

Icelandic Transport Authority ICETRA

Enhancing Fishing Vessel Safety to Save Lives

Sverrir Konradsson
Specialist Maritime Affairs
Coordination and Facilitation

sverrirk@icetra.is



Importance of fisheries to Iceland

- Iceland ranks in top 20 in list of world catches
- Total catch around 1.2 million tonnes
- Fisheries products are about 40% of total exports
- Around 3000 registered ships
- Fisheries one of the main pillars of the economy
- 7,300 fishermen registered on Icelandic FVs



High Death Toll in Fishing

- Deplorable that large number of lives are lost world-wide during fishing operations
- Dire need to respond to the increasing safety crisis in the fishing industry
- A number of international instruments have been developed to address this issue



Considerable reduction in fatalities in Iceland in recent decades

- As an Island State in the North Atlantic, Iceland has been dependent on shipping and fishing for centuries
- Alarming number of seamen have lost their lives
- Ships foundered and whole crews were lost
- Since the late seventies, when 30-40 seamen lost their lives annually, accident rates have decreased steadily




Proven Record of Accomplishment

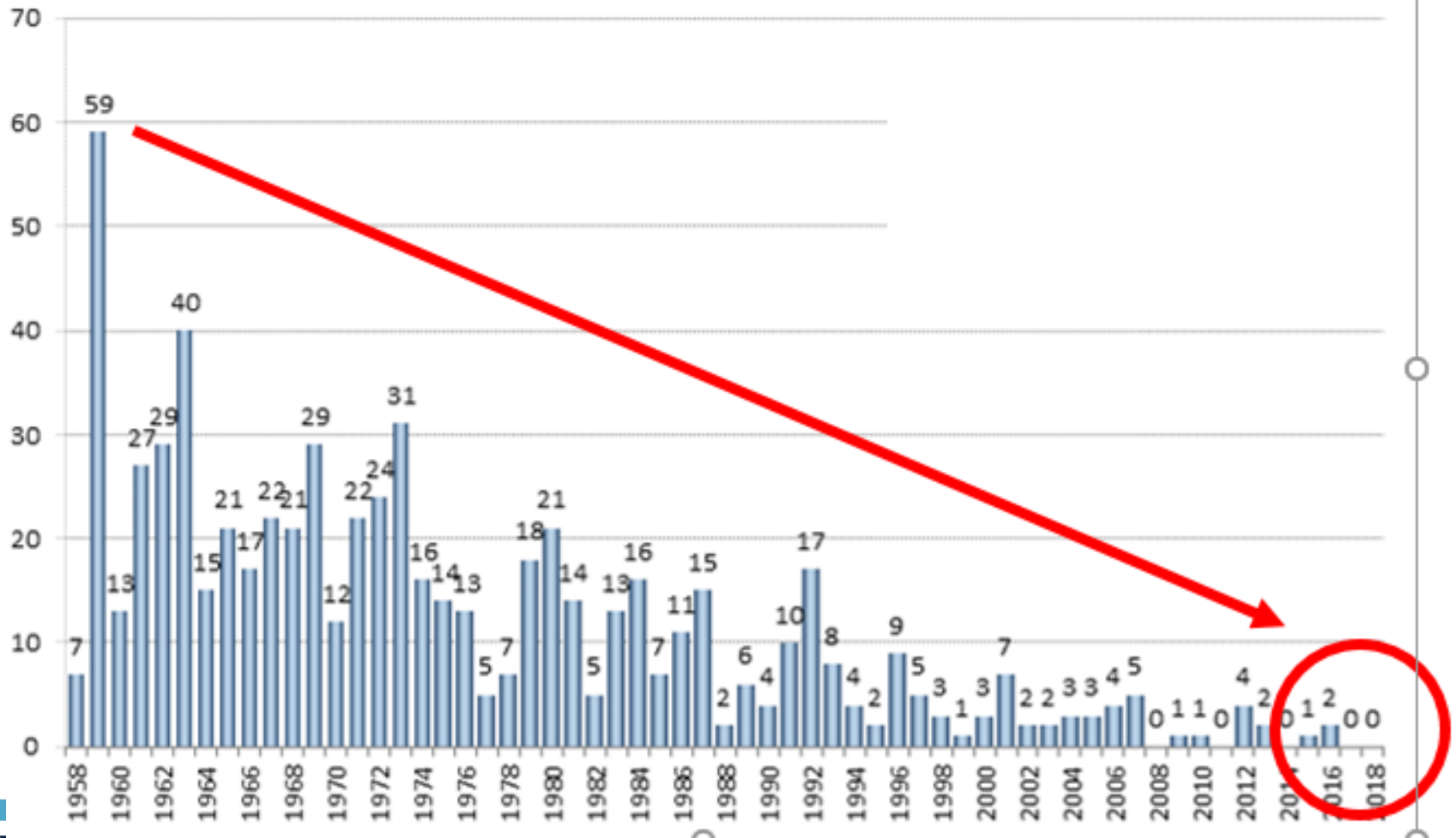
NO fatalities in fisheries, merchant shipping
and pleasure craft sailing
in 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017 and 2018

Two consequent years without fatalities in
fishing, shipping and pleasure boat sailing



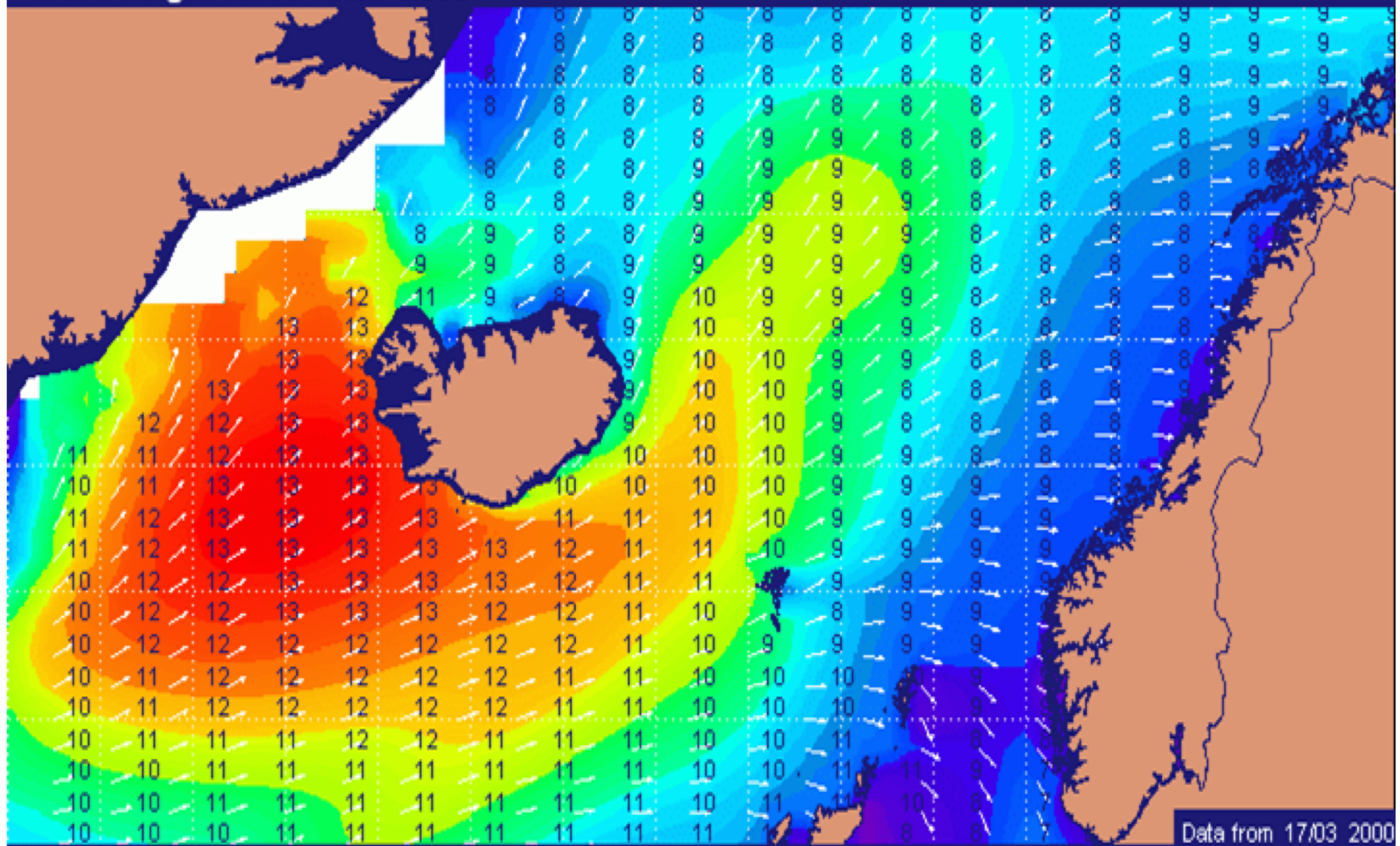
Trend in fatal accidents from 1958-2018

 Toward zero deaths at sea



Wave height 12:00 18/03 2000

THE ICELANDIC MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

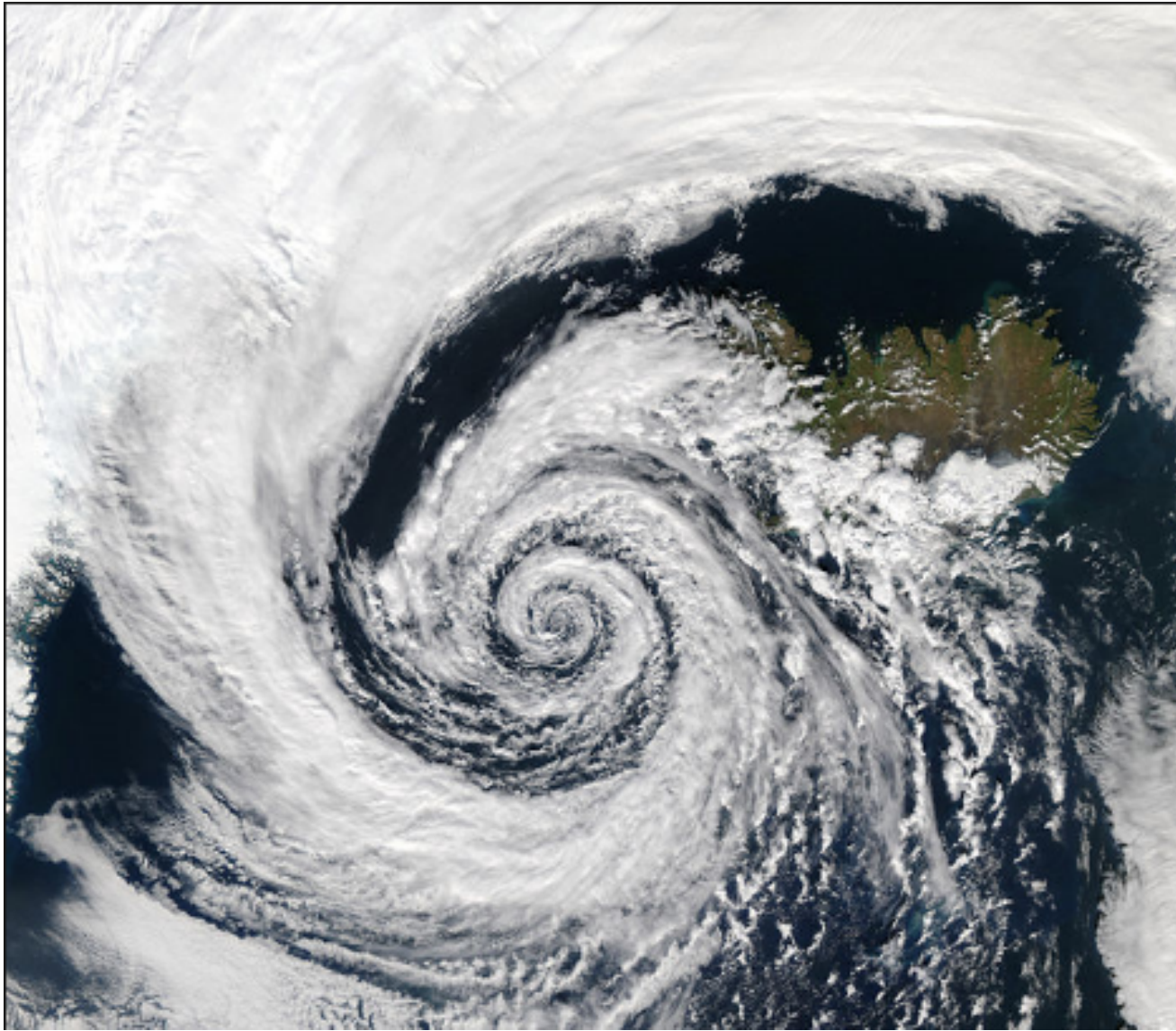


Wave height (m)
Wave period (s)



Wave direction
(arrows)

Data from 17/03 2000



Date 4 September 2003. Source: Wikipedia



How have we managed to lower the number of fatalities?

- Building up strong safety culture with regulatory background based on internationally agreed rules
- Ratifying the Torremolinos Protocol in 2003, the Torremolinos Protocol in 1998 and the Cape Town Agreement in 2013
- Awareness-raising campaigns
- Mandatory training in use of safety equipment
- Risk assessment to develop measures to reduce working accidents on board vessels



- Mandatory basic safety and survival training for all professional seamen based on STCW regulations
- Refresher training at 5-year intervals
- Intense safety training during the last 35 years has changed fishermen's attitude towards safety
- Helicopter hoisting training in real environment at sea, in cooperation with the Coast Guard
- Helicopters have proven efficient in rescue operations in Iceland as elsewhere and have saved numerous lives



- By implementing Torremolinos provisions and the provisions of Directive 97/70/EC
- Implementing Icelandic special provisions set to counteract the harsh Icelandic conditions
- Regulation [122/2004](#), as amended
- Rather strict manning and certification legislation, [Act](#), [Regulation](#)
- On-line registration system which blocks registration of persons without valid CoCs and insurance
- Also blocks registration of those without valid Basic Safety Training CoCs



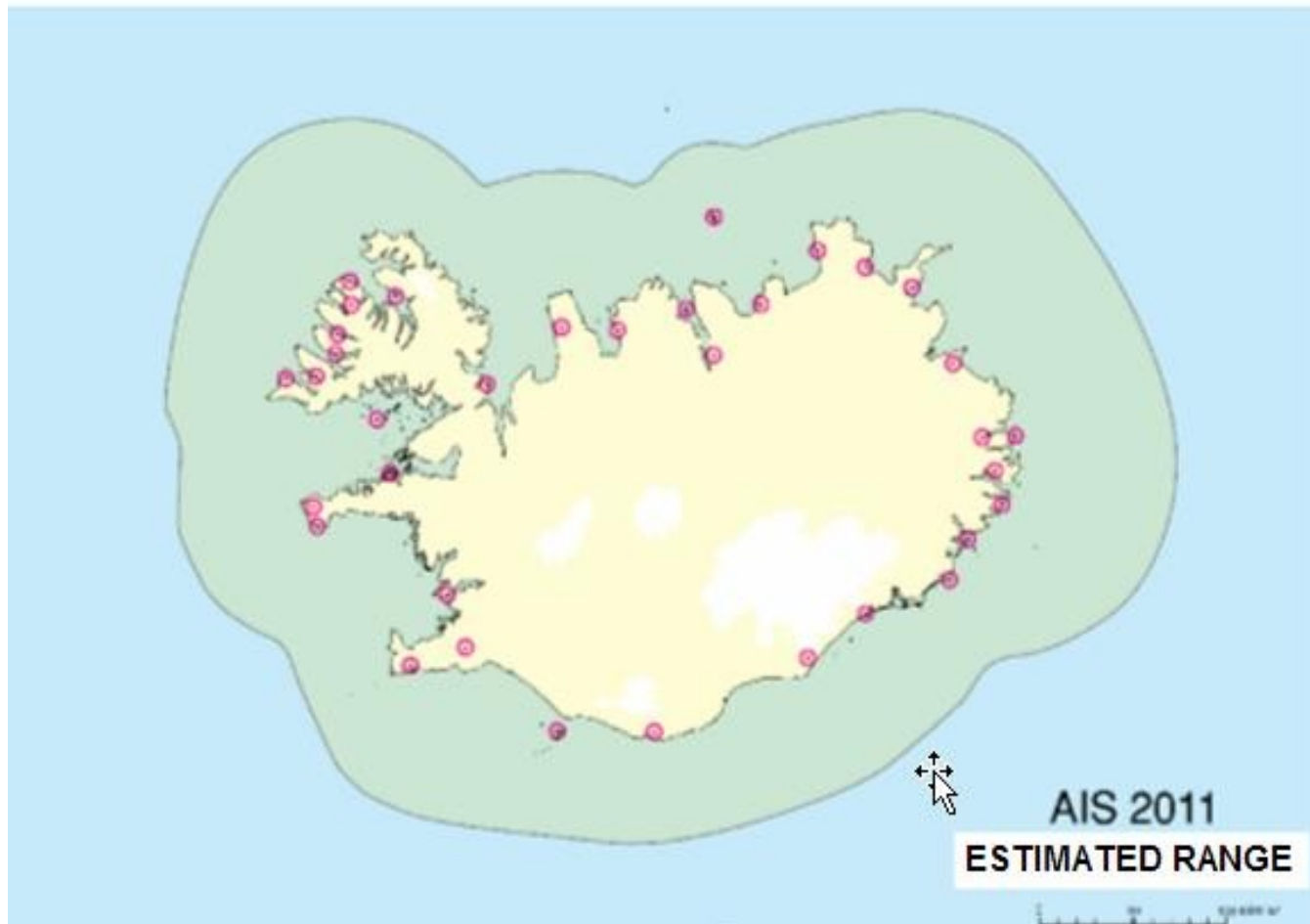
- Vessels are safer than before
- Fishing quota system
- Stability-campaigns, control of stability, better catch stowage – all vessels subject to annual heeling test
- Automatic identification system (AIS) mandatory for all vessels $\geq 6\text{m}$ in commercial use
- Continuous monitoring of all vessel traffic by the Vessel Traffic Service in Reykjavík through AIS



All vessels except pleasure boats are monitored by the Vessel Traffic Service in Reykjavík

TECHNICAL AND SAFETY CONDITIONS

**Vessel Traffic Monitoring –
Range of AIS shore-based stations - A total of 35 stations**



- Mandatory registration of all seamen on all Icelandic vessels in commercial use
- Seafarers' Registration System keeps track of:
 - Validity of CoCs, Insurances, Manning and
 - Vessel Seaworthiness and is connected to AIS to help monitoring compliance
- Certificates issued on the basis of STCW-F
- Training of Certified crew rather strict
- Mandatory annual surveys of all ships – seaworthiness certificate issued – valid for one year



- Mandatory annual surveys of all ships – Certificate of Seaworthiness issued – valid for one year
- Reliable weather forecasts in information system for [weather and sea-state](#) and [wave forecasts](#)
- Inflatable life rafts mandatory on board all vessels
- Remote-controlled and automatic release mechanism for inflatable life rafts mandatory
- Immersion suits for all crew members mandatory
- Inflatable life rafts are mandatory on board all vessels



The perspective

Number of fishers estimated
38.000.000 (38 million)



Number of seafarers estimated
1.647.500 (1,65 million)



24 in every 25 persons employed in a maritime profession are fishers



Global legislation

| | Seafarers | Ratifications* | Fishers | Ratifications* |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------|--|----------------|
| Hardware | SOLAS | 167 | Torremolinos Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels | 17 |
| | 51 amendments in force | | Cape Town Agreement | 9 |
| Crew certificates | STCW | 165 | STCW-F | 23 |
| Labour conditions | MLC | 86 | Work in Fishing Convention | 10 |
| Guidelines Medical Examination | yes | | no | |
| Guidelines on occupational safety and health | yes | | no | |

Green text = in force

Red text = not in force

* Number of ratification published on IMO and ILO websites on 17 March 2018



- Iceland's record of accomplishment in the fight against serious casualties at sea, clearly proves that the battle against fatal accidents in fishing worldwide can be won
- Iceland urges States to implement internationally agreed rules on FV safety, with the ultimate goal of eliminating the alarming death toll in fisheries and shipping
- The unacceptable loss of life suffered in the fisheries sector could be substantially reduced by global and effective implementation of the relevant instruments



Miscellaneous information

[Responsible fisheries](#)

[Well Managed Fisheries in Icelandic Waters](#)

[Survey manuals](#)

[Stability of Fishing Vessels](#) (Iceland 2003)

[Safety practices related to small fishing vessel stability](#) (FAO 2009)

Icelandic Survey Reports (forms)

[Explanatory Notes for survey report](#)

[Hull survey of vessels of less than 15 m in length overall](#)

[Hull survey of vessels of 15 m in length and over](#)

[Engine survey of vessels of less than 15 m in length overall](#)

[Engine survey of vessels of 15 m and over](#)

[Equipment survey of vessels of less than 15 m in registered length](#)

[Equipment survey of vessels of 15 m and over](#)

