Vessel name

3-09

Trip ID

Hull number

Date landed (MM/DD/YYYY) / /

Northeast Fisheries Observer Program

PRE TRIP VESSEL SAFETY CHECKLIST (PTVSC)

For each item place a ✓ in the appropriate box. ***Y*** *= yes,* ***N*** *= no,* ***NR*** *= not required. If the item is required for this particular trip but not on board, or service date is expired, fill in the "No" box.* ***Please provide comments.***

An incomplete PTVSC may affect your bonus.

Y	N	NR	
☐	☐	☐	**Vessel walk through**: note general condition of vessel. ***See back of sheet for examples**
☐	☐	☐	**Current USCS Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal** ***Required for all vessels** Safety Decal Number ____ Exp ____ (MM/YY)
☐	☐	☐	**Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)** ***Required for all vessels operating beyond 3 miles** Hydrostatic release service expiration ____ (MM/YY) Battery expiration ____ (MM/YY)
☐	☐	☐	**Life raft(s)** Hydrostatic release service expiration ____ (MM/YY) Raft service expiration ____ (MM/YY) ***Required to be sufficient for everyone on board, including observer.** ***Not required for vessels within 12 mi. of coast, ≤3 people and length <36'.**
☐	☐	☐	**Immersion suits and personal flotation devices** ***PFDs are required to be worn by the observer while out on deck** Are there enough for everyone on board? Keep yours easily accessible.
☐	☐	☐	**Radio(s)**
☐	☐	☐	**Fire extinguishers** **Vessels <26' with outboard motor(s) and portable fuel tanks = not required**
☐	☐	☐	**Emergency signaling flares** *Check expiration dates **<3mi. = night light and smoke or 3 day/night flares; >3mi. = 3 parachute, 6 hand held, 3 smoke**
☐	☐	☐	**First aid material**
☐	☐	☐	**Life rings** **Vessels <26' = cushion, >26' = 1 life ring buoy, >65' = 3 life ring buoys.**
☐	☐		Are safety drills conducted on this vessel? **(May include fire, flooding, life raft deployment, abandon ship, etc.) Please ask captain.**
☐	☐		Will one be conducted while you are onboard? **Comments? (on back)**
☐	☐		Will an underway wheel watch be maintained during this trip? **Comments? (on back)**
☐	☐		Were there any stability concerns/issues, either because of behavior or vessel design, during this trip? ***See back of sheet for examples. If yes, please comment on the back.**
☐	☐		Did you provide any additional comments? **If yes, please comment on the back.**

Please provide comments and your signature on the back of this sheet.

*The following is a list of examples that you should/could check while doing a vessel walk through. They are listed here to assist you in determining the relative safety of a particular vessel. The list is not comprehensive, but one that is intended to start you thinking.

- Does the vessel seem well maintained? Is it neat, clean and being maintained by a careful and prepared crew?
- Any visible hydraulic leaks?
- Is the vessel being used for the purpose it was originally designed? Have significant changes been made?
- Do obvious hazards exist? Note potentially hazardous areas/conditions. ALWAYS USE CAUTION AROUND WINCHES.
- Identify water tight doors. Can they be secured in case of severe weather or emergencies?
- Are the hatches or passageways blocked or difficult to get to?
- Does the deck gear appear to be in good working condition? Identify unsafe areas. Note overhead wires or rusted/worn shackles or blocks.
- Is the vessel long overdue for a haul out (excessive growth at waterline or hull paint in poor condition)?
- How often is the bilge pump going on?
- How is the fish hold covered? Is hatch readily available and in good condition? Are there other openings in the deck and are good hatches in place or readily available?
- Would anything prevent you from abandoning ship from the living quarters?
- What are the escape routes from every part of the vessel you might find yourself?
- Visualize egress for all possible scenarios (fire, flooding, capsized, dark, etc.) and mentally note landmarks.
- What are the most combustible items on board and where are they stored?
- Are there any exposed exhaust pipes/manifolds that might pose burn hazards?
- Is there heavy equipment on deck that is not latched down?
- Are there any exposed drive chains, pulleys or belts?
- Would you be able to access the life raft if conditions were icy or the wheelhouse was on fire?
- Wood hulls: Rust stains between planks?(may indicate weak fasteners). Protruding planks or inconsistencies in the hull? (may indicate broken frame/fasteners). Wood rot present? (if yes, likely to be worse in unseen areas).
- Are there safety issues involved with boarding?
- Is the number and size of the scuppers sufficient to be effective? Do they become plugged during fishing practices?
- Is there a station bill posted and is your role clear during all shipboard emergencies?
- Are there emergency instructions, or did the captain (or designee) give safety orientation, explaining the following: survival craft embarkation stations; survival craft assignments; fire/emergency/ abandon ship signals; procedures for rough weather; procedures for recovering man overboard; procedures for fighting fire; essential actions required of each person in an emergency?

***Required to conduct at least 1 of the following: 1) orientation, 2) safety instructions or 3) safety drills.**

*The following are examples of things to consider related to the vessel design or fishing practices in determining general concerns with vessel stability.

- Note the roll period of the vessel. Generally a boat with a quick, snappy roll is more stable than a boat that has a slow or sluggish roll period. A boat that seems to hesitate on its side, before righting, could be unstable.
- Does the vessel list excessively?
- Do the fishing practices involve a pattern of towing heavy bags or dumping the catch to one side of the vessel?

Comments	**Stability**

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CHECKED *YOUR* PERSONAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT?

Observer signature

Date