



## Marine Notice No. 71 of 2023

*Notice to all Fishing Vessel Owners, Operators, Skippers, Crew and Fishers*

### **Reminder – Dangers Associated with Fishing Alone**

The Department of Transport wishes to draw attention to a recent report, published by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board (MCIB), concerning an investigation into an incident involving the fishing vessel “**An Portán Óir**” in Dingle Bay, Co. Kerry on 14 October 2022. The full report may be obtained from the MCIB’s website ([www.mcib.ie](http://www.mcib.ie)) or at the following link: [MCIB/322](#).

The report details an incident in which a fisher operating alone was shooting lobster pots, when his leg became entangled in the pot ropes and remained trapped until he was rescued around four hours later.

#### **Personal Flotation Device/Personal Location Beacon**

In response to the report’s recommendations, the purpose of this Marine Notice is to remind owners and operators of fishing vessels of the dangers associated with fishing alone and of the importance of always wearing an approved personal flotation device/lifejacket and a personal location beacon while on deck. Personal locator beacons should be registered [here](#).

#### **Mitigating Danger of Entanglement**

In addition, lone fishers are recommended to have a suitably protected knife on their person while on deck during fishing operations, especially during potting operations. Knives may also be secured at strategic locations on deck to be available quickly in case of entanglement.

#### **Risk Assessment**

Lone fishers are recommended to carry out a personal risk assessment before each voyage, to remind themselves of the potential risks and to take mitigation measures as required.

## **Circulation of Marine Notices**

Furthermore, the report recommends that the circulation of Marine Notices is to be encouraged and that owners of fishing vessels should subscribe to the Marine Notice mailing list. Lone fishers should be fully aware of the contents of all previous Marine Notices relevant to this type of operation.

In this regard, a similar incident is highlighted in [Marine Notice No. 07 of 2022](#), which also contains references to several other previous Marine Notices concerning hazards associated with working onboard fishing vessels.

To subscribe to the Marine Notice mailing list, you can send a request by email to: [marinenotices@transport.gov.ie](mailto:marinenotices@transport.gov.ie). All currently valid Marine Notices may be viewed on the website of the Department of Transport ([www.gov.ie/transport](http://www.gov.ie/transport)).

## **Other relevant Marine Notices**

The following is a list of some relevant Marine Notices issued in 2022 and 2023:

- [Marine Notice No. 14 of 2022](#) - *New Revision of the Code of Practice for Small Fishing Vessels.*
- [Marine Notice No. 31 of 2022](#) - *Importance of Voyage Planning for Fishing Vessels in Adverse Weather and Sea Conditions.*
- [Marine Notice No. 51 of 2022](#) - *Checking hydrostatic release and remote activation function of Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB's).*
- [Marine Notice No. 61 of 2022](#) - *Mandatory Requirement for all Fishing Vessel Crew Members - basic safety training.*
- [Marine Notice No. 18 of 2023](#) - *Electrical Systems in Small Pleasure, Fishing and other Craft.*
- [Marine Notice No. 26 of 2023](#) - *Carriage of Nautical Charts and Publications.*
- [Marine Notice No. 31 of 2023](#) – *Reminder: Advice re Use of Appropriate Marker Buoys/Ropes when Engaged in Pot Fishing for Lobster, Crab or other Fish or Shellfish.*

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

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