

Safe Loading & Stability

Purpose

To aid in safely loading a vessel and maintaining stability.

Responsibilities

- Master – Ensure this procedure is carried out as written and to make any changes needed to this procedure to ensure the safety of the crew.
- Crew – Follow the procedure below at the direction of the vessel master.

Procedure

Step	Safe Loading & Stability
1.	Ensure that nets, ropes, ice and pots are laid out in such a way that the vessel sits level in the water without any listing, and with adequate freeboard.
2.	Check compartment limber holes to ensure they are free of dirt and debris.
3.	Ensure bilge pumps are operational.
4.	Consider the type of catch you're fishing and how it could move around in the hold. Minimize free surface effect by using pen-boards and smaller containers.
5.	Always be mindful of the vessels centre of gravity. Placing loads higher up raises your centre of gravity and reduces vessel stability.
6.	Keep your total load within the vessels rated deadweight.
7.	Keep suspended loads as close to the vessel as possible to reduce the lever effect which can cause the vessel to list.
8.	If the vessel is listing, address the cause before taking on more weight. Listing increases the risk of free surface effect and can get out of hand quickly.