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