



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard
Inspections and Compliance Directorate
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Development of an Enhanced Oversight Program and Voluntary Safety Guidelines for Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels

The Coast Guard is suspending development of an Alternate Safety Compliance Program (ASCP) and will instead develop an Enhanced Oversight Program (EOP) for commercial fishing vessels (CFVs) by January 1, 2017. The EOP will use existing Coast Guard authorities to provide greater safety for older CFVs (see below). In addition, the Coast Guard will publish additional Voluntary Safety Guidelines by January 1, 2017, which offer suggested measures to increase CFV safety on older vessels. The Coast Guard will provide sufficient notice prior to resuming any future development of an ASCP.

Enhanced Oversight Program.

As defined in the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 and the Coast Guard and Marine Transportation Act of 2012, an ASCP would pose requirements on older non-classed fishing vessels beyond those just recently published in a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) on June 21, 2016. Moreover, an ASCP would itself be subject to a rulemaking effort. Therefore, the Coast Guard is developing an EOP by January 1, 2017. The EOP will draw upon existing Captain of the Port authorities, can be prescribed by policy, and will build upon the existing CFV safety examination regime in Subchapter C of 46 CFR Chapter I. The EOP will focus on vessels that may pose a greater risk of vessel and crew member loss. This includes vessels of 50 feet or more in length and 25 years of more in age that operate three nautical miles or more from the territorial sea baseline of Great Lakes coastline, operate with more than 16 persons on board, or, in the case of a fish tender, engage in the Aleutian trade. The Coast Guard will engage the Commercial Fishing Safety Advisory Committee (CFSAC) in developing the EOP and will solicit industry feedback and concerns. Further information on the EOP can be found at www.fishsafe.info or www.fishsafewest.info.

Voluntary Safety Guidelines For Older CFVs.

The Coast Guard will develop Voluntary Safety Guidelines for older CFVs by January 1, 2017. These voluntary guidelines and recommended best practices will be based on analysis of casualty data from the past 10 years by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. Further information can be found at www.fishsafe.info or www.fishsafewest.info.

Who should I contact if I have questions or concerns?

Coast Guard CFVS personnel will be available to meet with any fishing industry group, association, or representative to discuss and receive feedback on the safety guidelines and enhanced oversight program to be issued by January 2017. Please contact the Coast Guard Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance, Fishing Vessels Division (CG-CVC-3) at **202-372-1249** or by email at CGCVC@uscg.mil. You may also contact your local Coast Guard District Fishing Vessel Safety Coordinator or the local Coast Guard Sector Fishing Vessel Safety Examiner. The points of contact for these individuals can be found on the web site, www.fishsafe.info, at the "Locate Examiners" tab.