

LOGO HERE	ABC Company
	Safety Statement

SAFETY STATEMENT

ABC Company

Address Line 1
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1.1 APPLICATION

This Safety Statement has been developed to assist ABC Company comply with relevant H&S standards and to ensure that members are fully aware of the club's commitment to high standards in H&S.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE SAFETY STATEMENT

To provide evidence that the policies and procedures to ensure health and safety objectives are met and have been thought out and documented in order to help those who must execute them.

To provide assurance that compliance with legal or other requirements for health and safety are being met or exceeded.

1.3 SAFETY STATEMENT

The general Statement on this page sets out the Safety Policy of ABC Company.

The club has appointed Manager 2 as being the person who will monitor Health, Safety & Welfare. Reference should be made to Manager 2, in the event of any difficulty arising in the implementation of this policy.

The Success of the policy will depend on the co-operation of all Members. It is therefore important that you acquaint yourself with all areas of the Safety Statement. You should ensure that you understand your role and the overall arrangements for Health & Safety within the Club and within your individual area. You should also be aware that you have an obligation to take care of your own safety and that of others that might be affected by your actions.

Signed: _____
Manager 2

Signed: _____
Manager 2

Date: _____

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The table below is a record of all revisions made to the safety Statement

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1.5 Insurance Requirements

As with all Clubs ABC Company have a range of insurances in place. The following are the details of same:

Complete the sections below where relevant:

Employer's Liability Insurance

- Broker _____
- Insurance Company _____
- Amount € _____

Public Liability

- Broker _____
- Insurance Company _____
- Amount € _____

Marine Insurance

- Broker _____
- Insurance Company _____

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STRUCTURE FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

PART 2

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2.1 MANAGEMENT CONTROL SYSTEM

ABC Company is an Angling Club. We do not have employees and all administrative functions are carried out by members.

The objective of the Safety Management System is to satisfy legal and other responsibilities and to exercise greater control of health and safety within the club, to protect people and control the club activities.

As club President/Chairman Manager 1 will ensure that safety is always on the agenda for meetings and events. Manager 1 will also support Manager 2 at meetings where it is necessary to discuss safety improvements or capital requirements for safety equipment.

Management points that may be measured:

1. Safety and housekeeping inspections of boats, etc.
2. Safety critical equipment maintenance records
 - 2.1. Outboards, boats, etc.
 - 2.2. Fire extinguishers
3. Risk assessments – in this statement
 - 3.1. Initial assessments from 2010
 - 3.2. Annual reviews after 2010
4. Safety review of locations and events
 - 4.1. Minutes
 - 4.2. Action points
 - 4.3. Outstanding issues resolved
5. Safety Statement
 - 5.1. Implementation in 2010
 - 5.2. Annual reviews after 2010

Records of all of the above points will be held within a Safety Management Folder. This folder is maintained by Manager 2.

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2.2 Manager 2 (assisted by Manager 1 as needed)

- ❑ Manager 2 will be responsible for implementation of the procedures within the Safety Statement.
- ❑ Manager 2 should ensure that members are given information to allow them carry out club activities safely.
- ❑ Prepare the Safety Plan and needs for upcoming events.
- ❑ Carry out a review after an Event to ensure any lessons are taken on board.
- ❑ Review all safety rules bi-annually and, when necessary, recommend suitable changes.
- ❑ Investigate all major accidents and damage to club property and recommend action.
- ❑ Investigate any accidents involving members of the public or club members at events where ABC Company were the organiser.
- ❑ Ensure that accident records are maintained.
- ❑ Ensure that records of hazards/near miss reports are maintained.

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2.3 Club Members

- ❑ Members should not drink alcohol at an event.
- ❑ All members are to co-operate in the investigation of accidents.
- ❑ All members will be encouraged to promote ideas on the improvements of health and safety standards and also provide suitable suggestions for reduction in risks.
- ❑ All members are forbidden to interfere with or misuse any specified items of safety equipment or any safety device.
- ❑ All members are required to take care of their own health and safety and they should not indulge in horseplay, wilful unsafe acts or carry out or play practical jokes on other Members.
- ❑ Members found guilty of wilful unsafe acts may be liable to removal from the event.
- ❑ All Members must clean up their area or assist in tidying up thereof and also to help maintain high standards of local housekeeping and hygiene.
- ❑ Do not smoke in designated "No Smoking" areas and dispose of spent matches, cigarette ends etc. properly.
- ❑ Know the location of the First Aid Box.
- ❑ Ensure that you know the procedure in the event of a fire.
- ❑ Report any accident or damage, however minor, to club management.

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ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAFE ANGLING

PART 3

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3.1 RESOURCES

ABC Company recognises that for the effective implementation of the safety procedures and policies laid down in this Safety Statement, adequate resources and funding must be made available.

ABC Company undertakes:

- To ensure that adequate numbers of members are available to undertake all activities carried out by the club.
- To include health and safety considerations into all annual estimates for the running of the club.
- Undertake that in so far as is reasonably practicable resources shall be made available for any upgrading, maintenance, replacement and repair of facilities
- Undertake to provide resources for the ongoing monitoring of health and safety and for the provision of information to all members in health and safety.

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3.2 SAFETY INDUCTION

This procedure relates to any induction Members of ABC Company must undergo when joining the club.

1. Ensure the Members Member is fully aware of the escalation procedure in the event of there being an incident.
2. Show new Members Member where any emergency equipment is kept, explain its purpose and ensure that the Members Member is aware of his/her responsibility.
3. Advise new Members Member of any potentially dangerous areas.
4. Warn new Members Member of any prohibited actions in the club, e.g. don't interfere with safety equipment, etc.
5. Show new Members Member the location of the First Aid Box and explain the procedure in the event of an accident, in particular the necessity to record accidents, however trivial they may appear at the time.
6. Provide new members with a copy of this safety statement or allow them access to a copy.

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3.3 FIRST AID

CONTROL MEASURES

NOTE:

ABC Company **DO NOT** provide first aid response at events or on. At large angling events/competitions the event management will engage organisations such as the Red Cross, Order of Malta, etc. to provide First Aid response.

Within ABC Company

The first aid box should be suitably marked and easily accessible.

The exact location of the First Aid box must be known by all members.

All members are advised to carry their own personal first aid kit when angling.

3.4 REPORTING OF ACCIDENTS, DISEASES AND DANGEROUS OCCURRENCES

All accidents and dangerous occurrences must be reported.

- ❑ ***Accident report Form***
 - ❑ The accident report form must be completed for all accidents. Copies of this form are available from Manager 2.

CONTROL MEASURES

- ❑ ***All Accidents, near misses and Dangerous Occurrences***
 - ❑ Club Management, in consultation with the First Aid person, will decide upon the immediate action required in the event of an accident. A medical opinion should be sought in all but the most trivial of injuries.

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3.5 WELFARE FACILITIES

If and when we have permanent club facilities the points below will be observed. When we use public facilities such as hotels for holding meetings then the hotel/pub etc. facilities will be used.

- Adequate toilet facilities shall be provided and maintained in a good clean hygienic condition.
- Adequate washing facilities and washing and drying materials/equipment shall be provided and maintained.
- Arrangements for eating foodstuffs shall be provided in the on the premises.
- An adequate supply of drinking water shall be provided on the premises.
- Adequate cloakroom facilities shall be provided for the storage of wet coats, etc.

3.6 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

ABC Company shall monitor all Members use of Personal Protective Equipment where required.

CONTROL MEASURES

- The wearing of protective equipment is under the control of each member.
- All members should dress sensibly for weather conditions.
- All members going out on the water must wear a Personal Flotation device.

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3.7 DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY STATEMENT

ABC Company recognises that alcohol, drugs, or other substance abuse by individuals can have an adverse effect on their ability to behave safely.

The possession, distribution or sale of drugs or any associated materials whilst you are on a ABC Company Event location, will lead to removal from the location and possible other sanctions.

Members should never drink alcohol when out on the water.

3.8 THIRD PARTIES

From time to time it is necessary for ABC Company to make bookings for accommodation of members, recommend third party suppliers such as hotels, B&B, etc. ABC Company undertakes these activities purely for purposes of information or general assistance, no responsibility can be taken for the actions of any third party either booked or recommended by ABC Company. All third parties are expected to comply with the law as applicable and to have appropriate insurances.

3.9 VENUE STAFF

From time to time ABC Company may use the services of venue staff at an angling event/competition, etc. It is understood that these persons are members or members of the venue and as such are entitled to the protections of the Health, Safety and Welfare at Work Act 2005 from their own employer or club (The Venue).

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HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL MEASURES

PART 4

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4.1 Fire

FIRE HAZARDS

A Fire and Emergency plan will be drawn up by Manager 2 for inclusion in the relevant event planning. When on other sites/venues/clubs the Fire and Emergency plan of the relevant premises will be followed by ABC Company Members.

Event/competition Fire Safety

As the majority of our events are outdoors, the risk of fire is very low. However these points relate to times when we attend meetings/conferences/trade fairs, etc.

ABC Company members will follow all fire safety arrangements for the venue in question.

We will fully partake in any fire drills arranged by client or venues.

Where we have a facility to store equipment, we do not store any flammable substances in it.

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4.2 Housekeeping

HAZARDS

Poor housekeeping can pose a wide variety of risks to health and safety.

- Trips:- Materials left lying in the open
- Fire:- Inadequately and infrequent disposal of combustible rubbish.

CONTROL MEASURES

Members will ensure that access routes are planned.

Members must maintain the area in a tidy condition at all times.

Members will ensure that all waste materials in and around the premises are cleared and disposed of safely.

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4.3 Electricity

ABC Company' Members do not engage in general electrical work. Set out below are the general controls for the club premises where appropriate.

HAZARDS

- Electric Shock
- Fire
- Trips or falls from loose cables

To ensure that all electrical equipment used by the club is in safe condition.

WIRING STANDARDS

All new fixed and temporary wiring will be to the latest Irish standards and, where practicable, in compliance with the national rules for electrical installations.

Precautions to be included either are or will be as follows:

- Flexible cables will also be adequately protected against external mechanical damage.
- Flexible cables for portable equipment will be properly mechanically restrained within plugs and couplers.
- Enclosures, plugs etc. should be maintained as part of the portable appliance of which they form part, but damaged leads, plugs, etc. should not be allowed to remain in service should the equipment not be due for maintenance.
- Sufficient sockets shall be provided to prevent overloading by use of adapters. Proper plugs shall always be fitted to electrical appliances and flex firmly clamped.
- Frayed and damaged cables shall be replaced immediately.

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4.4 Event Safety, Security and Fire Risk Assessment

HAZARDS

- ☐ Access and egress
- ☐ Poor weather
- ☐ Fire
- ☐ Members of the public
- ☐ Multi Hazard

CONTROL MEASURES

- ☐ Ensure all event members have clear roles and responsibilities, adequate training, and that communications are clear on the ground.
- ☐ Well-placed signs and information directing people can affect the way people act, especially in an emergency.
- ☐ Ensure sufficient information to avoid frustration and aggression.
- ☐ A risk assessment of the venue can reveal physical features that may lead to overcrowding and possible injury. These include:
 - steep slopes
 - dead ends or locked gates
 - convergence of several routes into one
 - uneven or slippery flooring or steps

4.12.1 Event Fire Risk Assessment

A fire Risk Assessment shall be completed as part of the plan for every event. The standard steps below shall be followed.

The following stages will be considered:

- ☐ Venue design
- ☐ Effective fire safety during the event
- ☐ Safe removal of equipment and services at the end of the Event
- ☐ Control fire risks once the event is over and the infrastructure is being dismantled

The following checklist will be used and added to the Event Safety Plan:

- ☐ Can all the occupants escape to a place of reasonable or total safety in a reasonable time?
- ☐ Are the escape routes adequate for the numbers and type of people that may need to use them? E.g. members of the public, including disabled people.
- ☐ Where appropriate, have you identified the assembly areas and are they in the appropriate location?
- ☐ Will everybody be able to safely use the escape routes?

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- ☐ Will your event take place or your venue be used during the hours of darkness?
- ☐ Are all the escape routes sufficiently illuminated for use at all times people are present.

4.5 Event Equipment

HAZARDS

Health hazards from substances can be divided into the following categories:

- ☐ Electrical
- ☐ Fire

Risks Identified

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score = 2	Score = 6	Result = 12

Control Measures

- All equipment is stored safely.
- All electrical equipment is serviced and checked as necessary.
- No hazardous equipment or materials are stored or used.

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4.6 General guidance for Anglers

HAZARDS

- ❑ Poor weather
- ❑ Extreme sun
- ❑ Drowning
- ❑ Weils disease
- ❑ Cuts, bruises, strains and sprains

4.6.1 GENERAL CONTROL MEASURES

Always tell somebody where you are going and when you expect to return.

If you intend to regularly fish from a boat, learn to swim.

Try to fish within a group or within easy earshot of others.

Seek advice from local angling sources when fishing in unfamiliar waters; they should be able to identify hazards and opportunities in the area.

4.6.2 EMERGENCIES ON THE WATER

In as much as you can you assess the following:

- The degree of urgency
- The numbers in danger
- The observer's own abilities
- The condition of the subject(s)
- The aids or assistance available
- The weather and water conditions e.g. river current or rip currents
- The distance of the subject(s) from shore

VOICE!

Seek assistance – Shout for **HELP**

Instruct another to dial **999 or 112** and ask for **Marine Rescue**

Use your voice to calm the casualty and issue instructions and encouragement to assist them to a place of safety. There may be no rescue equipment available.

REACH

If this fails then use a coat, branch of a tree, brush handle or other available rescue aid to complete a reaching rescue.

THROW

When available always use Public Rescue Equipment e.g. ringbuoy, lifebelt or throw rope.

WADE

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If the location allows conduct a wading rescue with care and only if you are a trained lifesaver.

A swimming rescue should only be attempted if you are an in-date trained lifesaver.

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The information on the following pages is partially compiled with the assistance of Department of the Marine, Communications and Natural Resources.

4.7 Planning a boat trip

Weather

Always check the weather forecast before you go and be prepared to change your plans or cancel the trip. Remember that the weather in Ireland can quickly change for the worse. Services of particular relevance might include:

- Weatherdial – Tel: 1550 123855
- Weatherfax – Tel: 1570 131838
- www.met.ie
- Teletext
- Irish Coast Guard weather forecasts. After an initial announcement on VHF channel 16, these are broadcast on each Coast Guard radio station's normal working channel.
- National and local radio and TV

Tides and Currents

If you are fishing on the sea, it is very important to check the times of high and low water and assess how they will affect your trip.

Details can be found in tide tables, usually available locally.

- Coastal slipways and launch sites are tidal. This may prevent you launching or recovering your boats as otherwise planned.
- If the tide is flowing, or turns to flow, in the opposite direction to the wind, the sea may become much rougher. This may affect anglers in boats and those fishing from steep shores and rocks.
- An ebbing tide may create areas of shallow water that are a hazard to boats.
- A rapidly rising flood tide can cut off beach anglers and bait diggers from the shore.

If you are fishing on a lake or river, consider the strength of the current and factors that might affect it.

- If water levels are high or rising, currents will be stronger. This may be caused by changing tides or high rainfall some distance from where you are fishing.
- If you are fishing in narrow sections or near dams, weirs or sluices you may encounter strong currents.

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What to Wear

- Make sure protective clothing is comfortable and does not restrict movement or vision.
- Waterproof trousers and jackets will protect against spray, rain and wind.
- Breathable fabrics are likely to be most comfortable over longer periods of time. Bright colours and reflective strips are strongly recommended safety features.
- Base and mid layers should be fleece and fibre pile garments, which trap warm air and provide quick-drying comfort.
- Always wear suitable shoes or boots that provide the best possible grip.
- Thermal headgear helps conserve body heat.
- Gloves help ensure grip in wet weather and protect against injury when handling lines and synthetic ropes. Of course they also help to keep your hands warm.
- Some form of eye protection is essential anywhere near people who are casting angling lines

Sun Considerations

- Sunglasses filter out bright reflected light from the water, making it easier to spot hazards. They may also provide some protection against spray, wind and hooks.
- Ideally use a 15+ sun block on exposed skin. Lip balm is also recommended.
- Beware of dehydration. Always carry plenty of water or non alcoholic drinks.

Personal Flotation Devices

- PFDs are available with a choice of foam-only buoyancy, air-only buoyancy or air-foam buoyancy.
- Inflatable PFDs may be automatically activated on entering the water or can be inflated manually or orally. They must be checked and maintained as recommended by the manufacturer. Spare gas cylinders should be carried.
- It is recommended that all PFDs are fitted with a whistle, light and reflective strips and should have crotch straps.
- Crotch straps should be fastened under the crotch, NOT on the outside of the hips. There is a real risk of drowning if a PFD is not fitted properly in this way.
- Some PFDs are specially designed for anglers, allowing free movement for casting as well as including pockets and other useful features.

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4.8 Planning a shore or bank based trip

What to wear

As mentioned in the previous section, warm waterproof clothing is essential in Irish weather. When angling from the shore, choose your footwear carefully and be aware of slippery or loose rocks underfoot.

Overhead wires

Fishing rods, especially those made from carbon fibre, make excellent conductors for electricity. Every year people are injured and killed through electrocution while angling.

- Watch out for overhead wires. Remember that electricity can arc from a wire to an object near the wire, such as your rod.
- Watch out for weather likely to produce thunderstorms. In thunderstorm weather, dismantle the rod and put it away.

Wading

- When wading, keep one foot on the ground at all times.
- Shuffle your feet rather than making rapid or aggressive movements, which may throw you off balance.
- Always allow at least 30cm between the water's surface and the top of your wader.
- A wading staff is essential to provide you with support and to probe a river or lake bed for deep holes.
- Avoid wading in soft or boggy rivers or lake beds.
- When wading in unfamiliar waters, beware of strong currents – you may be able to wade with the current, but find it very difficult to wade against it.

Always check that you have easy access back onto the bank or shore. Be aware that in wet weather the banks can become muddy and slippery. Rising water levels and faster currents can cause the banks to collapse, making it more difficult to retreat to dry land.

The grip on the soles of waders is extremely important. A deeply grooved rubber heel, with the rest of the sole made of felt, is ideal. If using waders while shore angling, never go beyond knee height as incoming waves can suddenly increase the depth of water. You should also watch out for receding waves on a surf beach, which can undermine the sand underfoot.

Tide and Waves

When fishing on the beach or on rocks, be aware of the dangers posed by changing tides and rough or large seas. Avoid exposed areas where large waves are likely.

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- Wave conditions can change as the tide changes. Know whether the tide is rising or falling and what direction the tide is flowing.
- If the wind is against the tide this will generally cause rougher seas.
- Spend at least 20 minutes observing the area before you start fishing. Waves and swell tend to have cycles, so allowing a little time ensures you can gauge the conditions that are likely over a full cycle.
- Keep a look out for wash from boats or shipping in the area, which may create larger waves. Even large ships a long way offshore create wash waves that will eventually come ashore.
- If waves or a swell are threatening your fishing spot, leave immediately before it gets too bad.

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4.9 Choosing Boats

Be realistic about the type of boat that will suit you. Bigger or faster does not necessarily mean better – you will get more fun from a boat that provides good all round performance, is easy to handle and carries the right number of people.

Get expert advice when buying. If you are buying second hand, an independent survey by a marine expert will show if the boat is in good, seaworthy condition and assess the standard of equipment.

If you hire or charter a boat, make sure it is comprehensively insured with full cover for everyone on board. Check that the boat is fully equipped with safety equipment. By law in Ireland skippered charter boats must hold a Passenger Boat Licence issued by the Government. Check that all paperwork is in order.

Whether buying, renting or borrowing, consider whether the type of boat is suited to the fishing area that you intend using.

- A planing boat is faster and will get you to and from your fishing area more quickly but may be more expensive to buy and run.
- Displacement boats, whilst being slower, are often cheaper to buy and run. Usually they will be more suitable for rowing.
- Inflatable boats may be unsuitable as angling boats as they can be damaged or punctured by hooks or gaffs.
- A solid dory or cathedral-hull boat is very stable and provides the largest possible deck space. It will be a fast boat on flat water at the expense of a hard ride in waves.
- A deep-V hull will be more comfortable in rough weather but may be less stable and have less room on board.
- Avoid making changes to the boat such as adding higher seats to make casting easier or building on high cuddies or wheelhouses. These may raise the centre of gravity of the boat and make it more likely to capsize.
- Get professional advice from a qualified surveyor before making any changes to a boat's design.

Be aware of the limitations of your boat. Do not over estimate its speed or ability to handle difficult conditions. Remember that the water conditions can change rapidly.

- The boat should be comprehensively insured with full cover for everyone on board.
- Do your navigation before you go. Check all relevant charts, tide tables and pilots. Take those that are required on board.

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- Before the first trip of the season, make a thorough check of the boat and engine to ensure everything functions correctly.
- Check that bungs are in position and the propeller is undamaged.
- Make sure all gear and fuel tanks are securely stowed. If a line or painter is secured at one end, make sure it is not likely to foul the propeller if it falls over the side.
- Before you leave the launch site, make sure your trailer and tow vehicle are properly parked and secured. Get permission to launch if required.
- Never overload an angling boat. A boat with too many people or too much equipment on board will perform sluggishly, be harder to manoeuvre, may become unstable or get swamped by waves and is more likely to suffer a man overboard.
- Avoid standing in small open boats while casting as this might upset the balance of the boat and capsize it or you might accidentally fall in.

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4.10 Angling Boat Safety Equipment

Minimum requirements include:

- Appropriate personal flotation devices for all crew (see above) plus waterproof clothing
- A kill cord to cut the engine ignition when the driver leaves the controls
- A boarding ladder to help get back on board
- Alternative propulsion such as paddles and a small spare outboard engine
- Anchor and line, which must be secured. A length of chain adds weight and greatly improves the holding capability of an anchor. The amount of chain and rope should be at least five times the depth of water.
- Mooring lines, a tow rope, a throwing line, towing warps and extra rope
- A bucket, bailer or manual bilge pump
- An air pump and repair kit for the inflatable tubes on RIBs and inflatables
- Spare fuel and oil which, if required, is pre-mixed as appropriate and in ready-to-use tanks to avoid transferring fuel in a moving boat
- An engine tool kit and basic spares, including spark plugs and shear pins, plus spare fuel line and bulb ; a stainless steel marine knife or multi-tool
- A first aid kit including wound dressings, triangular bandages and survival bag
- Distress flares suitable for inshore use
- A hand-held VHF radio
- Navigational aids including compass, charts and GPS
- A powder or CO2 fire extinguisher
- A foghorn
- Clear markings to allow easy identification of the boat in an emergency
- A radar reflector, which must be fitted under international regulations 'if practicable'

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4.11 Safe driving of a boat

All boats have to share the water with many other craft:

- Keep a good all round look out.
- Wear prescription glasses or goggles if you need them.
- Know the collision avoidance rules.
- Abide by speed limits in restricted areas – if your bow is lifting, you are going too fast.
- Watch the effect of your wash, particularly when close to other boats.
- Slow right down through anchorages.
- Keep away from sailing boats, canoes and other anglers.
- Keep well clear of people being taught to canoe or sail.
- Avoid all areas with swimmers.
- Do not approach a bathing beach under power.
- Don't throw rubbish into the sea, or spill fuel, oil or paint.
- Stay away from buoys, pots and markers being used by local fishermen.
- Avoid disturbing wildlife and abide by restrictions to preservation areas.
- Learn to use neutral – it is the most important gear. Never go directly from forward to reverse. Anticipate what comes next and use neutral to manoeuvre or slow down.

Rules of the "road" waterway

The primary role of these rules is to prevent collision. They rely on common sense and good practice. This is only a brief summary. Complete 'International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea' are available from the ISA. Phone 01 2800239 for more information.

General rules

- It is the responsibility of the skipper to maintain a good look out at all times.
- An overtaking boat must keep clear.
- There is a risk of collision if the bearing of an approaching vessel remains constant.
- Vessels of less than 20m should not impede vessels using a traffic separation scheme or confined to a narrow channel.
- Give way to vessels fishing, vessels not under command, vessels restricted in their ability to manoeuvre or vessels constrained by their draught.

Under power

- Boats under power give way to sail.

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- Two boats under power that are approaching each other head-on should both turn to their starboard (to the right).
- When boats under power are crossing, the vessel with the other vessel on its starboard side (to its right) must give way.

Safe speed

- Don't drive the boat fast unless you need to. You will only use more fuel!
- Make an absolute rule that everyone on board is safely seated or holding on before the boat starts moving.
- Check that they are ready to go before you accelerate and that they are comfortable with your speed.
- Slow down in bumpy conditions or when there are waves ahead. Warn everyone if the boat is going to change speed or direction or is about to hit unexpected waves.
- Beware that back injuries are common on small, fast craft. If you drive too fast, you also risk people falling over the side.

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4.12 In an Emergency

4.12.1 If someone falls into the water –

From the shore or bank

If someone gets into trouble in the water, try to summon help. Do not put yourself at risk. If there are breaking waves or fast currents only a trained lifesaver should attempt rescue.

A throwing line is recommended for use in emergency. The brightly coloured floating line is coiled inside a throwing sack. Make sure everyone knows how to use it and remember – achieving a long distance throw with accuracy requires practice.

From a boat

If a boat is driven sensibly there should be little chance of an accident but if the crew is larking about while the boat is driven at speed someone may fall over the side. Their first danger is being hit by the propeller. Their second is getting left behind and lost. Keep the man overboard (MOB) in sight and retrieve them with minimum delay. Cold water can rapidly kill an unprepared person in the water.

What can the MOB do?

- Remain as calm as possible.
- Raise your arm and use the lifejacket whistle to attract attention.
- The greatest threat to survival is cold. Crossing your legs and holding your arms tightly together will help prevent loss of heat.
- In most cases you should not attempt to swim for the boat as this will promote heat loss and exhaustion. Wait until you can grab a line thrown from the boat.

What can you do?

- Throttle back and shout 'Man overboard!'
- Instruct a crew member to watch the MOB and point continuously.
- If possible note your position. Many navigational aids have a MOB function that can prove vital if contact is lost.
- If you cannot see the person in the water or have any doubts about making a recovery, send out an immediate distress alert.
- Inform the emergency services straight away if you recover the MOB.
- If you can see the person in the water, a simple 180 degree turn is quickest.

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- Start your recovery manoeuvre, allowing room for a controlled approach. Beware of loose lines fouling the propeller.

Approaching the MOB

- Approach slowly from downwind, aiming to one side of the MOB. Use stern/reverse power to stop when the MOB is just ahead, turning the bow at an angle to the wind so it is blown towards them.
- If you are not absolutely confident of your boat handling skills close to the person in the water, throw a heaving line as soon as you get within range. You can then pull the person alongside for recovery.
- Never allow the propeller to get near the MOB. Ensure the engine is in neutral and stop the engine if it is safe to do so.

Recovering the MOB

- This may be the hardest part of the whole procedure.
- If you have a boarding ladder and the MOB is able to help themselves this may be the safest and most obvious method. Beware that a stern-mounted boarding ladder can be dangerous to use in a rough water. A safer alternative may be to place the ladder on the protected leeward side.
- The MOB may be suffering from shock and hypothermia. Be prepared to administer immediate first aid. Assess whether the MOB needs professional medical attention.
- If the MOB is exhausted or unconscious, a sling may have to be improvised to help roll the MOB up out of the water.
- A leaflet on hypothermia is available from Irish Water Safety on 1890 420202.

4.12.2 Engine failure

The main causes of engine failure are likely to be running out of fuel, using the wrong mixture or a blockage.

- A blocked fuel filter will reduce power until the engine stops. Change the filter and restart the engine.
- If dirty fuel is the culprit, several changes may be required.
- A blocked salt water inlet will cause rapid overheating, indicated by the lack of a cooling water tell-tale, increased steam from the exhaust and eventual seizure.
- Check for blockage and clear as necessary. Also check the pump is functioning and for leaks in the system.
- Beware of rope getting wrapped round the propeller. Always carry tools that include a suitable knife.
- A boat will drift rapidly with the wind and tide if the engine fails. Every effort should be made to anchor the boat while the

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crew attempts to get the engine working. If necessary, use alternative propulsion such as oars or paddles.

- In deteriorating weather or with approaching nightfall, no time should be lost in calling for help from the emergency services.
- Stay with the boat as this will be easier for a lifeboat or helicopter to spot than people in the water. Attempting to swim to shore is usually a very dangerous option.

4.12.3 Fire on board

If you have a fire on board:

- Try not to breathe in smoke as it may be poisonous.
- Try to extinguish the fire where possible.
- Fire requires oxygen. If there is smoke coming from the engine compartment, or from under the engine cover, only open the cover enough to insert the nozzle of the fire extinguisher.
- Get everyone away from the fire and ready to abandon the vessel, wearing lifejackets or buoyancy aids.
- Notify the emergency services.

4.12.4 Boat capsizing

Boats can capsize if they are driven too fast, badly handled with poor weight distribution, swamped and rolled by heavy seas or tipped by sudden movements in weight. Be aware that light boats such as small RIBs and inflatables are liable to flip, particularly if driven too fast upwind over waves.

If the worst should happen:

- Count heads and make sure no one is still under the boat.
- Everyone should stay with the boat and hold on to whatever possible.
- If anyone lets go, wind and tide may push the boat away faster than they can swim.
- Only consider abandoning the boat if it has been driven into shallow water and you can wade ashore.
- If you capsize a rigid boat, trapped air will help it to float. Once righted, it may become very unstable with insufficient buoyancy to stay afloat.
- It is vital to bale out water before too many people get back on board.

4.12.5 Calling for help

Always carry a reliable means of raising the alarm. For anglers fishing from the shore or riverbank this is likely to be a mobile phone.

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If you are relying on a mobile phone:

- Be aware that you may not have coverage in some areas. Check where the nearest fixed telephone line is located as a back up.
- Check that it is charged and stored in a suitable weather or waterproof case. However, do remember that your fellow anglers may not appreciate hearing a mobile phone ringing while they are fishing!
- In an emergency dial 112/999 and ask for the Coast Guard. The service is free – the Coast Guard is always there to help.
- Boat anglers should carry flares and a VHF Radio and know how to use them.

If you need to summon help from a nearby boat:

- Slowly raise and lower your arms in two big arcs
- Give a continuous blast on the foghorn
- Use your VHF if you can identify a nearby boat by name or position

Emergency radio procedures

It is vital that radio procedures are clear and effective in an emergency. To help boat owners ensure they will know what to do if the worst happens, the Marine Safety Working group produces an Emergency Radio Procedures sticker which is available free of charge. To request your copy, freefone the RNLI on 1800 789589, or call the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources on 1850 392392.

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Part 6 Members Sign Off

We the undersigned accept that:

- **We have been shown the Safety Statement,**
- **We know where it is to be kept for review,**
- **We will adhere to all safety rules as set out by ABC Company**
- **We will not act in any way that could be harmful to ourselves or any other person.**

Name in block	Signature	Date

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Appendix

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	Safety Statement

Boating Checklist – tick items off as appropriate

1. Personal Gear

- ☐ PFD/Lifejacket
- ☐ Whistle
- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Goggles (if necessary)

2. Emergency equipment

- ☐ Tow rope
- ☐ Flare
- ☐ Anchor
- ☐ Paddle
- ☐ First aid
- ☐ Engine Kill cord and spare
- ☐ Knife
- ☐ Torch
- ☐ Tool kit
- ☐ Fire extinguisher

3. Pre Launch Checks

- ☐ Weather
- ☐ Tides – if offshore
- ☐ Fuel full
- ☐ Engine run test
- ☐ Engine emergency stop test
- ☐ Hull check

4. Off shore cruising only

- ☐ Cruise in company
- ☐ Passage plan
- ☐ Nominated person on shore
- ☐ Chart
- ☐ Compass
- ☐ VHF radio

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	Safety Statement

Accident Report Form

Location:	
Date of Accident/Incident:	Date of Review:
Members present:	
Injured Party:	

Nature of loss	Nature and extent of actual or potential loss to people, property or the environment
Description	Description of the Accident/Incident (who, what, how, when)
Causes	Why did the Accident/Incident occur, (basic and immediate causes)?
Recommendations	Action to prevent recurrence, responsibility & action by dates:
Reporting	Distribution of investigation information organisation wide and statutory reporting / reply:

LOGO HERE	
	ABC Company Safety Statement