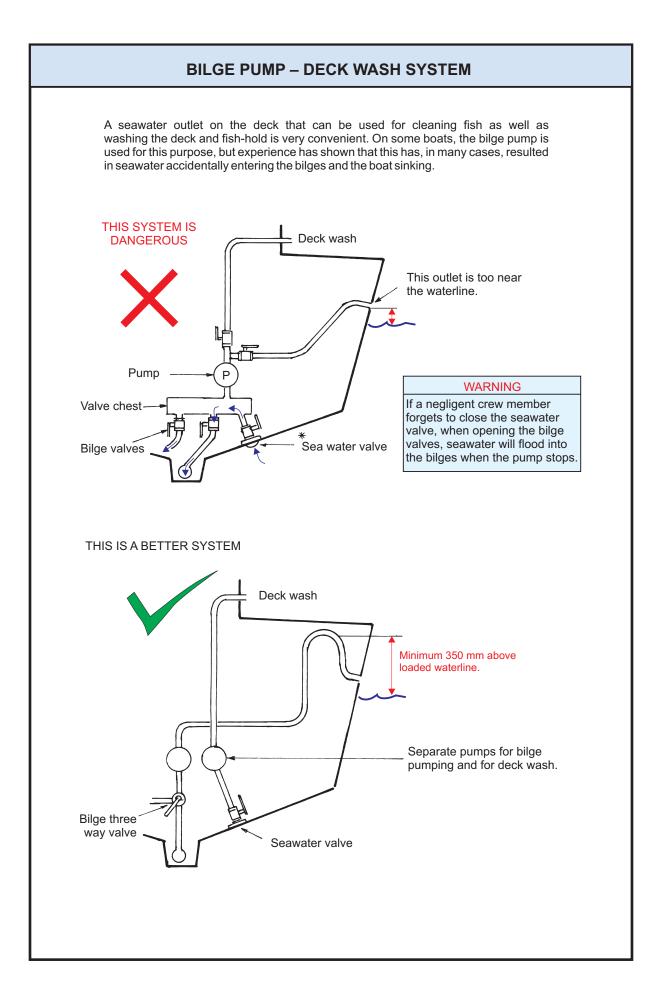


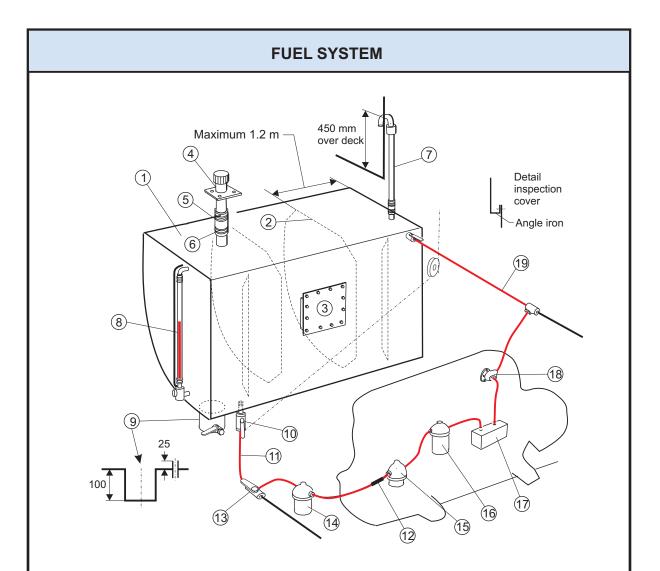
Stability criteria for decked vessels of design category A and B

- (1) The area A under the righting lever curve (GZ curve) should not be less than 0.055 m-rad up to 30° angle of heel and not less than 0.09 m-rad up to 40° or the angle of flooding θ_r if this angle is less than 40° . Additionally, the area under the righting lever curve between the angles of heel of 30° and 40° (B) or between 30° and θ_r , if this angle is less than 40° , should not be less than 0.03 m-rad. θ_r is the angle of heel at which openings in the hull, superstructures and deckhouses, that cannot be rapidly shut watertight, begin to immerse. In applying this criterion, small openings through which progressive flooding cannot take place need not be considered as open.
- (2) The righting lever GZ should be at least 200 mm at an angle of heel equal to or greater than 30°. The righting lever GZ may be reduced to the satisfaction of the competent authority but in no case by more than 2(24 - L_H) percent.
- (3) The maximum righting lever GZ should occur at an angle of heel preferably exceeding 30° but not less than 25°.
- (4) The initial metacentric height GM_0 should be not less than 350 mm.





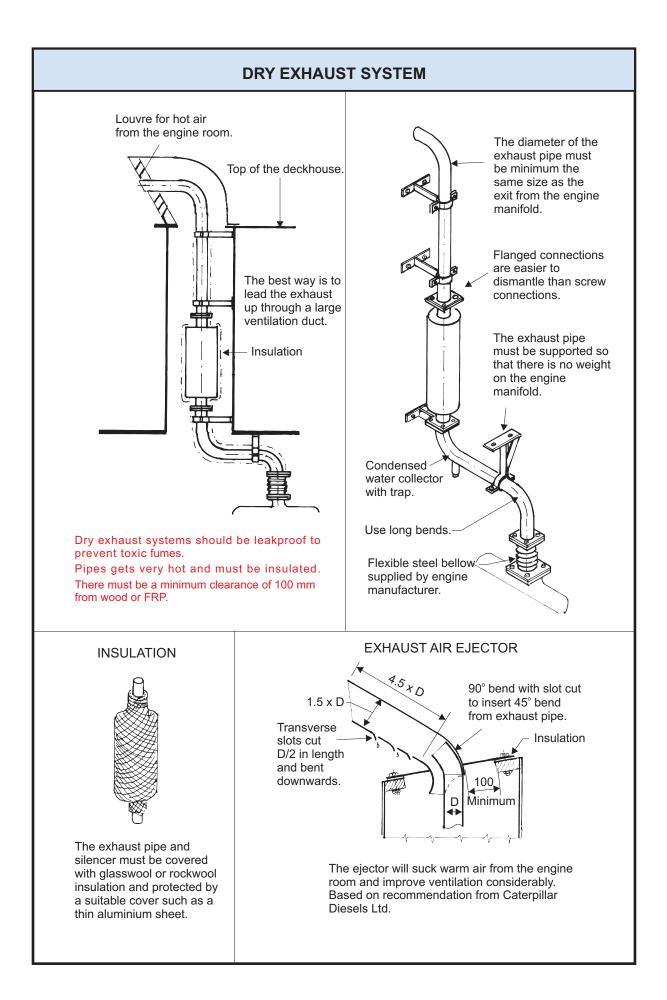


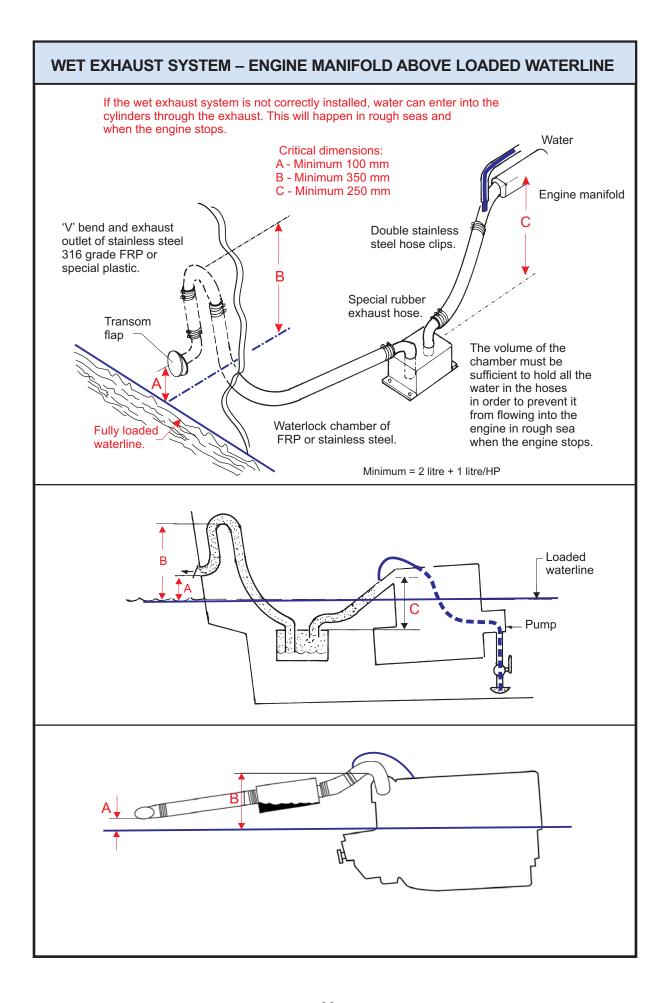


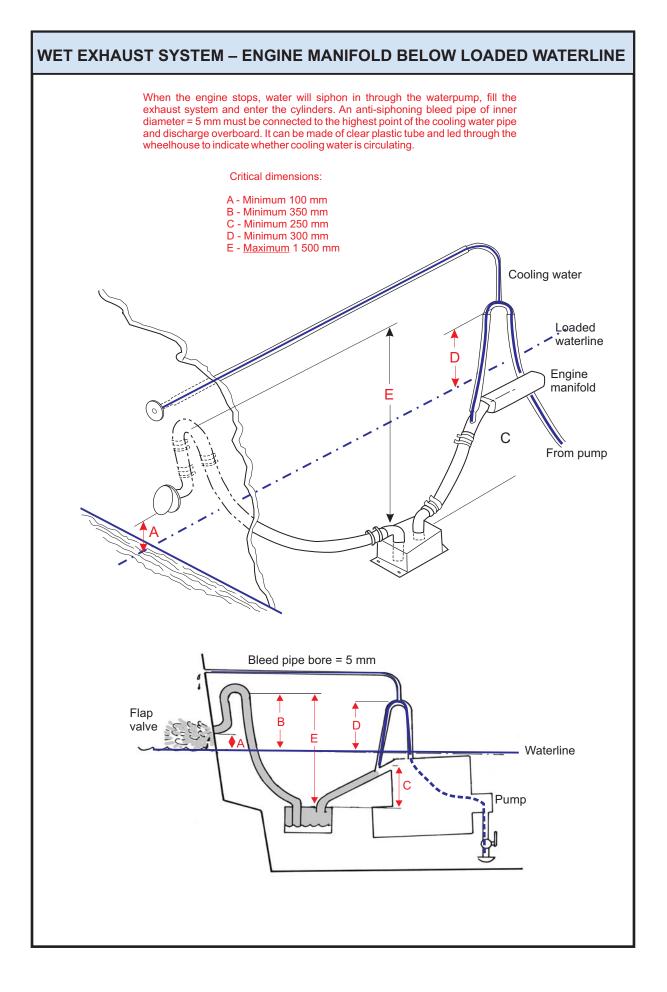
Poor installation and dirty fuel are frequent causes of engine breakdown.

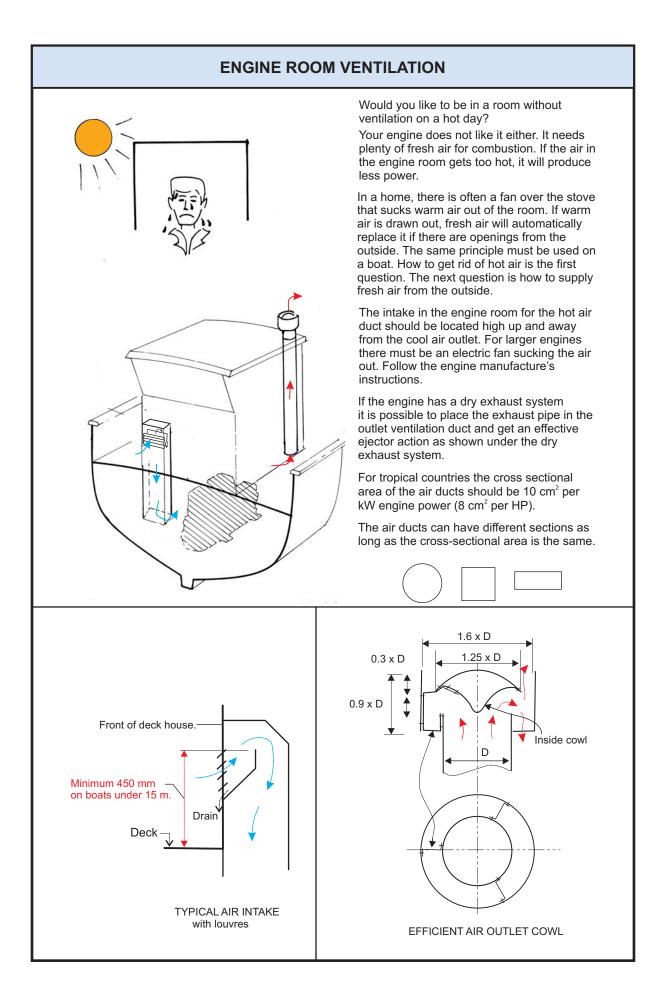
- ① Tank welded from steel plate. 4 mm plate up to 400 litre, 5 mm plate up to 4 500 litre. Stiffeners are required for panels larger than 0.4 m² for 4 mm plate and 0.55 m² for 5 mm plate. Use anti corrosive paint.The tank must be leak tested before use and must be strongly fixed to the boat structure.
- ② Tanks with more than 1.2 m in one direction need baffles of the same thickness as the tank.
- ③ Inspection cover for cleaning the tank, minimum 200 x 200 mm, bolted and with oil resistant gasket.
- Filler pipe of minimum inner diameter
 = 38 mm with screw cap above deck.
- (5) Short flexible and diesel resistant hose.(6) All hoseclips to be of stainless steel
- doubled up. (7) Ventilation pipe of minimum 12 mm inner
- diameter leading to outside.

- ⑧ Fuel gauge with self closing shut off valve at the bottom. Protected against damage. Alternatively, check fuel level with stick through filler pipe.
- (9) Sump with drain valve blanketed with a plug.
- Stop valve with possibility of shutting off from outside the engine room by use of a wire in case of fire.
- ③ Seamless annealed copper pipe with wall thickness of atleast 0.8 mm fixed in place with clamps.
- ② Short length of fire resistant flexible metal braided fuel hose close to engine to resist vibrations.
- ③ Three way valve to connect the two fuel tanks.
- ④ Primary fuel filter and water separator.
- 15 Fuel pump.
- 6 Engine fuel filter.
- Injector pump.
- 18 Injector.
- (19) Fuel return pipe, seamless annealed copper.

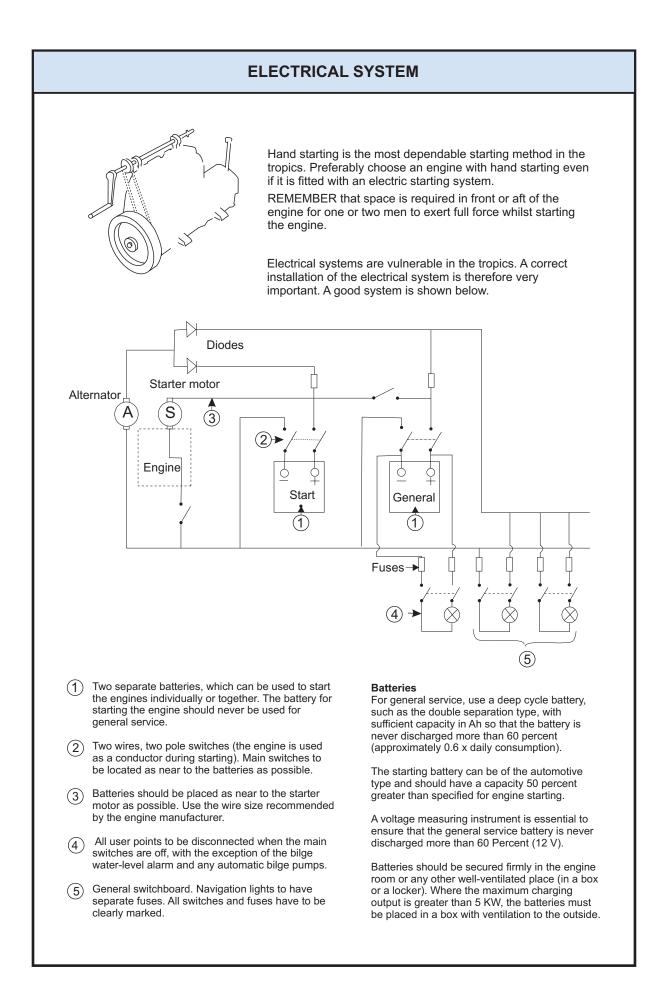


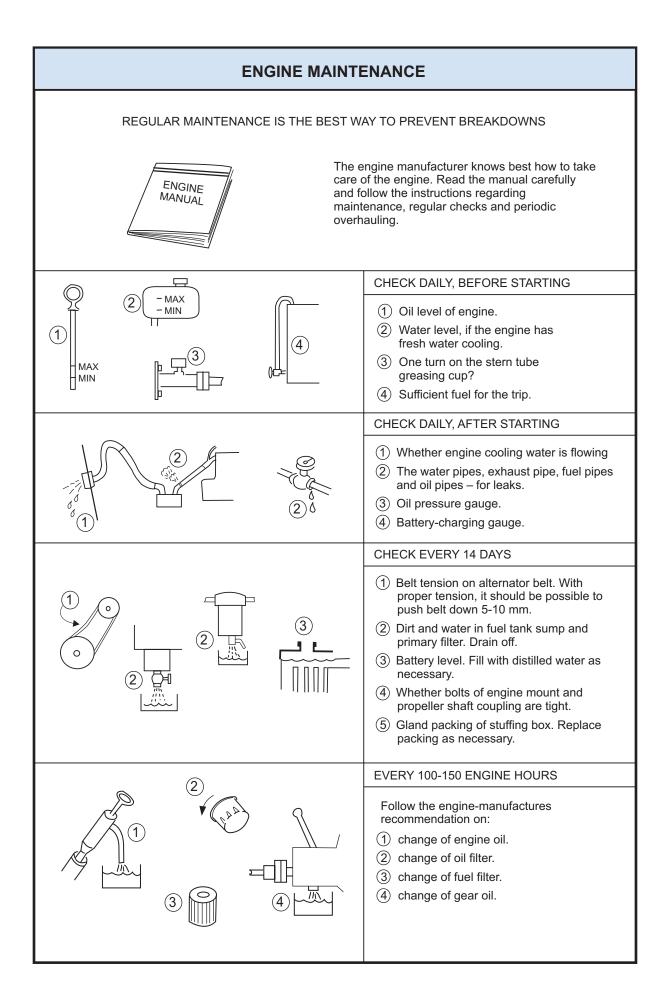




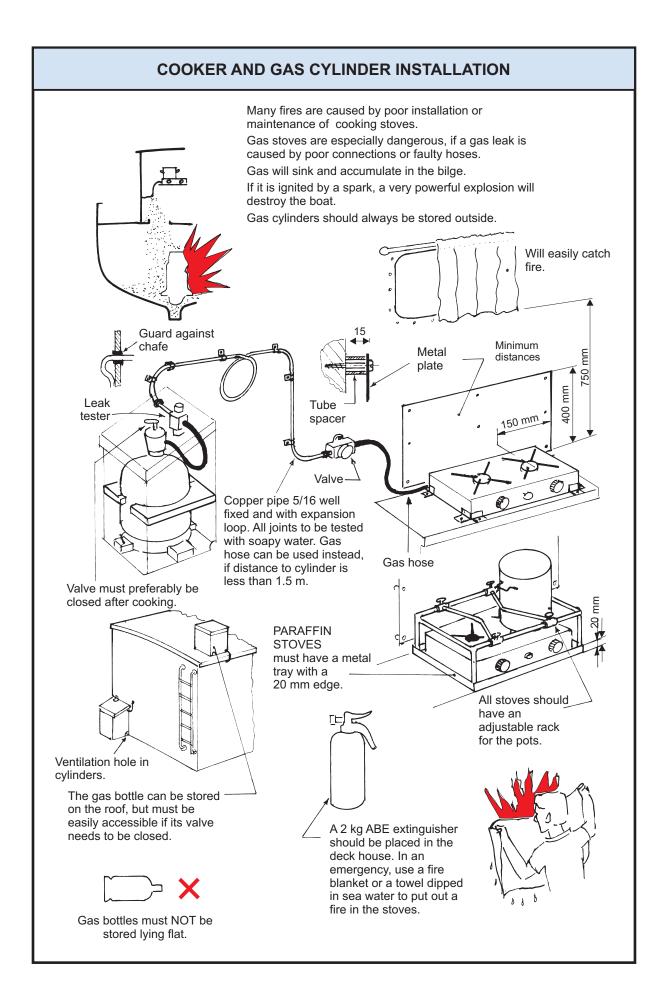


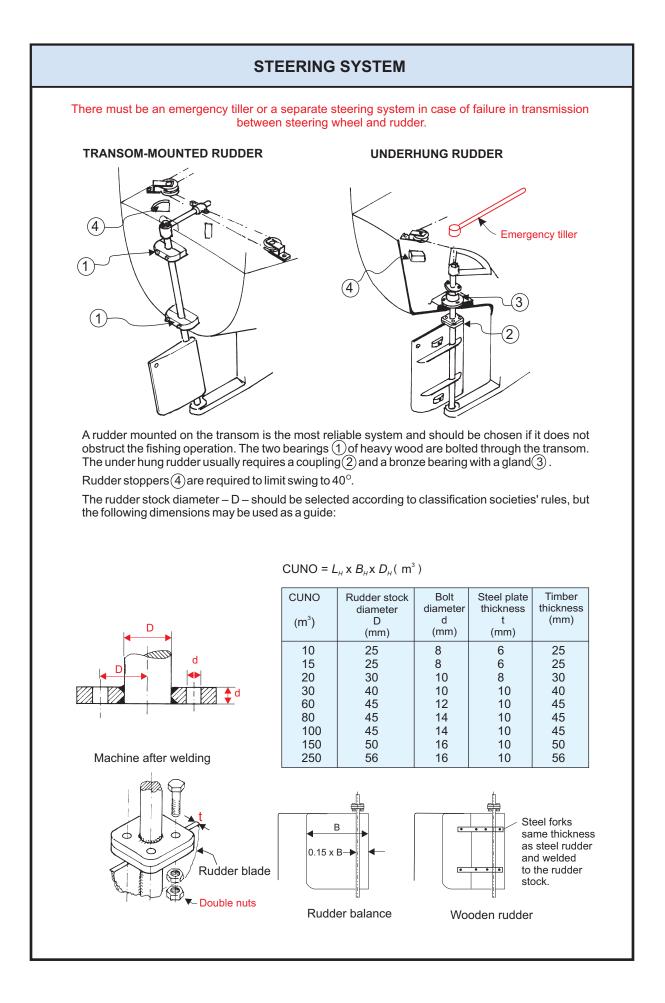
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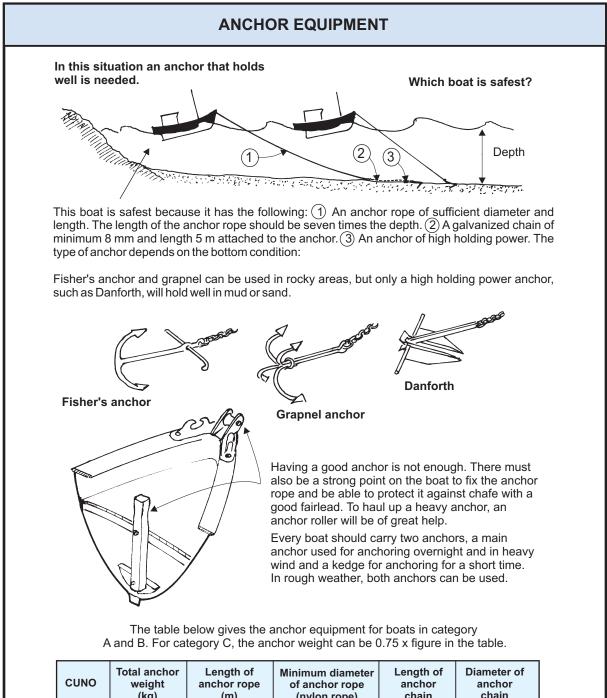




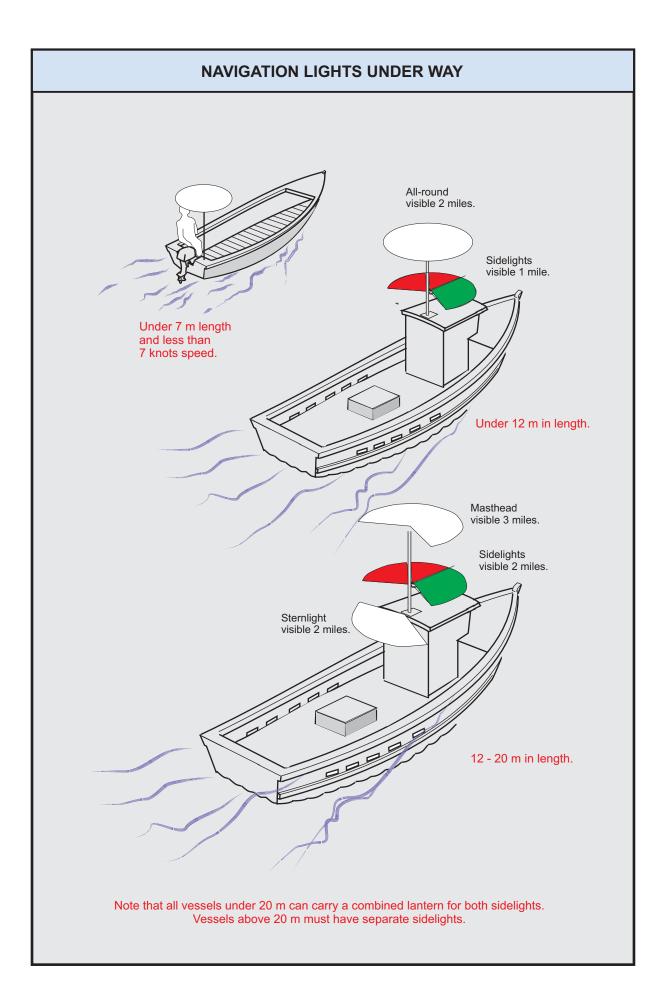
TOOLS AND SPARE PARTS TO BE CARRIED ON BOARD									
pination spanners – 24 mm.		Fuel injector with sealing washer.							
table spanners 6" 0".	ц.	Fuel injection pipe with end fittings.							
wrench 18".		1 set spare parts for engine waterpump.							
		V-belts for alternator, waterpump, etc.							
vination pliers 6".		Cartridges for fuel and lub-oil filters.							
pliers 12".		Gland packing for stern tube with special spanner.							
grip 10".	\bigcirc	Spare parts for manual pump.							
onal cutting 6".	\bigcirc	Coil of copper wire, stiff steel wire.							
	0	Insulating tape, tape for pipe threads.							
chisel.		Spare bulbs and fuses.							
ingle-cut file,		Engine oil 2-5 litres, oil squirt can.							
		Grease gun.							
drivers nos 2		Gasket cement, epoxy glue.							
drill.		Assorted bolts, nuts, wasters, screws, hoseclips.							
zes high speed		Waterproof torch.							
	 24 mm. atable spanners 6" o". wrench 18". en hammer pination pliers 6". o pliers 12". grip 10". onal cutting 6". saw, with spare s. chisel. single-cut file, crewdrivers 6 mm, 10 mm. rive vdrivers nos 2 Philips, type 1. d rill. set of different zes high speed mm. 	- 24 mm. Image: Constraint of the system							

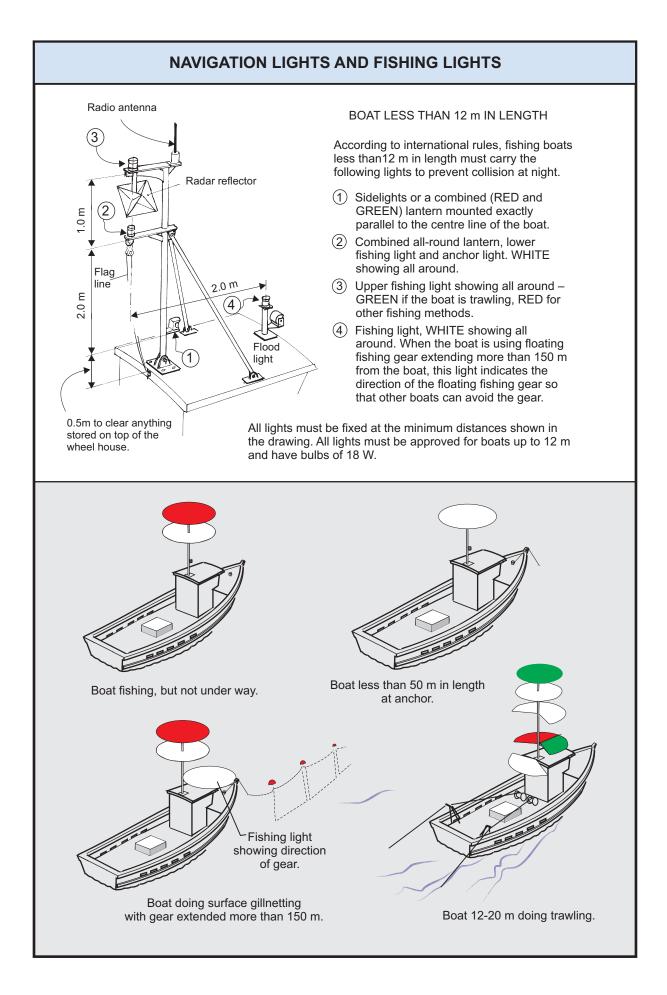


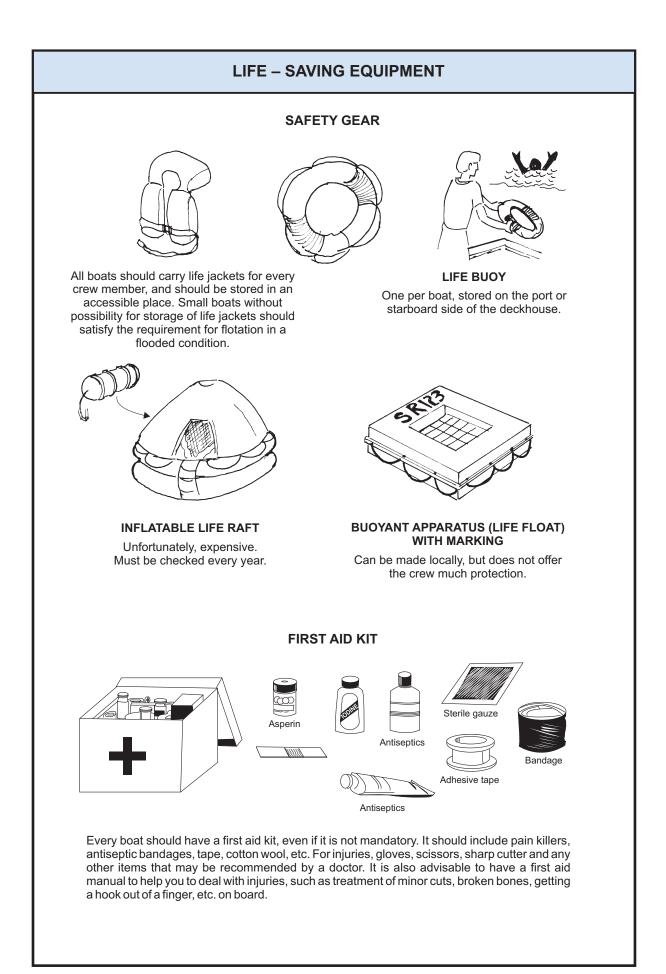




CUNO	weight (kg)	anchor rope (m)	of anchor rope (nylon rope) (mm)	anchor chain (m)	anchor chain (mm)
5	8	20	10	5	8
10	12	25	12	5	8
15	15	30	15	6	8
25	21	32	15	6	8
35	25	35	18	8	9.5
45	31	40	18	8	9.5
60	37	45	20	10	9.5
80	43	50	20	10	9.5
100	52	55	25	15	12
155	62	60	25	15	12







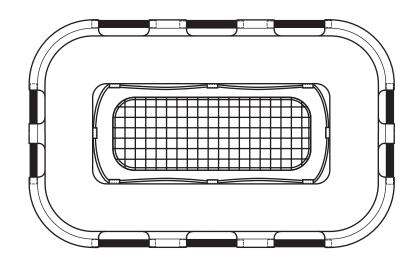
ALTERNATE LIFE FLOATS



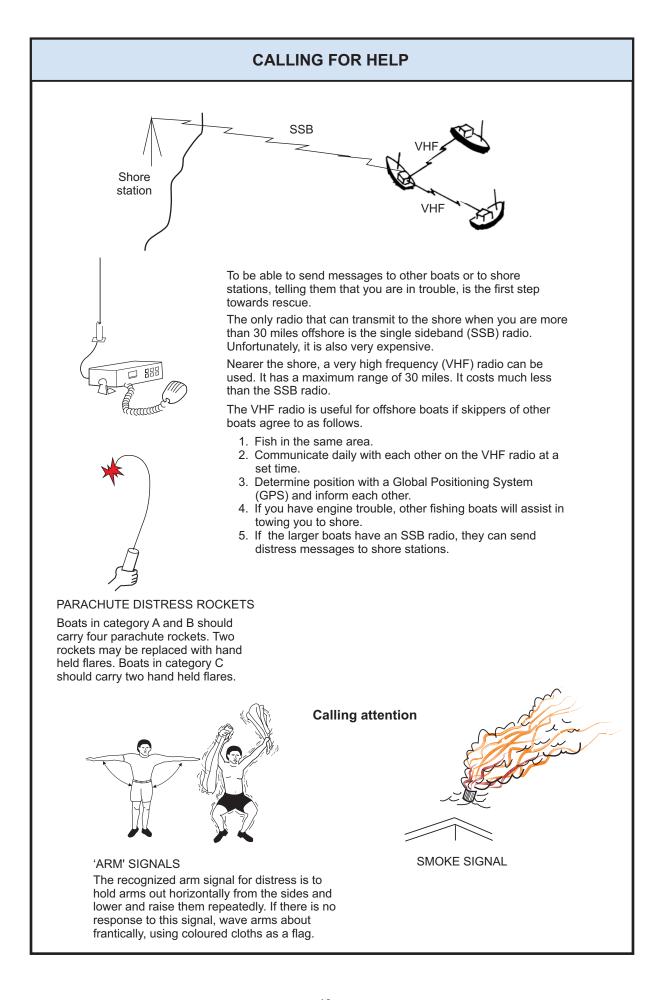
Life belt made from net floats if a lifebuoy is unavailable*

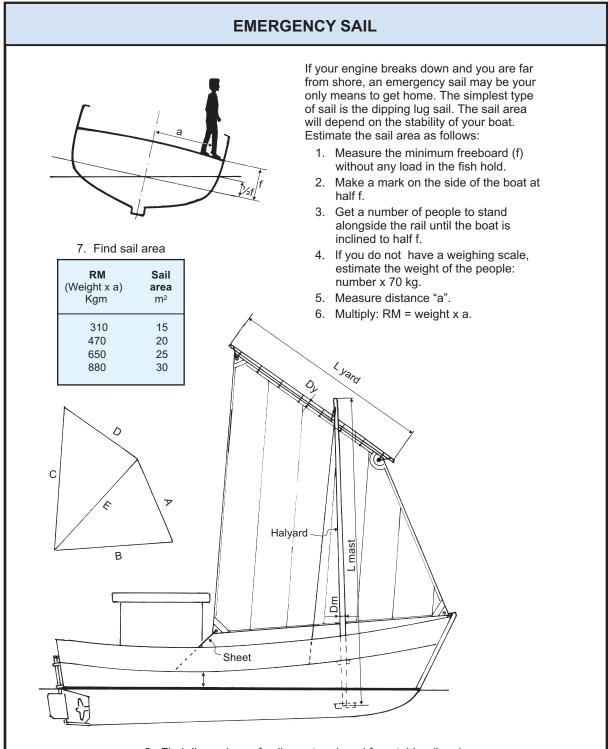


FRP life float for larger boats as an alternative to an inflatable life raft*



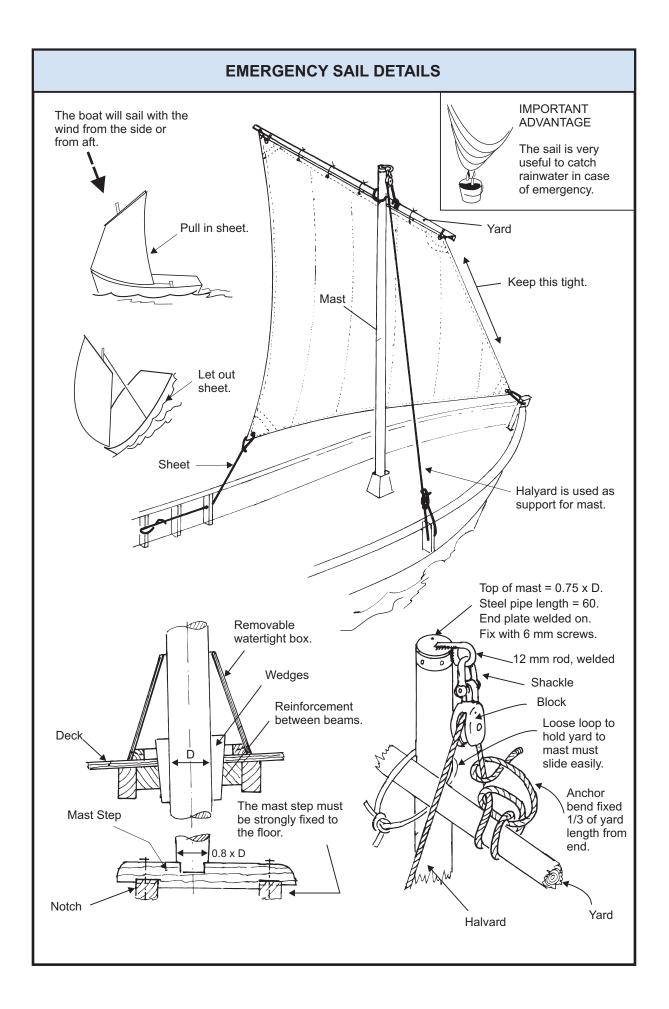
- * Developed under the Government of Bangladesh/ UNDP Project on 'Empowerment of Coastal Fishing Communities Livelihood Security (BGD/97/07)' in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh.
- * Developed under the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme on 'Measures to Reduce Loss of Life During Cyclone (TCP/IND/6712)' in Andhra Pradesh, India.





8. Find dimensions of sail, mast and ya	rd from tables (in m)
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Sail					Halya	ard	Sheet	et Sa			Mast	st Yard			
Sail area m ²	Α	в	с	D	Е	Length m	Dia mm	Length m	Dia mm		area m²	Length m	Dia mm	Length m	Dia mm
15 20 25 30	3.4 4.0 4.4 4.8	4.5 5.2 5.8 6.4	5.5 6.3 7.1 7.8	3.3 3.8 4.4 4.9	4.8 5.5 6.1 6.5	13 15 16 18	10 12 12 12	12 14 15 17	10 10 10 12		15 20 25 30	6.4 7.0 7.7 8.4	105 120 130 140	3.6 4.1 4.7 5.2	60 65 70 75



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