

7/11/2023

From: Captain Mark Neeland, NCFSAC DFO

SUBJ: USCG RESPONSE TO NCFSAC RECOMMENDATIONS TO TASK'S #01-23, 02-23, & 03-23.

Task #01-23

- **The committee recommends the adoption of a regulation to include language that requires each vessel MUST have a written policy for the prevention of falls overboard and for wearing of PFDs. The policy must identify known hazards that may result in a fall overboard; list best practices to prevent falls overboard; and the methods for recovery of man overboard.**

Coast Guard Response:

The Coast Guard agrees on the importance of incorporating safety policies that address falls overboard prevention, recovery methods, and activity appropriate wearing of personal floatation devices.

We will evaluate implementing this recommendation in a future regulatory project and will include these measures in updates to the Voluntary Safety Initiatives and Good Marine Practices for Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels (CFIVs) guide.

Task #02-23

- **The committee recommends that the Commandant amend 46 CFR §28.50 "Definitions of terms used in this part." to include Skiff which means a fishing vessel up to 32 feet in length of open construction, arranged with little or no accommodation or interior spaces. This definition excludes Auxiliary craft.**

Coast Guard Response:

The Coast Guard is currently evaluating amending 46 CFR 28.50 (definitions) to include the definition of "skiff" (*description capturing fishing vessels up to 32 feet in length, of open construction, arranged with little or no accommodation or interior spaces, and excluding auxiliary craft*).

- **The committee recommends that the Commandant amend 46 CFR §28.110 "Life preservers or other personal flotation devices" be modified to include paragraph (c)**

which reads "Individuals on board fishing vessels defined as skiffs when operating in cold water, shall wear a garment or device designed to provide flotation."

Coast Guard Response:

Wearing an activity appropriate personal floatation device will significantly benefit crew in certain high-risk situations, especially in cold water environments.

We will evaluate implementing this recommendation in a future regulatory project and will address these measures in the future update to the Voluntary Safety Initiatives and Good Marine Practices for Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels (CFIVs) guide.

Task #03-23

- **The committee recommends the adoption of a regulation requiring the owner/operator of a commercial fishing vessel subject to 46 CFR 28.105 "Lifesaving equipment – general requirements", to establish and maintain a suitable means on board the vessel for the safe recovery of persons from the water and their subsequent embarkation onto the vessel.**

Coast Guard Response:

The Coast Guard agrees with the intent of this recommendation. Establishing suitable means on board a vessel for the safe recovery of persons from the water and their subsequent embarkation onto the vessel is vital for crew safety in high-risk situations.

We will evaluate implementing this recommendation in a future regulatory project.

The Voluntary Safety Initiatives and Good Marine Practices for Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels addresses man overboard recovery. The Coast Guard highly encourages fishing industry stakeholders to incorporate this guide in their operation safety Plans.

- **Prioritize the issuance of the voluntary Safety Initiatives and Good Marine Practices for Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels (January 2017).**

- The committee recommends that the Coast Guard updates the Voluntary Initiatives and Good Marine Practices for Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels document.

Coast Guard Response:

The Coast Guard agrees with this recommendation. We recognize certain fishing industry stakeholders may not be aware of the Voluntary Safety Initiatives and Good Marine

Practices for CFIV's (guide), which was co-produced by the Coast Guard and the Commercial Fishing Safety Advisory Committee (CFSAC) in 2017.

We will pursue a focused campaign that promotes the Voluntary Safety Initiatives and Good Marine Practices for CFIV's to fishing industry stakeholders; this guide will also be emphasized during Coast Guard FV dockside examinations.

We have commenced our review of the Voluntary Safety Initiatives and Good Marine Practices for CFIV's and will incorporate relevant updates as necessary.

[end]