

Safety Bulletin 03 of 2018

Notice to Local Fishermen of dangers of entanglement when shooting pots

Ref: Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) investigation and Safety Flier

The attention of the local fishing community is drawn to the dangers of entanglement when shooting pots and the need to remain in a safe area during the shooting process. This follows a fatal incident in the UK. Following the incident, the MAIB have issued a Safety Flyer along with an investigation report, the safety lessons are copied below and links to the original documents available underneath.

Safety lessons

1. The likelihood of survival after being dragged overboard by the fishing gear while shooting pots is very, very slim. Most victims are dragged overboard so quickly that there is no time to cut the back rope, and the weights of the pots exceed the buoyancy provided by PFDs, so they are quickly dragged underwater. The time taken to halt the shooting operation and recover the already deployed pots means that unless the individual is able to release themselves from the gear they will likely drown.
2. Self-shooting arrangements, which in this case included the fitting of a shooting door and pound boards, reduce the risk of entanglement with the running line. Nonetheless, it is essential that crew remain separated from the back rope and pots as they are deploying. This requires a safe shooting routine to be established, and for the crew involved to rigorously adopt the routine and not place themselves in harm's way.
3. Although not significant in this case, the skipper's "Mayday" was made on VHF channel 16 rather than digital selective calling (DSC), which is now the primary means of distress and urgency alerting. However, if the skipper had used the DSC function to raise the alarm, it would not have transmitted the vessel's position because the VHF (DSC) radio was not connected to the GPS receiver. When the VHF (DSC) radio is not connected to a GPS receiver the vessel's position should be entered into the set every 4 hours. However, the best solution is to ensure the radio is properly connected to the GPS

Safety Flyer To The Fishing Industry Fishing Vessel, *Enterprise* (Sh323), Fatal Man Overboard, 6 November 2017

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/698160/Enterprise_FishingFlyer.pdf

The full investigation report can be accessed on line from the MAIB website Report No 5/2018 entitled "**Fatal man overboard from the potter *Enterprise* (SH323) 6 miles off Scarborough 6 November 2017**"

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5acb3beb40f0b64ff0e69307/MAIBInvReport05_2018.pdf
