

SAFE WORK

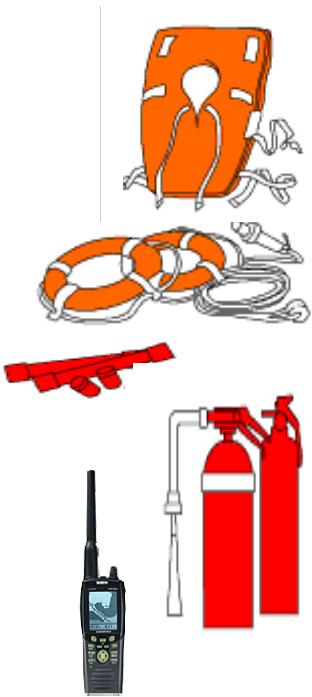


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Open Water Commercial Fishing In Manitoba

A number of fishers have died in the past few years due to workplace incidents. These deaths may well have been prevented if the appropriate personal protective equipment was worn, as required by the *Canada Shipping Act* and *Small Fishing Vessels Regulation*, and the *Workplace Safety and Health Act*.

Every person on a fishing vessel (whether self-employed, an employer, or an employee) is responsible for working in a manner to protect their personal safety and health and that of any other person(s) on the vessel. The *minimum equipment and procedures required* by fishers (operating in vessels not exceeding 12.2 metres in length) in Manitoba is as follows:



- A **life jacket**, approved by Transport Canada, for every person on the vessel, kept and maintained so as to be available for immediate use.
 - An approved **flotation device** (lifebuoy 30 in. diameter) with 27 metres of floating line attached.
- A watertight container, containing at least six self-igniting **signal flares**.
- A **fire fighting system** that is capable of extinguishing gasoline fuel fires. This extinguishing system must be placed and maintained in close proximity to the fisher in the event of need.
- A working alone plan implemented by the employer, including a **means of communication** from ship to shore, to summon help if required.

Employees must be provided with, wear/use, and be instructed in the proper use of all required personal protective equipment, as outlined above.