

Increase your chances of surviving a vessel sinking

Number of crewmembers involved in a fishing vessel sinking in Alaska during 2000-2014

617

Vessel sinkings are the leading cause of commercial fishing fatalities nationwide. Learn what factors can improve chances of survival for you and your crew.

Among all crewmembers who entered the water, chances of survival were:

17x
HIGHER

if the crewmember was able to enter a life raft



6x
HIGHER

if the event was not during poor weather



Among all crewmembers who were in the water longer than 30 minutes, chances of survival were:

26x
HIGHER

if the event was not during poor weather



12x
HIGHER

if the crewmember was able to enter a life raft



6x
HIGHER

if they wore an immersion suit



Source:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssci.2017.09.009>

Here's what you can do:

Prevent the sinking

- Avoid severe weather
- Ensure vessel is watertight
- Evaluate your stability

Train and drill

- Take a marine safety training class
- Conduct monthly drills

Maintain lifesaving equipment

- Immersion suit
- Life raft
- VHF radio/EPIRB

Learn more about surviving a vessel sinking:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/fishing/vesseldisasters.html>

Learn about our recommendations to fishermen:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/fishing/default.html#recommendations>



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health