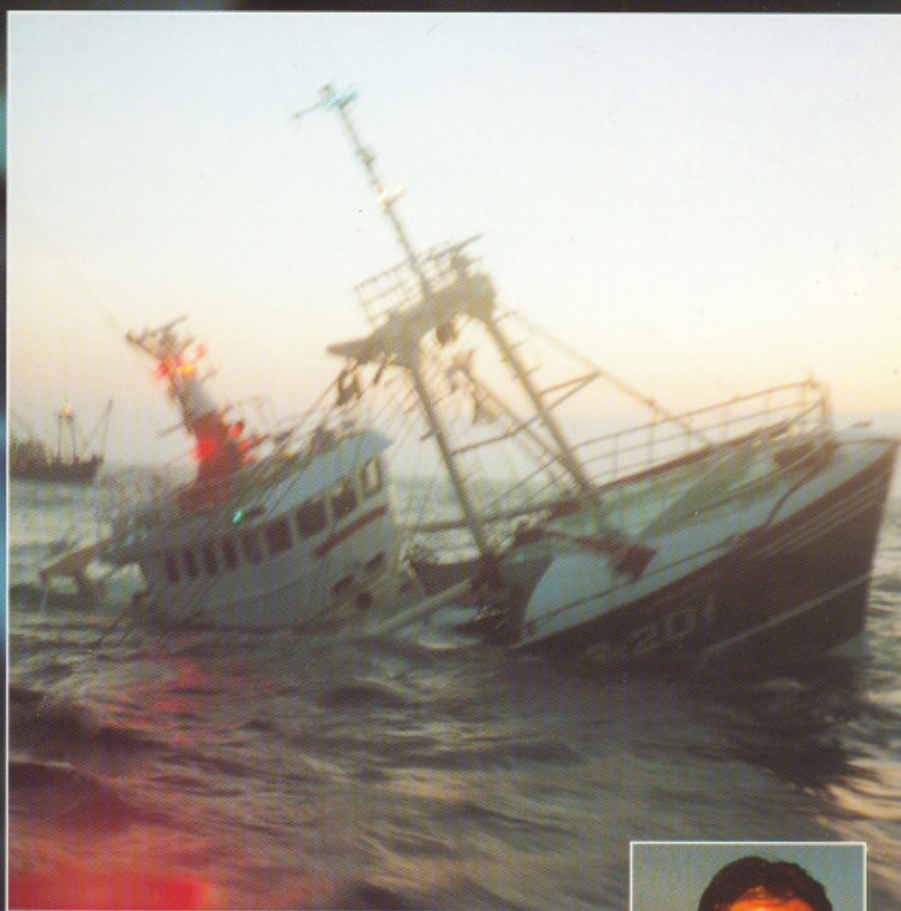


FLOODING

"Flooding is a major cause of accidents and one that can have catastrophic results for the vessel and for you. It doesn't have to be that way.

In the event of flooding on your vessel, make sure it can be detected early and you have the means to deal with it."

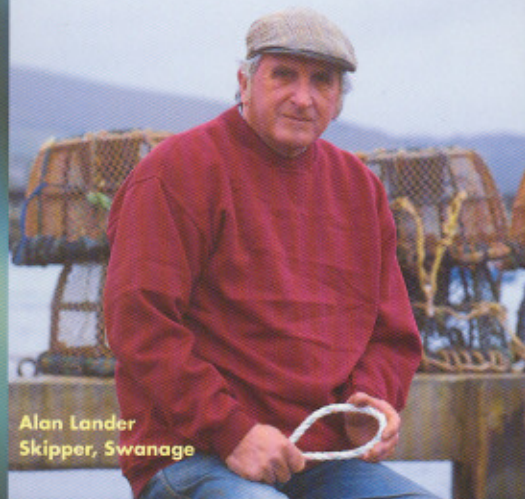


Richard Newell,
Ireland

"It was a fine Friday in August. My 47ft potter had suffered a major electrical short, but the electrician was due to repair it the next day. The engine started with compressed air and, as my pots were only 4 miles offshore, I thought it would be safe to put to sea to finish off the week.

Four hours later I went below and found the engine room awash. Without electrics, the float-switch activated bilge pump and bilge alarm had failed to operate and I could not radio for assistance. Despite frantic manual pumping, the vessel foundered."

Richard Newell, ex-fisherman, is now a serving Coastguard in Ireland.



Alan Lander
Skipper, Swanage



KEEPS YOU FISHING, KEEPS YOU ALIVE

Produced by The Fishing Vessel Safety Trends Initiative Steering Group with support from



FLOODING

GETTING IT RIGHT

- ✓ Inspecting the hull frequently for signs of damage or wastage.
- ✓ Making sure watertight bulkheads are kept watertight.
- ✓ Maintaining the bilge pumps and bilge system in good order, checking them regularly and checking bilge strainers and grids.
- ✓ Ensuring crew members can operate the bilge system and associated valves and connections in the sea water piping systems.
- ✓ Installing bilge level alarms in all compartments and checking them daily to see they work.
- ✓ Ensuring seacocks are accessible and can be easily closed.
- ✓ Making sure all hatches are secured in position.
- ✓ Making sure all doors in the outer watertight structure are closed at all times.
- ✓ Consider carrying a portable, diesel driven salvage pump with an adequate length of suction hose - just in case.

GETTING IT WRONG

- ✗ Failing to notice the vessel becoming sluggish.
- ✗ Making holes in watertight bulkheads when they can be avoided.
- ✗ Forgetting to clean bilge strainers and grids or to keep engine room bilges and fish holds free of anything that might choke the bilge system.
- ✗ Removing any non-return valves. These are fitted to prevent back flooding.
- ✗ Running bilge pumps continuously. Doing so may give you a false sense of security.
- ✗ Positioning the bilge alarm too high up, reducing time available for action in an emergency.
- ✗ Leaving weather deck doors open and failing to provide covers for windows.
- ✗ Forgetting to check all unattended spaces regularly.
- ✗ Going to sea if the bilge system or alarm is not functioning properly.

If you would like more information on Flooding risks or any aspects of safety at sea, please phone FREE on 0800 731 9872



KEEPS YOU FISHING, KEEPS YOU ALIVE