

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 90 OF 2008

(Navigational & Seamanship Safety Practices)

Safe Working Practices for Fishing Vessels **in Pair Trawling Operation**

On 5 August 2007, six fishermen on board a fishing vessel were preparing to launch fishing nets to sea for pair trawling in the South China Sea. While they tried to transfer the load of an anchor chain to a rope stopper attaching to a wooden board on deck, the board slipped out from its seating, hit and killed one of the fishermen.

In order to avoid recurrence of similar accidents, owners, masters, operators of fishing vessels and persons in charge of pair trawling operations at sea are required to review the operation procedures and observe the following safe working practices:

- i) all trawling gears and deck fittings should be maintained in good working order;
- ii) only proper permanent mooring fixture, e.g. permanent D-ring, should be used to secure similar stopper in a pair trawling preparation; and
- iii) personal protective gears, e.g. safety helmet, should be worn in such operations.

A drawing showing the stopper arrangement causing the accident is attached to this Notice.

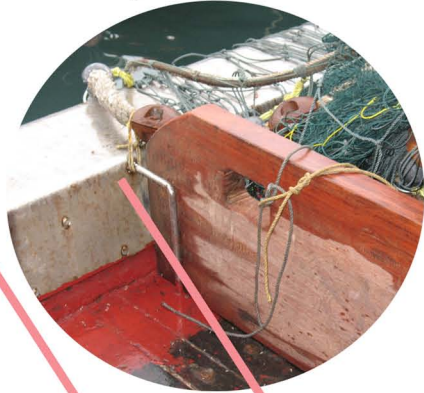
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Director of Marine

Marine Department
Government of HKSAR
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DANGER

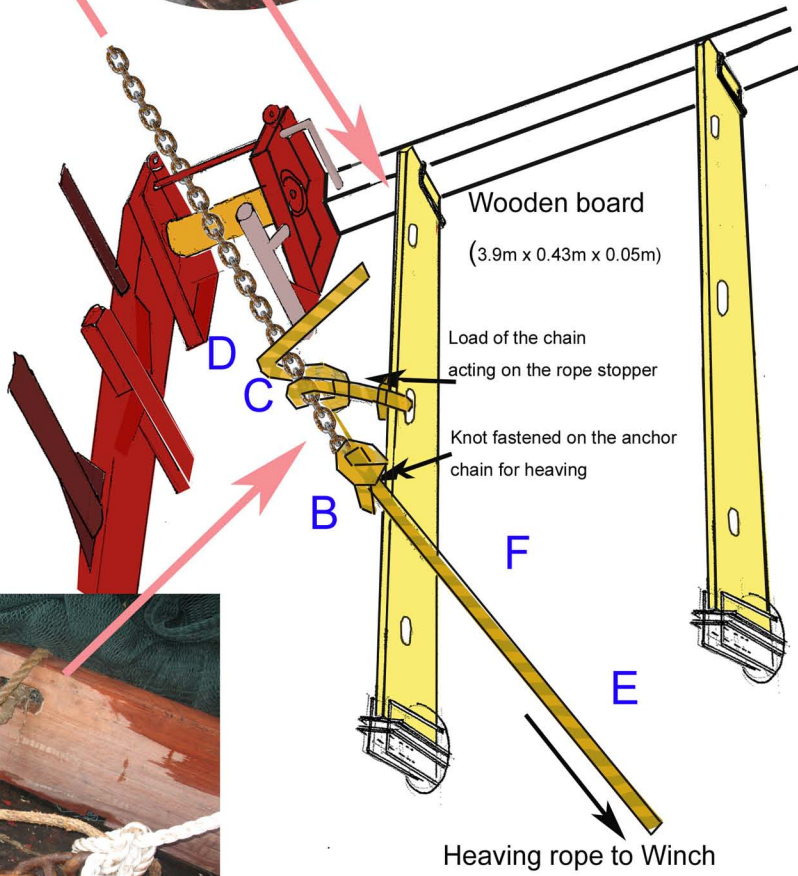
**UNSAFE
WORKING PRACTICES**

The weld of starboard aft steel seating was cracked



Anchor Chain
to partner vessel
for paired trawling

Starboard Stern Section
of the fishing vessel



The similar wooden board causing the fatal accident

The letters coloured in blue
are the locations of fishmen during the incident