



## Marine Notice No. 35 of 2023

*Notice to all Shipowners, Fishing Vessel Owners, Agents, Shipmasters, Skippers, Fishers,  
Yachtsmen and Seafarers*

### Reminder – Dangers and requirements associated with the modification of vessels

**NOTE: This Marine Notice supersedes Marine Notice 15 of 2003.**

The Department of Transport wishes to bring to the attention of all fishing vessel owners, agents, small fishing vessel code of practice surveyors, skippers, and fishers a recent report published by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board ([Report No. MCIB/319](#)) into the marine casualty involving the fishing vessel “**FV Anna Louise**” Near Glengarriff Harbour, Bantry Bay, Co. Cork on **2 July 2022**.

The Department of Transport wishes to remind owners of vessels of the dangers associated with modifying vessels without proper evaluation of the consequences. Owners of vessels who intend to modify their vessels are advised that they could inadvertently make a vessel unseaworthy by modifying it without evaluating the consequences. Modifications such as changing the layout of an exhaust system, raising a deck, or adding additional structures could render a vessel unstable or make the vessel vulnerable to flooding through openings. In addition, the structural strength of the vessel may need to be evaluated to ensure that the structure remains suitable for its intended purpose. Owners are advised that they should seek appropriate competent advice covering areas dealing with stability, construction standards and engineering systems.

The Marine Casualty Investigation Board (MCIB) report ([Report No. MCIB/319](#)) highlighted the dangers associated with modifying vessels, including changes to a vessel’s engine, without proper evaluation of the consequences.

For vessels subject to a statutory regime, the owner is required to inform the relevant surveying authority.

### Small Fishing Vessels

Owners of fishing vessels of less than 15m length overall should comply with Section 1.5.5.2 of the [Code of Practice for Small Fishing Vessels of less than 15 metres Length overall](#), which requires proposed modifications to be agreed in advance, with one of the approved Code of Practice surveyors.

## Recreational craft

Owners of recreational craft should refer to the owner's manual provided in compliance with [Directive 2013/53/EU](#) on recreational craft and personal watercraft (RCD). Modifications to craft and/or engines may affect the EU Declaration of Conformity issued and a post construction assessment may be required before being subsequently placed on the market for resale. For more information, please refer to [Marine Notice No. 49 of 2019](#).

**Note:** Marine Notices are issued purely for maritime safety and navigation reasons and should not be construed as conferring rights or granting permissions.

Irish Maritime Administration,  
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16/05/2023

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:  
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For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, email:  
[MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie](mailto:MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie).  
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