



Capture Fisheries Standard Guidance for Workspace Safety

Fair Trade USA

Version 1.0.0

Purpose

This document provides guidance on the best practice considerations for risk mitigation in all workspaces under the Capture Fisheries Standard version 1.1.0. The information provided in this document is not binding, but rather gives guidance and examples of best practice around workspace safety. It should be noted that workspace safety and risks may vary from site to site, therefore the appropriate measures to minimize risks differ and should be adjusted as necessary. This guidance is applicable to objective WWS – OH 1, which states that “workplace risks are minimized and employers take all appropriate measures to ensure they and their employees are safe from harm,” especially the compliance criteria WWS-OH 1.1, 1.2, and 1.8 (Y0 Major, Y0, and Y3 respectively). Additionally, it is applicable to WWS – OH 3.4 which states “risk areas and potential hazards are clearly identified by warning signs in all relevant languages, which include pictograms”.

1. Best practice for all workspaces (vessels, landing sites & processing facilities)

- 1.1. Fatigue prevention and heat stress reduction: In hot climates and in hot workplaces, Registered Fishermen, crew members and workers have access to potable water, and where space allows, shade for rest breaks (for instance, using a rain tarp as a shade structure on vessels, wearing long sleeve shirts, neckerchief/neckwear, and hats).
- 1.2. Work spaces are free of tripping/slipping hazards: There are measures in place to mitigate the slipperiness of deck surfaces. If a work process results in a liquid accumulating on the floor surface and the liquid creates a slipping or other hazard, floor drains or other suitable means are to be used to control the hazard. Spills and waste material, resulting in tripping hazards to employees, are not to accumulate. Floors, platforms, ramps, stairs and walkways used by individuals are maintained in a state of good repair. Rocks and driftwood are eliminated in landing sites.
- 1.3. Temperature of working areas: Indoor workplaces have sufficient lighting, heating and ventilation. In sites with cold/freezing rooms, doors and locks work properly to avoid hazards of workers being locked inside, and workers have access to appropriate garments to be protected against the cold temperatures.
- 1.4. Health and work safety: Individuals have all the necessary Personal Protective Equipment, including but not limited to rain gear, eye protection/wash stations, masks, non-skid boots, waterproof aprons, hard hats, gloves, and equipment against noise and vibration in work areas, taking into consideration decibel threshold levels for mandatory ear protection. When applicable, workspaces have clear evacuation routes and meeting points in case of emergency. When possible, workspaces consider ergonomics, including in relation to the layout of workstations, manual lifting, and handling of gear, catch, machinery, etc. There is adequate firefighting and lifesaving equipment (e.g. fire extinguisher and first-aid kit), as well as appropriate equipment for the catching, handling, storing, and processing fish and other marine resources.



Hazardous materials used are stored and disposed in a safe manner. National regulations for safe use, storage and disposal of hazardous materials can be used.

1.5. Stairs in landing sites and processing facilities are regular (i.e. do not vary in size), have anti-slip surface, and are not too steep. National regulations for stair safety can be used.

1.6. Risk areas and potential hazards: Signs are posted in relevant languages, and explained in pictograms. In the case of small vessels, warning signs can be at landing sites available for everyone around to see and understand. Relevant languages include those understood by Registered Fishermen, crew members, and workers. Signs are kept in good and legible conditions.

2. Best practice considerations for boats

2.1. Engine repair at sea: Vessels come with a set of proper tools in good condition. There are measures and equipment in place to assure machinery safety, including guarding and repair of machinery, adequate lifting gear, and anchoring and mooring equipment.

2.2. Navigation and vessel handling tools: When possible, vessels have radio communication and a compass. In the case of small boats associated with a transfer vessel, operating in line of sight of that vessel, or operating in line of sight of the shore, cell phone communication can be used instead in areas where there is coverage.

2.3. Safety at sea: All vessels have safety equipment appropriate for the vessel size. For small boats associated with transfer vessels, operating in line of sight of that vessel, or operating in line of sight of the shore, appropriate safety equipment is required (life vests, or minimum requirements of national law). All vessels are equipped with tools with which to bail out water, as well as safe means of access to and exit from fishing vessels in port. Vessels working in cold waters should have, for all individuals on board, the appropriate personal flotation devices (immersion/survival suits with lights and retroreflective material).

3. Best practice considerations for landing sites

3.1. Anchoring and unloading areas: Access routes are paved or graveled (i.e. not sandy or muddy) to prevent accidents.

4. Best practice considerations for processing facilities

4.1. Health and work safety: Fire escapes, extinguishers, and exit routes are maintained, marked, accessible, and workers know how to use them. Electrical equipment, wiring and outlets are placed, grounded and inspected for overloading and leakage by a professional on a regular basis. Machinery and equipment on the production site as well as worker transportation are maintained and equipped with adequate safety devices (e.g. machine guarding such as barrier guards, two-hand tripping devices, electronic safety devices; point of operation guarding, such as special hand tools for placing and removing materials without the operator placing a hand in a dangerous zone; guards and enclosures for barrels, containers, drums, and exposed blades; and anchoring fixed machinery to prevent it from moving).

4.2. Hazardous materials: Pressurized gases and hazardous materials, for instance bleach and acids, are used and stored properly. All gas tanks and flammable liquids must be stored away from heat, open flames, and corrosive chemicals, be equipped with safety devices, and used and stored only in well-ventilated areas. National regulations for safe use, storage and disposal of hazardous materials can be used.

4.3. Carbon monoxide: Carbon monoxide detectors should meet industry standards and be replaced periodically according to package directions. Detectors are placed in rooms and spaces where carbon monoxide is being used and stored. Individuals working with carbon monoxide are trained in emergency



procedures and never work alone. Workers should not be exposed to CO above 25 ppm averaged over the standard workweek, with no more than 100 ppm at any 15-minute interval.

