



PREPARE A SAILING PLAN – It’s simple, and it works.

Consider this. Your vessel is several hours overdue, and family members on shore are beginning to worry. Several more hours pass and still no word. Where would the authorities begin their search? Or is a search even necessary?

Before leaving their home port, fish harvesters should prepare a sailing plan, and leave a copy of the plan with a responsible person on shore (a relative, friend, plant manager, or fisheries officer). That person can contact the Rescue Coordination Centre or Marine Rescue Sub-Centre if your vessel becomes overdue. The sailing plan will help guide search and rescue teams in the event of an emergency.

 The image shows a "Sample Sailing Plan" form divided into two parts. Part 1, titled "Permanent details to be attached to the inside front cover of the notebook," includes fields for vessel name, registration, license, fishing #, and crew details. It also lists radio equipment frequencies (VHF, GRC, EPIRB, MF, Lifeline, MERS) and other contact information. Part 2, titled "Details of each voyage, using a separate page for each trip," includes fields for departure date, vessel endurance, intended fishing areas, proposed route, estimated return date, number of persons on board, and contact information for the person holding the plan.

The sailing plan could be kept in a standard school notebook. After leaving port harvesters should regularly contact the person holding the plan, at least once a day. That person should be advised immediately if there are any changes to the scheduled voyage. The sailing plan must be cancelled upon completion of the voyage.