

2015 Safety Feature

The tide is turning in the battle to make fishing a safer industry. In 2014 The Skipper has spearheaded a campaign to encourage the use of PFD's by fishermen and with agencies like BIM, Seafish, The RNLI and The SFF have highlighted safety at the three Skipper Expo's. A fisherman's life is a tough one and carried out in a hostile environment and it is encouraging to see the reduction in fatalities over the last year. 2015 must continue to be a time of education about safety and fishermen must step up and realise that they are responsible for their own wellbeing and ensure this year the numbers of fatalities and injuries at sea continue to fall.

BIM Enhanced Safety Training ('EST') Scheme

BIM's Enhanced Safety Training Scheme is a 1-day course designed to provide the skippers and crews of registered fishing vessels with up-to-date training in personal survival techniques, first aid, fire prevention and health and safety in the workplace.

Those successfully completing the course or new entrants successfully completing BIM's 3-day Basic Safety Training can avail of a special incentive under BIM's Safety Equipment Scheme. This

provides grant aid of up to 60% towards the cost of purchasing Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) fitted with an integrated Personal Locator Beacon (PLB). This Enhanced Safety Training Scheme complements BIM's Basic Safety Training programme and Fleet Safety Grant Aid Scheme and is intended to improve survival prospects following man overboard accidents at sea. It will also help the search and rescue functions of the emergency services. Owners of registered fishing vessels can avail

of grant aid towards the purchase of personal flotation devices fitted with an integrated personal locator beacon for the skippers and crew of all Irish fishing vessels. Eligible vessels must be registered on the Irish sea-fishing fleet register at the time of undertaking enhanced safety training and on receipt of grant aid. Grant aid is provided under the "De Minimis" aid in the fisheries sector and amending Regulation (EC) No. 1860/2004. The registered owner of a fishing vessel or aquaculture work-boat must apply on the official application form on behalf of the skippers and crew. Only one Personal Flotation Device (PFD) fitted with an integrated Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) may be grant aided for each skipper and crew member that successfully completes enhanced safety training or basic safety training in the case of new entrants.

The grant aid rates for vessels:

- less than 15 metres in length (LOA) is up to 60%, and
- 15 metres and greater in length (overall) is up to 40%.

Questions about Enhanced Safety Training

- Who should apply for Enhanced Safety training?

The owner of an Irish registered fishing vessel on behalf of the skipper and crew.

- You are new to the fishing industry, can you apply directly? As long as you have completed the mandatory (3-day) basic safety training, you can apply directly. If you haven't, you must do so before working on board an Irish registered fishing vessel. (Please contact BIM directly.)

- Who should apply for a

Personal Flotation Device/Personal Locator Beacon?

The owner of an Irish registered fishing vessel on behalf of a skipper and their crew.

- Who does the scheme apply to? All persons working aboard Irish registered fishing vessels.

- Do I have to prove eligibility? Yes. You prove your eligibility by: (a) attending a 1-day Enhanced Safety Training course, or (b) supplying your basic safety training reference number, or a copy of your BST card if you have completed your mandatory (3-day) basic safety training.

If you have not completed mandatory (3-day) basic safety training, then you must complete it to qualify under this scheme

- Can an individual fisherman apply? No, the scheme involves grant aid and only registered owners can apply. Registered owners apply on behalf of their skipper and crew. When you go aboard a fishing vessel you should get a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) fitted with a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB). If you don't, ask the owner to apply for these on your behalf.

- What are the grant rates? For vessels less than 15 metres in length (overall/LOA) grant aid is available at up to 60%. For vessels 15 metres in length (overall/LOA) or more grant aid is available at up to 40%.

- When do I pay? You must pay in full (€155.00 for less than 15 metres and €190.00 for over 15 metres) when you apply



Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Irish Sea Fisheries Board

Safety at Sea

BIM Enhanced Safety Training and Equipment Scheme

- Grant aid for a Personal Flotation Device ('PFD') with an integrated Personal Location Beacon ('PLB')
- One day training to complement existing three day mandatory BIM Basic Safety Training course
- New application for grant assistance under the revised **Fleet Safety Scheme** available to download from www.bim.ie
- Revised scheme includes float free Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons ('EPIRBs'); autopilot alarms; kill cord and other safety items other safety items
- Check out the BIM Stand, Stand No. 37 at the Skipper Expo Int. Galway, Galway Bay Hotel, 6th and 7th March 2015



Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

EUROPEAN FISHERIES FUND INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

An Roinn Iompair, Turasoireachta agus Spóirt
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport



BIM Issue 500th Personal Flotation Device under Enhanced Safety Scheme.

to BIM for the Enhanced Safety Training Scheme.

• How many Personal Flotation Device/Personal Locator Beacons can I apply for?

You may apply for one Personal Flotation Device/Personal Locator Beacon for each person you have listed on Part A of the application form. BIM reserves the right to verify all details you provide.

• If I have not listed a crew member on Part A of the application because I am short a crew member, can I apply for a Personal Flotation Device/Personal Locator Beacons?

No. Once you have found a replacement crew member, you can reapply with the necessary details.

• If I have crew rotation on my vessel, can I apply for a Personal Flotation Device/Personal Locator Beacons for both crews?

Yes, so long as you have listed each person on Part A of the application form and make the necessary payment.

• Where can I obtain a Personal Flotation Device/Personal Locator Beacon?

BIM will provide you with a list of participating outlets where you can obtain your Personal Flotation Device/Personal Locator Beacon.

• Can I use a supplier not on the list of participating outlets? No.

• Do I have to register my Personal Locator Beacon? Yes. This will be done at the time of purchase. You must have an account with ComReg to register your PLB.

Terms and Conditions

The following terms and conditions apply to all applications:

- 1) The 1-day Enhanced Safety Training Scheme is managed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and is implemented by Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM).
- 2) The Scheme is open to the skippers and crew members of all vessels registered on the Fishing Boat Register.
- 3) Owners of fishing vessels, registered on the Fishing Boat

Register, can avail of a grant when doing the training. This grant goes towards purchasing personal flotation devices fitted with an integrated personal locator beacon.

4) Funding for this scheme depends on funding being available to BIM on a yearly basis.

5) BIM will only consider grant applications sent on the official application form.

6) BIM reserves the right to alter or amend the conditions of this scheme, to suspend the scheme and or to substitute the scheme for a different scheme.

7) Applicants must have undertaken BIM's mandatory 3-day basic safety training course before doing the 1-day Enhanced Safety Training Scheme course.

8) The start date of a project is the date shown in BIM's letter of acknowledgement of receipt of a completed application form.

9) Whereas, under the terms of this scheme, more than one application may be made for a vessel, under the special incentive scheme,

it will never cover the cost of providing more than one Personal Flotation Device (PFD) fitted with an integrated Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) for any skipper or crew member.

How to Apply

Complete the attached application form Part A and Part B of the Enhanced Safety Training (EST) Scheme and return with payment of €155 (under 15 metre vessel) or €190 (over 15 metre vessel) to:

Fisheries Development and Training Services Division
PO Box 12
Crofton Road
Dun Laoghaire
Co Dublin
Tel: +353 1 214 4100
Fax: +353 1 230 0564
Web: www.bim.ie
Email: info@bim.ie



Atlantic Marine liferaft hire fleet expands for inshore fishing vessels

Atlantic Marine have been at the forefront of marine safety in Ireland for the past 30 years and have just recently launched their new liferaft specifically designed for the inshore sector and meets the regulations for vessels which come under the Code of Practice regulations.

The liferaft is manufactured by RFD in Belfast, the world leader in marine safety. Many inshore vessels have already put the new and compact liferaft onboard, with this brand new fleet of liferafts being rolled out continuously.

Main advantages:

- **Cost effective**
- **Compact size**
- **3 year servicing**
- **Most competitive hire/purchase rates on the market**
- **Fully accepted under Code of Practice regulations for vessels under 12m and comes complete with Solas B pack**
- **Full inshore safety package available**

Atlantic Marine is Ireland's leading liferaft service station and its core business is the hire, supply, service and recertification of a diverse

range of lifesaving equipment. They are a government approved, liferaft service station for the impressive Survitec Group brand portfolio, which includes: RFD, Dunlop-Beaufort, DSB and Lifeguard, as well as Survitec Zodiac liferafts and rescue boats.

Best rates available on hire, sales & service of:

- **SOLAS liferafts available in 6-100 persons**
- **Rescue boats • Lifejackets**
- **Immersion suits**

On their premises in Killybegs, Atlantic Marine has a large 8000sq. ft. purpose built service station where they service liferafts from 4 persons to 100 persons catering for passenger ferries, tourism vessels, fishing vessels, offshore vessels and leisure vessels.

We also supply and service a large range of inflatable lifejackets and immersion suits which are required by the marine industry.

The company specialises in the supply of all lifesaving equipment, including Distress Rockets, Flares, Smoke Signals, Man Overboards,



Lifebuoys, Life throwing appliances, Lifejackets and Hydrostatic Release Units. For more information:

Tel: 074 9731440,
Fax: 074 9731699 or
email info@atlanticmarine.ie
www.atlanticmarine.ie

Barry Electronics hold exclusive agency for Kannad Marine

We have been selling Kannad safety products for the past 20 years and in the last 3 years we have introduced a number of innovative products such as the Safelink series of products from Kannad. Apart from the usual EPIRB's and SART's there is range of personal equipment miniature in size can be worn by crew members and people working alone. Among these new products is the new SafeLink R10 SRS (Survivor Recovery System) is the first of its kind, a personal AIS (Automatic Identification System) device designed to be fitted to a lifejacket and assist in Man Overboard recovery. The SafeLink R10 SRS is specifically designed as a personal search and rescue locating device, it enables those on board a vessel with an AIS chart plotter to quickly and efficiently locate and retrieve a missing crew member.

The SafeLink SOLO Category 2 406 MHz GPS Personal Location Beacon (PLB) takes your personal safety to a new level. Whether you enjoy boating, diving or any outdoor pursuit which takes you to remote locations around the world, the SafeLink SOLO PLB

gives you direct contact with search and rescue services when a life threatening incident occurs anywhere in the world.

The ultra-small SafeLink SOLO is tough and durable, lightweight and compact, designed to be carried with you at all times. The size of the SafeLink SOLO and it's non-slip rubber armour; designed to protect it in the harshest environments, means the compact life saver can be tucked into a pocket, pouch or personal kit bag and forgotten about until needed. SafeLink SOLO is waterproof to 10 metres and activation is simple. It is supplied complete with a lanyard, a buoyancy pouch and a universal carry pouch; which can be attached to a belt or strap, keeping the SOLO close to hand, in case a life threatening situation necessitates alerting search and rescue organisations.

The SafeLink SOLO PLB is fantastic value for money; it should be a standard piece of equipment for safety conscious individuals who want peace of mind whilst performing to their full potential. As more and more

people turn away from pyrotechnic flares for distress alerting, due to safety and disposal concerns, the SafeLink SOLO has emerged as a top class alternative for water sports and extreme sports enthusiasts.

Barry Electronics Ltd have been leading the Marine Electronics business in Ireland for the past 20 years. We are located in the premier fishing port of Killybegs, Co Donegal in the North West of Ireland. We are renowned both nation-wide and throughout Europe for our technical expertise and after sales service for a wide range of marine electronic equipment. Barry Electronics Ltd holds exclusive agencies for Furuno, SeaTel, Simrad and Kannad in Ireland, all of which are tried and tested for the harshest weather conditions in the world.

We are also an

approved service centre for Jotron and involved in the replacement EPIRB scheme for GME Pty. We are also offering an upgrade path from a GME manual to GME Full Auto EPIRB for the Inshore under 15m sector.

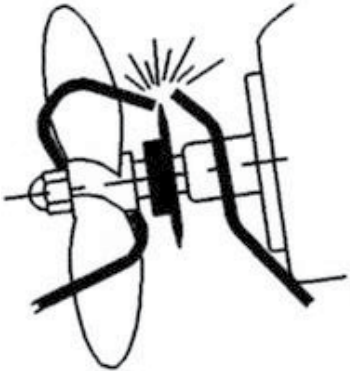
We carry a large stock of electronic Safety Equipment such as Jotron EPIRB's, Jotron AIS SART's, GMDSS Handheld Radios

Contact Chris Joyce 074 9731215 or email cjoyce@barryelectronics.ie.



Solo safe link.

Cleggan Marine



Established in 2004, Cleggan Marine operates from the fishing village of Cleggan, Connemara, Co. Galway.

We supply a wide range of safety equipment including EPIRBs, Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs), Sarts, Manoverboards (MOBs), Flares, Lifejackets, Hydrostatic Release Units (HRUs) etc. We also stock Fire Extinguishers, Gas Alarms, Bilge Alarms and

Manual Fire Pumps.

Cleggan Marine is the Irish distributor for the Prop Protector rope/weed cutter. This inexpensive but extremely effective piece of safety equipment is a must for fishing vessels operating in inshore waters.

Manufactured from high grade (316) Stainless Steel, the cutter comes in two versions; Clamp-On

and Slide-On. It is easy to install - fully installed in minutes - with your boat out of the water or between tides. The Clamp-On version can be fitted by a diver if underwater installation is preferred.

For more information call: Willie Gilger Tel: 095 44037
Mob: 087 7759405
E-mail: sales@clegganmarine.com
www.clegganmarine.com

CH Marine continues to expand and add “Best in Class” suppliers

The recent appointment of CH Marine as main distributor and service centre for Crewsaver continues CH Marine’s quest to offer the best brands in every sector of maritime safety. Crewsaver is now added to other famous lifejacket brand names such as Baltic, Mullion, Sowester, ISP and Viking, where CH Marine is recognised as a leading service and distributor centre for these safety products.

Global Brands

Major brands on CH Marine’s books include beacon manufacturer, McMurdo Marine, where CH Marine supply and service their renowned range of EPIRBs, PLBs, Radio and AIS Equipment. The McMurdo Smartfind GPS G5 Float free is one of Ireland’s bestselling EPIRBs and universally satisfies most requirements of the Irish Fishing Industry.

Among other suppliers listed are Pains Wessex, one of the most recognised brands in Pyrotechnics, Nuova Rade Lifebuoys, ICOM VHF and AIS equipment, Guy Cotton Oilskins and leading Liferaft manufacturer, Viking Life Equipment A/S.

SAMS Cloud Software Program opens doors for CH Marine

CH Marine’s cloud based, safety asset management system, SAMS, is now in it’s second year of operation and, according to CH Marine’s Managing Director, Nicholas Bendon, is becoming increasingly popular and being adopted as industry standard by a wide range of clients varying from individual fishermen to NGOs and Government Departments. The SAMS system is the only dedicated asset management system available in Ireland that can

manage all types of marine safety equipment aboard including Life Jackets, Life Rafts, Immersion Suits, EPIRBs and PLBs. Recent upgrades to the system allows for combined equipment, such as the new BIM/Mullion Compact PLB Lifejacket. SAMS will manage and record the different service requirement of both the Lifejacket and PLB and continues to monitor even if the units are broken up. SAMS essentially controls the management of safety equipment requiring periodic servicing or items which have expiry dates. Notifications of impending items due for service or replacement are sent 2 weeks in advance and follow up warnings are issued should any equipment expire. The system stores a case history of the equipment’s working life, as well as a record of all certificates associated with the particular item.

A demo of SAMS is available online via the website www.safetyatsea.ie. Users may access the system with the username: demo and password: demo.

New Lifejacket/ PLB combined unit

CH Marine recently launched the Sowester Worksafe Pro 170N-PLB Ready. This is a variation of the established and robust Challenger Worksafe Pro jacket with the advantage of being able to fit a PLB. A unique feature of this jacket is that the PLB is easily accessible and can be operated independently of the lifejacket if required. The lifejacket is generally provided with the McMurdo Fastfind 220 GPS PLB but most modern small PLB’s can be fitted.

Hire Services

CH Marine’s expansion is not only



SAMS asset management system



limited to adding suppliers and products. The company is heavily involved in the Liferaft hire market and 2014 saw CH Marine add over 100 Liferaft units to it’s hire fleet. CH Marine hires all sizes from 4 person up to 65 person and offers fleet management to larger vessels and companies.

For more information on CH Marine products and services

contact CH Marine Safety Products Manager, John Kelleher or SAMS Manager, Martin Crowley on 021- 4315700.

COLD WATER KILLS

The Fishermen's Mission Promotes Safe Fishing!

During the past three years, national charity, the Fishermen's Mission has worked in partnership to promote Safe Fishing. They have done this by being part of the team that has held events around the UK distributing PFDs to fishermen as part of the Fishing Industry Safety Group (FISG) initiative.

Alison Godfrey from the Fishermen's Mission says 'We have been working with our fishermen and their families for more than 130 years. During this time we have always tried to find ways of helping fishermen to fish safely and to come home to their families'.

'Sadly, we know of many, many fishing families where one or more have been lost to the sea. Loss of life is never easy, but sudden death leaves no opportunity for goodbye. Without a body there can be no funeral. It can leave families wondering if there is a chance their loved ones are still out there somewhere and the

pain continues for many years.'

One widow, whose husband was lost to the sea and his body not recovered for nearly a year, said to us 'Even if the life jacket had not saved his life, it may have helped the rescue services find his body faster, which would have cut down on all the terrible heartache suffered by our family'.

We strongly urge all fishermen to wear a PFD when you are fishing. We will always be there to help you and your family whenever we are needed but please don't let it be us waiting for your wife or mother to come home to give them the news they dread. Fish well, come home safely, wear a PFD.

If you would like to know more about the work of the Fishermen's Mission, how to contact your local Port Officer or find out about their services visit their website www.fishermensmission.org.uk.



Hardware & Marine Supplies, Kilmore Quay Introduce Lifejacket Service Station for the South East

Hardware and Marine Supplies who are located close to the pier in Kilmore Quay, are the leading supplier of safety equipment to the south east for over 25 years. They have just announced that they are a fully certified Lifejacket Service Centre, making them the first to offer this service in the south east.

Previous to this, lifejackets had to be sent away by courier to be

certified, making the process of getting lifejackets serviced more expensive and time consuming for local customers. Now they can expect to pay less and have their jacket certified within 2 days.

Hardware & Marine Supplies work with their customers to help them with their safety needs and get their vessel and crew members ready for sea. Over the past couple of years

they have noticed a shift in attitude towards the wearing of lifejackets, with more fishermen taking ownership of their personal safety at sea. The availability to service lifejackets in the south east will support and encourage this trend.

Hardware and Marine Supplies have all equipment necessary to run a safe boat including Liferrafts, Epirbs, Lifejackets,

PFDs, MOBs, First Aid Supplies, Fire Safety, Protective Clothing, Lighting, Navigation Equipment, Electronics, Flares, Bilge Pumps and Life buoys.

For more information:

Tel: 053 9129791

Email: sales@kehoemarine.ie

Visit: www.kehoemarine.ie or Call to stand 53 at Skipper Expo Int. Galway.

GR Liferrafts Ltd

GR Liferrafts Ltd., Ireland's leading supplier of marine safety equipment are the sales and service agents for Viking lifesaving equipment in Ireland which is the top name in marine lifesaving equipment. Viking manufacture top of the line liferafts, lifejackets, suits etc. providing essential safety equipment for passenger and commercial vessels, offshore installations and vessels, the defence sector as well as leisure crafts. GR Liferrafts are also sales and service agents for Narwhal professional boats, top of the line inflatable rescue boats which are required on commercial vessels.

Approached by Viking Lifesaving Equipment almost 15 years ago to facilitate the sales and servicing of Viking products throughout Ireland our fully trained service technicians collectively have almost 50 years of experience servicing liferafts and have handled Viking products almost 15 years now which is an important consideration for customers requiring servicing of Viking equipment. Customers include various government departments, ferry operators, fishing companies as well as yachts and



leisure boats. Services are carried out to the highest standards with inspections from the Department of Transport and Viking on a regular basis. Products supplied and serviced include liferafts, lifejackets, rescue boats, survival suits, pyrotechnics and all accessories required for installation of safety equipment on board vessels. The company has a large,

modern, purpose built servicing facility to cater for the servicing of all liferaft types varying in size up to 100 persons. They have a large fleet of hire liferafts available ranging from 4 to 65 persons.

Call us on: 074 97 41760 or email: grliferrafts@eircom.net.

The Hi-Line Procedure

The Irish Coastguard operate four all-weather, 24-hour helicopter Search and Rescue bases in Ireland, located in Shannon, Sligo, Waterford and Dublin. Using custom-fitted Sikorsky S92a aircraft, they can deploy a paramedic-trained winchman directly onto vessels at sea and also onto the scene of land-based emergencies to carry out rescues.

Jim O'Neill, an aircrew trainer who works for CHC Helicopters, the provider of helicopter services on behalf of the Irish Coastguard, is based in Shannon. He has some advice for crew on vessels when winching takes place about how they can operate a Hi-Line safely.

What is a Hi-Line? During a Helicopter Rescue a weighted rope extension to the winch cable may be lowered to the vessel. This extension is known as a Hi-Line and is connected to the aircraft's winch hook via a weak link (this is in case the aircraft has to move quickly from the scene).

The winch operator will attach "soft weights" to the other end of the

Hi-Line before deployment. The Hi-Line is also fitted with a handle at the winch hook end which is held by the winchman, reducing strain on the weak link. The length of the rope varies from 125 to 250 feet depending on the nature of the task.

Before the aircraft arrives... It's important that all crew on deck during a rescue wear appropriate safety equipment, including lifejackets, secure protective headwear, hearing protection and, for the crew member who will be operating the Hi-Line, gloves.

Using a Hi-Line... You will be using the Hi-Line to help guide the winchman directly onto the winching area, it also reduces the likelihood of a swing developing during recovery back to the aircraft.

The winch operator will deploy the weighted end of the rope to you on deck. As the winch operator pays out the slack rope, you should feed the rope into a bucket or an empty fish box on deck.

Eventually, when the end of the



Hi-Line technique

rope is reached, the winchman will be deployed. As the winchman gets closer to the deck, keep taking in the slack and keep it taught, but don't use excessive force. As the winchman gets closer he will signal to you if he needs you to pull harder or reduce the strain.

The winchman has a static discharge lead which he will want to touch the deck first, so don't reach out and grab him!

Usually once he is on scene he may take over using the Hi-Line for the deployment of equipment.

If the Hi-Line is used to recover the winchman and casualty to the aircraft, you should maintain a moderate strain on the Hi-Line to help to reduce any swing on the winch cable. The helicopter crew will recover the Hi-Line back to the aircraft once the winching is complete.

If a vessel crew would like a briefing on how to use the Hi-Line, please contact the Irish Coastguard. If you do this before a helicopter arrives, you will improve safety and save valuable time on scene.

The Mullion Compact 150N Designed for and by Fishermen



Fishermen's Safety was the highest priority on all fronts leading into 2014. Fisheries Ministers in Ireland, Scotland, England & Northern Ireland ensured that funding was made available under the EU Fisheries Fund to promote and provide PFD's under various Safety Scheme Initiatives.

Throughout the year a successful roll out of the Mullion Compact 150N CE was managed in association with Marine Authorities including RNLI, BIM, SEAFISH,

NFFO, FISG, Fisherman's Mission, DARD, NIFPO, Ocean Safety and Marine Co.

The Mullion Compact 150N CE range of PFD's together with the special SafeLink Solo version c/w a Personal Locator Beacon as issued through BIM to the Irish Fishermen, continues to be made available through the BIM Safety Training as required under the latest Marine Code of Practice Legislation. The Training Scheme and PFD/PLB initiative will continue for a further

three years.

The introduction, use and monitoring of the PFD's issued to Fishermen in all these jurisdictions will be continued under the Direction of Mr. Frankie Horne, RNLI Fishing Industry Safety Manager and Tony Browne, Mullion Production manager.

Happily for many families there are stories of lives saved in difficult or extreme conditions because the survivor not only acquired a Mullion Compact but was prepared to work with it and wear it.

Working on deck is a treacherous occupation at anytime. The dangers of working at sea is known to be the most dangerous peace-time occupation in the world.

Mullion Survival Technology continues to collaborate with the Fishermen, Rescue Services and Industry Experts to find the most fit for purpose, workable solution for the appropriate PFD or PFD/PLB for their professional requirements and safety.

Mullion Survival Technology Personnel are working to the fore of Industry and Regulatory Affairs with Managing Director Mrs. Jane Goodwin participating and Leading many of the discussions as a key

functionary at the Maritime CEN/ISO International Committees. Sioen/Mullion invests Euro Millions Annually in the Research, Testing and Standard Applications of PPE across a wide spectrum of Safety Products.

All Sioen/Mullion Products comply to international CE, SOLAS & ISO Norms with a continuing focus on technological developments and new product innovation.

Mr. Gaetan Frys, General Manager Sioen Ireland said: "It is our commitment to find the best solutions to ensure Safety of workers at Sea. Mullion supplies not only Commercial Fishing but the Offshore Gas, Oil Platforms, Wind Energy Farms, Emergency, Rescue Services and sea going leisure enthusiasts. We will continue to develop new solutions to make working at or near dangerous water as safe as can be".

For Further Information Contact: Adrian Towey, Adrian.towey@sioen.be

BE AWARE OF YOUR VESSEL STABILITY

RNLI Fishing Safety

RNLI Fishing Safety are running a campaign to highlight the dangers associated with loss of vessel stability. RNLI figures show that 59% of commercial fishing fatalities were due to a loss of vessel stability leading to capsizing, leaking or swamping between 2010 and 2013 – with 30% of deaths occurring in the month of January when seas can be rough and water temperatures are at their lowest. The campaign is targeted at fishermen who work on vessels under 15m in length, as the majority of fishing-related fatal incidents (73%) occurred on fishing

boats in this category.

RNLI have produced 5 short films on stability of fishing vessels. The films cover five key areas that lead to boat instability: overloading, watertight integrity, free surface effect, modifications and hauling.

The films, which are all under 10 minutes in length, feature experts Peter Duncan, lecturer from the Scottish Maritime Academy, and RNLI Fishing Safety Manager and former commercial fisherman Frankie Horne. They can be viewed at NLI.org/stability.

RNLI Fishing Safety Team will be at the Skipper Expo Int Galway and will be available to talk with fishermen about fishing vessel safety; we will also have the very popular Stability Model and water tank for demonstrations.

RNLI Fishing Safety is still committed to helping PFD rollouts all over the UK & Ireland and are fully in support of the BIM project to provide fishermen with a PFD and PLB. If the worst should happen to a fishing vessel and the crew have to abandon to the vessel, it is vital

to their survival that we know their position and that they can stay afloat long enough for help to arrive.

Between 2009 and 2013, RNLI lifeboats launched 2,555 times to incidents involving commercial fishing boats, rescuing 3,762 people.

Odds of winning Lottery in UK around 1 in 13,000,000,000. Yet we buy a ticket hoping it will be us.

Odds of being the next fishermen to be lost in UK around 1 in 1000, yet we do nothing hoping it won't be us.

SafeTrx - A revolutionary free Smartphone app designed to save lives at sea

Want the Coast Guard to be able to track your vessel while out at sea and automatically respond to abnormalities in your Passage Plan? There's an app for that.

The Irish Sailing Association has deployed a FREE smartphone app that asks users to log their journey details, which includes an Expected Time of Arrival (ETA) at their destination, and keeps track of the boat and its crew's location during the voyage using satellite navigation technology and the mobile communications network.

The app, called SafeTrx, will inform the Irish Coast Guard if a vessel hasn't returned after its due date and time or if the vessel and crew encounter any situation in which assistance may be required. You can also log in an emergency contact number and this number is also contacted if you do not reach your destination.

Designed in close co-operation with the Irish Coast Guard (IRCG), the app was created by DeCare Systems Ireland – a leading software development company in Ireland.

Speaking at the launch in August 2013 Minister Coveney commented "The concept of safety at sea and on our network of rivers and lakes must become as commonplace as that of safety on our roads. We need to create a culture of safety first for those travelling on our waters for either commercial or recreational reasons. With loss of life continuing across the maritime spectrum, those who make their living from the sea and those who utilise the sea primarily for leisure purposes must ensure that safety becomes a top priority."

In no fewer than five out of the ten MCIB reports published so far in

2013, it has been recommended that "Details of an intended trip be left with a responsible person ashore along with the latest time of return and that the person ashore should contact the emergency services shortly after the expected time of return has passed". ISA SafeTrx will not only facilitate this recommendation, but will also help the Coast Guard to identify the location of the stricken vessel, assess details such as craft description, contact details ashore, previous activity, where the boat was last visible to the network and where headed, persons on board and other information all targeted at reducing the time that seafarers spend in the water waiting for a lifeboat or helicopter.

Chris Reynolds, Director of the Irish Coast Guard commented "SafeTrx helps take the search out of search and rescue. It encourages all sea users to plan and execute their trips better, safer and gives assurance to friends and partners ashore".

Available for both Android & Apple iOS devices (iPhone, iPad), ISA SafeTrx logs position reports every kilometre (or every 5 minutes if stationary). Should the user fail to return on time their emergency contacts will be automatically alerted via SMS and advised to initiate the appropriate action. Voyage position reports are displayed on the SafeTrx Monitoring Console so where an emergency contact calls the Irish Coast Guard concerning an overdue trip, the Irish Coast Guard will have access to the user's location and SafeTrx trip data through a secure SafeTrx server. As the ISA SafeTrx app periodically sends location data back to the servers, the Coast Guard's response team can get help directly and quickly. Whilst the app is not intended to be used



as a replacement for statutorily recognised safety devices (marine radios, marine emergency positioning beacons, AIS etc), it is a resource that in some instances may help to raise an alarm earlier and assist emergency services to locate casualties more accurately. The majority of small crafts do not carry the AIS tracking device and this app is there to help keep a track.

The era of smartphone technology is until now untapped resource for the SAR community to improve safety standards, especially among small boat crew, who may prefer more accessible and less sophisticated communication equipment.

The app – along with other smartphone innovations – is not meant to replace VHF radio or emergency beacons, but rather offer another safety tool for seafarers, and to provide coast guards

with a much enhanced probability of locating and safely recovering assets and people in distress. It is one more string in the coast guard's bow as efforts to remove the 'Search' from 'Search and Rescue' continue apace.

More information can be found on www.sailing.ie/cruising/ISASafeTrx and <http://www.safetrxapp.com>

ISA SafeTrx is free and simple to use. Just follow the 4 easy steps:

1. Download the app for free
2. Register your boat and emergency contact details
3. Enter your trip details and ETA.
4. Tap 'Set Sail'

For more information and to download the app for free go to www.sailing.ie/SafeTrx.

Sea Safe - QUIKSLING

After 12 months of development and safety testing, Lifejacket and Pilot Coat manufacturer SeaSafe Systems Ltd, based in Cowes on the Isle of Wight, has finally commenced full scale production of what may prove to be the most effective MOB rescue apparatus that has ever become available to vessel owners and skippers for quickly recovering persons from cold rough seas.

QUIKSLING is a product that looks so simple, it is impossible at first glance to comprehend its sophistication and the sheer life-saving capability it delivers.

The brainchild of a Pilot Boat coxswain following experience of a multi MOB recovery at sea, this easy-to-use device has generated huge interest from all corners of the globe as video evidence of successful sea trials have emerged.

Very fast capture of an immersed person is everything according to its inventor George West who has come up with an ingenious way of snapping a chest sling snugly under the armpits of a remote casualty by jerking a rescue line. As you see it happen for the first time, you get the feeling that this may be the holy grail of man overboard recovery systems for fishermen, if not for all seafarers. By designing QUIKSLING's floating

frame to be the sinking part of two hoisting slings, George has found the function to deliver a comfortable "deckchair" lift.

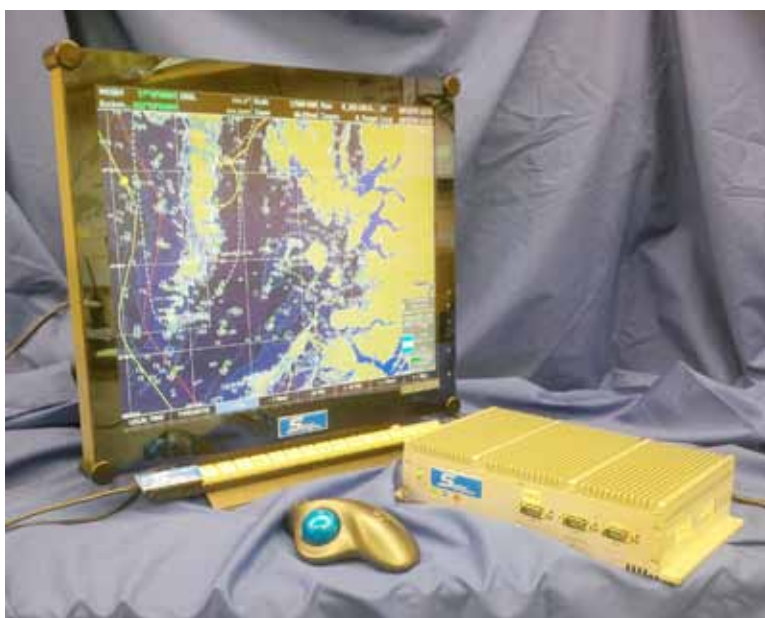
This is one of the safest postures for MOB recovery to avoid cardiac problems and is recommended in a new SOLAS regulation requiring "ship specific plans and procedures to be in place for the recovery of persons from the water" which non-SOLAS fishing vessels may have to equally observe, as guidance. If so, then it is likely that all fishing skippers will need to have a crew-familiar plan in place for MOB recovery and be able to demonstrate a recovery lift to the MCA or other appointed marine surveyors, for assessment of capability. SeaSafe's MD Jeremy Dale is very excited about the prospects for QUIKSLING.

He has expertly put QUIKSLING together in such a way that all components can be individually replaced, making it a fully serviceable product. When you see the clear instruction guide, you just know this would capture a MOB quickly. Visit www.seasafe.co.uk for more information and to see QUIKSLING in action.

Sales enquiries: T: 01983 282388
Email: sales@seasafe.co.uk



Mini Ecdis Sodena plotters gaining ground in the fishing guard boat/workboat/ market.



The Sodena Turbowin plotters widely used by many fishermen can now be upgraded to allow completely paperless navigation so paper charts no longer need to be used.

Mini Ecdis was developed in conjunction with Seafish and MCA to

satisfy the paperless charting needs of the fishing and workboat industry without having to go to the expense of the cumbersome ECDIS used by cargo ships.

"Mini Ecdis typically comes in at half the price of full ECDIS" says Fran

West managing director of Seafield Navigation.

Seafield Navigation of Fraserburgh have enhanced the Turbowin plotters familiar to most skippers to meet the Mini Ecdis specification, making it the only fishing plotter to do so.

Existing Turbowin plotters can be upgraded to be Mini Ecdis compliant with full certification from Seafish and training as demanded by the MCA.

Electronic Chart updates are available every week online or by post and take minutes to apply...no more paper chart updates.

This means that the boat will carry official up to date electronic charts which are used by the anti grounding and anti collision security features on the plotter to give warnings of imminent grounding and collisions.

These certified safety features are being asked for when audits/inspections are carried out for guard work or workboat duties or by the MCA.

All the user data is available as normal and can be switched off/on from the screen with a single button push. Tide flow, trawl tracking, ground discrimination and 3D are all permitted with Mini Ecdis, unlike full Ecdis which is very restrictive.

Several fishing vessels such as Unity FR, Valhall BH, Zephyr and Serene LK are already using Mini Ecdis, along with various research boats. Workboat owners are now looking closely at it with 2 companies already started fitting their fleets of vessels.

More information can be found at www.seafieldnavigation.co.uk/ downloads or call 00(44)1346 511411. Reference MGN319 on the mca website.

LOOK AFTER YOUR PFD

Fishing safety, can we change?

By Derek Cardno, Safety Officer,
Scottish Fishermen's Federation

In the last 25 years I have witnessed, as I'm sure have many others, a huge change in the world of Health & Safety in every walk of life – but sadly in many cases not for the better. The majority of these changes have come on the back of legislation and a very heavy-handed approach.

However, more recently I have seen many industries taking their workers' safety into their own hands by creating their own industry best practice procedures. This in many instances has made huge safety improvements and led to the reduction in workplace accidents. Working in an industry that is portrayed as being reckless and uncaring towards its workers

upsets me - a view I suspect other fishermen share.

It is in fact a real misconception, for fishing safety has made huge strides forward in recent times, especially in the area of developing safer workplaces for crews in new build vessels or where major refurbishment work has been carried out. The majority of these vessel changes are the ideas of skippers/owners trying to make the workplace safer for their crew. Naval architects are very good at their jobs making sure the boat meets the legal requirements and, of course, boat builders give us what we ask for. But it's the guys on the boats who can identify the kind of improvements needed and what can be achieved when starting with a blank piece of paper.

MAIB accident statistics, however,

still aren't showing the industry in a good light with too many fishermen dying or being seriously injured every year, but can we change this trend? I believe we can.

Education is something I am very passionate about and I am convinced that fishermen's training courses that are well designed and properly delivered will make the biggest difference in driving down fishing fatalities and injuries. Industry bodies are continually looking for ways to encourage fishermen into training. New courses are being developed all the time, along with revising existing training to meet the needs of the industry - and this trend must continue.

However, thinking about industry best practice and self-governance,

over the last three years while assisting SFF member vessel skippers and their crews to complete work place onboard safety assessments I have been amazed at the range and depth of ideas and good practice already in place. If my findings are consistent across our industry, which I believe they are, then this is really encouraging.

Building upon these solid foundations, then let us as an industry in 2015 all work together to make a sea-change in fishing safety from the inside out by sharing these industry best practices. Do we have a platform for such dialogue? Perhaps we do through already established industry bodies but I am open to have that debate and do whatever it takes to see a zero death year in the UK and Irish fishing industries.

Safety First With Swan Net Gundry

Since diversifying into the sale and service of safety equipment in 2004 Swan Net Gundry has established a Department of the Marine approved liferaft service station at our Castletownbere depot. We have also achieved SOLAS approval for the sale & service of single & double chamber SOLAS lifejackets.

We have rafts available for sale or hire in all sizes from 4 man to 50 man and are currently the leading raft rental outlet in Ireland.

We provide assistance to inshore fishermen in complying with the safety Code of Practice regulations supplying everything from fire extinguishers & Distress flares to first aid kits & electronics. We supply an ACR Category 1 type PLB (simple two-step activation) which conforms to the requirements of the Code of Practice for all vessels under 15m, without the need of being integrated into a lifejacket. Assistance is also provided to customers in the process

of applying for their ships radio licence, EPIRB and PLB registrations and beacon service & reprogramming. We are an authorised battery replacement centre for ACR & McMurdo safety electronics products.

Swan Net Gundry is the sole Irish distributor of Stormline clothing and an addition to this range is the floatation bib. The bib is designed as a buoyancy aid to provide 50N of buoyancy. The design of the bib is based on Stormline's top selling,

654 Crew Bib, which incorporates foam in the knees, chest and back. The sides have been left open to allow air to pass through and also for freedom of movement whilst working. In designing the bib, it was crucial that fishermen could work normally, and not be inhibited by layers of foam.

For more information, visit our website www.swannetgundry.com or phone us at 074 97 31180 Killybegs and 027 70502 Castletownbere.

Irish Water Safety



Commercial fishing is 48 times more hazardous than any other occupation, 7 Commercial Fishermen drowned in 2011, 9 in 2012, 5 in 2013 and 5 in 2014. We are hardly out of January and we have lost another popular and much loved fisherman.

Skipper readers are no doubt aware of the Statutory Instrument number 586/2001 - fishing vessel (personal flotation devices) regulations, 2001. These Regulations require all crew members of a fishing vessel to wear a personal flotation device at all times when on the deck of any fishing vessel or boat irrespective of its size, whether at sea, in harbour or coming to and from moorings. Our first priority is to get all fishermen wearing PFD's or lifejackets as if all the fishermen who drowned this year had worn them, then virtually all of them would have stood a good chance of survival. To our knowledge there has been little enforcement of S.I. 586/2001 at sea or alongside. There is no seagoing agency at present tasked with the specific responsibility of enforcing it.

The vast majority of drownings was as a result of not wearing a PFD or lifejacket, we found that single handed fishermen are at greatest risk.

Minister Coveney launched a multi-faceted cross Departmental, Cross Agency safety initiative for the Irish Fishing Industry in Union Hall in July 2013 including grant aid for the usage of lifejackets, Personal Locator Beacons (PLB's) and float free Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon's (E.P.I.R.B's) to help save lives. So let's have all our fishermen wearing lifejackets.

We require the fishermen themselves to take responsibility for their own lives at sea and alongside where a large proportion of drownings occur. This will bring about an attitudinal, behavioural and cultural change in the commercial fishing industry. The recent rescue of our fishermen off the Butt of Lewis recently endorses the importance of wearing lifejackets and knowing how to use sea survival suits.

Notus offers safety at sea

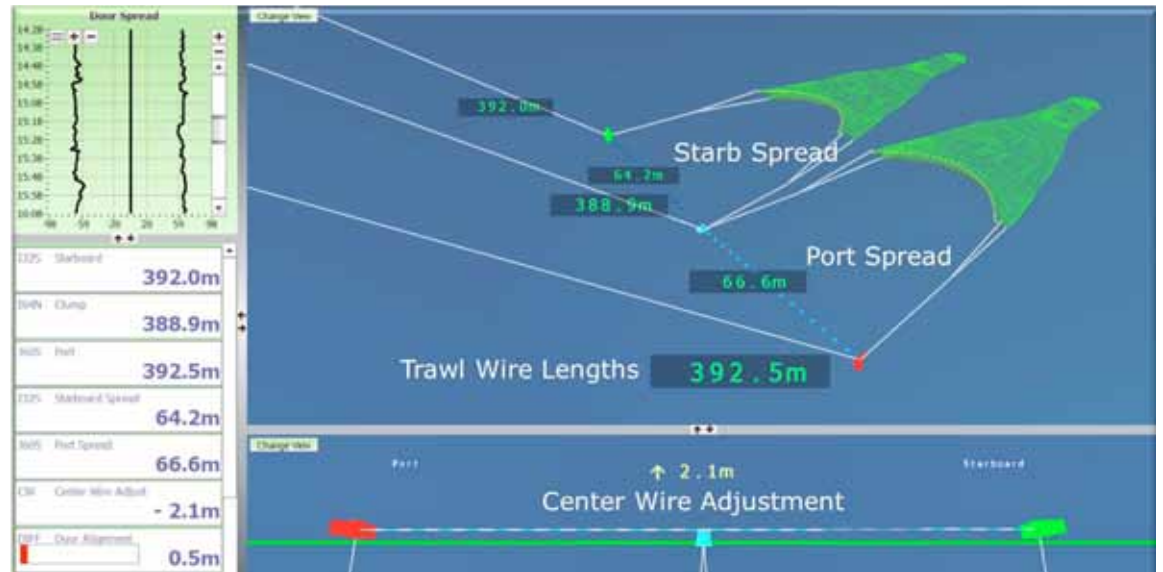
Notus Electronics Ltd. (Notus) supplies advanced wireless net monitoring systems to the worldwide commercial fishery.

Over 200 Notus Trawlmaster systems have been delivered in the UK and Ireland.

The Trawlmaster consists of on shipboard equipment (Command unit, computer and hydrophone) that communicates wirelessly to sensors on the trawl. A dynamic 3D graphic of your trawl is presented that instantly gives an accurate trawl picture.

Doorspread is the distance between the doors on a single trawl. On a twin rig and double rig, the spread of EACH net is given. On triple and quad gear, three and four doorspreads are monitored.

These sensors help the skipper to indicate immediately when doors have crossed or fallen. Skippers can also tell if they have a rock, pot or other debris in the trawl. Safety wise, doorspread sensors help indicate immediately if the footgear is going into the mud.



Extensive gear damage, crew injury and possible sinking are possible in such an instance. Speed adjustments allow the Skipper to safely lift the gear, avoiding these very dangerous possibilities.

The Notus Trawlmaster system also offers Trawl wire lengths – the distance from each door to the vessel with accuracy better than 0.5 meters. Being the only system that offers this important

feature, Notus is also able to provide middle wire adjustment, a measurement which is vital to twin, double or other multi-rig operations.

For more information, please contact Notus Electronics Ltd. www.notus.ca, notus@notus.ca, or Tel: +1 709 753 0652 or one of our Authorized Notus Dealers:

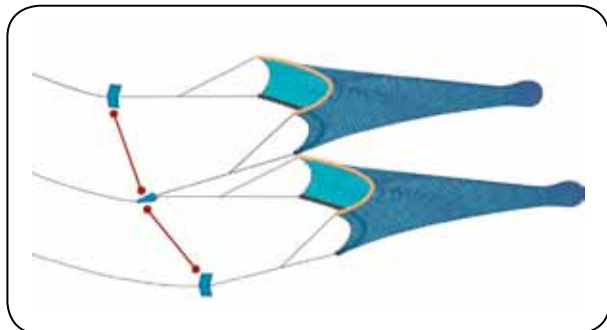
Ireland
Belco Marine Electronics Ltd.

Fastnet Industrial Estate
Skibbereen, Co. Cork, Ireland
Tel: + 353 28 36206
Contact: John O'Mahony
Email: jomahony@iol.ie

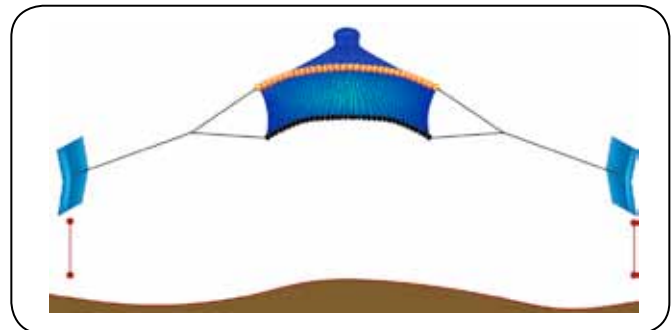
Northern Ireland
i-Fish
43 Ballynafern Road
Banbridge, Co. Down, Northern Ireland
Tel: + 44 (0) 28 4065 1331
Contact: Stephen Jones
Email: info@i-fish.ie



Providing Wireless Net Monitoring Solutions For Over 23 Years



Spread of EACH Trawl



New: Door Height Sensor

Over 24 different sensors available, including:

- Doorspread of EACH Trawl
- Trawl Warp Lengths
- Middle Wire Adjustment



Head Office
Notus Electronics Ltd.
Canada
www.notus.ca
notus@notus.ca
+1 709 753 0652

Ireland
Belco Marine Electronics Ltd.
Skibbereen
www.belcomarine.ie
jomahony@iol.ie
+353 28 36206

Northern Ireland
i-Fish
Banbridge, Co. Down
www.i-fish.ie
info@i-fish.ie
+44 (0) 28 4065 1331

Visit us on
Stand 40