



SFF launch onboard support

SFF is now in a position to begin its onboard support to members who wish assistance to create a safety management system for their vessel. This support includes completing an onboard risk assessment with all crew. The management system allows owners to record many different aspects of running their vessels including; keeping track of expiry dates of life saving appliances, creating lifting equipment records and recording crew certificate details. It is believed that joining the scheme and using the system to its full potential will assist skippers to prepare for MCA surveys which in turn will reduce survey costs.

The safety management system has been developed, tried and tested in Denmark by the Danish Fishermen's Occupational Health Services where it has over 400 users. The initiative has been very well received by Danish fishermen and the success of the system has been reflected in the decrease of accidents and fatalities in the Danish sector.

The scheme has been financially supported by the Scottish Fishermen's Trust with funding secured to cover the first year's subscription cost for the first 50 vessels wishing to use the system. The modest annual subscription is determined by the system's Danish owners and will be index-linked.

Members can be assured that there will be no charge for the onboard support. The offer of the free onboard support visit by SFF is a commitment that the SFF Marine Safety Committee has made to this safety development as the committee is very much focused on ways to make our industry safer.

There will be no vessel size restrictions for the scheme as every vessel will gain from the process of recording any hazard analysis carried out onboard or any equipment used in the aid of safety. Over the last few years several MAIB reports have made mention of the lack of a risk assessment and have made recommendations to many fishermen regardless of the size of their vessel for not giving enough due care and attention to the hazards faced from day to day during fishing operations. In the UK we are fast approaching the time when vessel owners will be held accountable financially for lack of recorded hazard analysis. Some skippers of vessels in other member state countries have already received heavy fines and SFF wants to avoid this situation arising in Scotland.

Members wishing to know more about the system and how it works should contact SFF Safety Officer, Derek Cardno, direct at the details below:-

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