

THE REVIEW OF 2021 INCIDENTS RESULTING IN COMMERCIAL FISHING FATALITIES

TO ALL PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF FISHING VESSELS, SMALL COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS, MANAGERS, SKIPPERS, SEAFARERS, SAFETY OFFICERS OF FISHING VESSELS, TRAINING INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

ISSUE DATE	19 January 2022	EXPIRY DATE	18 January 2023 or unless withdrawn	REFERENCE	SM6/5/2/1/MIN
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Marine Information Notice's and /or Marine Notice's affected

<i>Cancelled or superseded:</i>	MN 3 of 2021	<i>Read in conjunction with:</i>	Not Applicable
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SUMMARY

This Marine Information Notice advises the fishing industry of the incidents that lead to deaths in the domestic fishing industry and compares trends over the previous years. Owners, managers, skippers and safety officers are encouraged to review their operations and using risk assessments to identify steps that can be undertaken to eliminate reoccurrences

In 2021, 6 fishermen lost their lives in 4 separate operational incidents at sea:

- 1 fisherman lost his life when a small commercial fishing vessel capsized outside Paternoster after hitting a submerged rock. A second crew member survived the incident.
- 2 fishermen lost their lives when a small commercial fishing vessel hit a submerged object, 2 nautical miles West of Dassen Island. The first fisherman was lost overboard. The second crew member suffered a fatal heart attack during the incident.
- 2 Fishermen lost their lives after a small commercial fishing vessel washed ashore near Strandfontein. Following an extensive search and rescue operation conducted by the authorities, 1 fisherman was found drowned and 1 fisherman remained missing at sea.
- 1 Fisherman drowned when the tender vessel transporting the crew to the small commercial fishing vessel on moorings in Struisbaai was swamped and sank. 6 crew members survived.

The South African Maritime Safety Authority notes the continuous occurrence of fatal incidents involving small commercial fishing vessels, either due to capsizing or exposure to inclement weather. Affected areas and communities will be engaged as a matter of urgency.

SAMSA offers trauma counselling, assistance with securing UIF, COID and insurance and the facilitation of social grants through the Welfare Office, contacted on the details below:

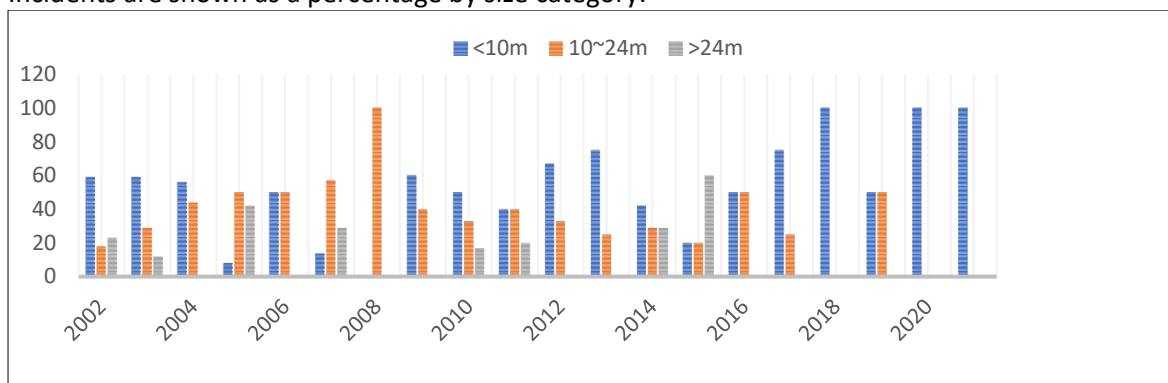
Contact Person	Telephone Number	Email Address
Mrs Nolundi Dubase	021 421 6170	ndubase@samsa.org.za

In addition, community and workplace seminars are offered, at no cost to the industry, on HIV/AIDS awareness and alcohol/substance abuse. Fishing operators are urged to review their Drug and Alcohol Policies and Procedures.

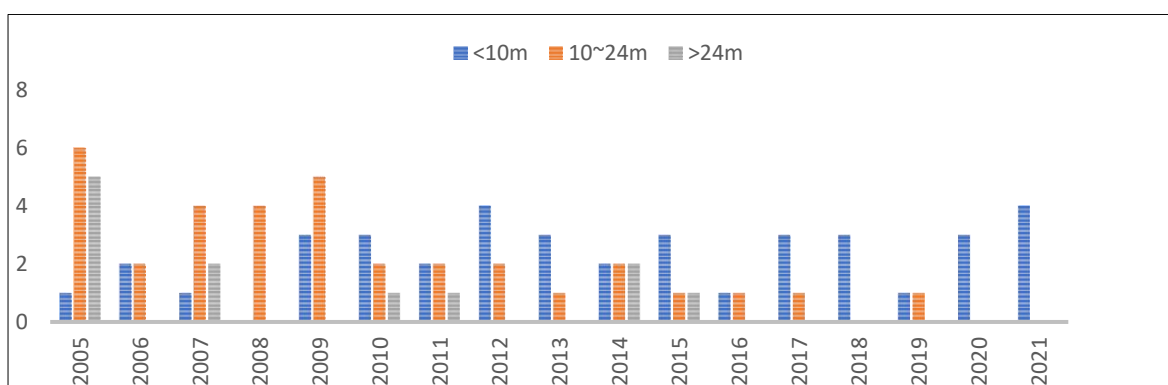
The operational incidents can be categorized as follows:

1. **Number of incidents by vessel size.**

Incidents are shown as a percentage by size category.

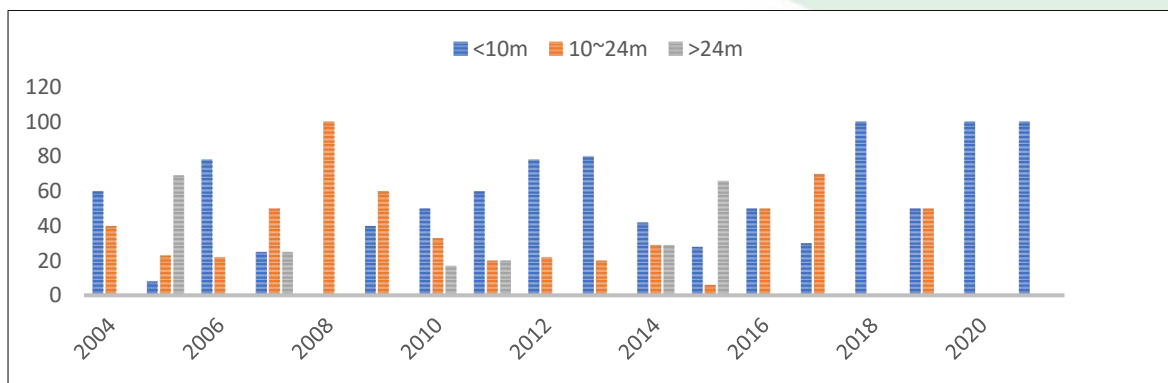


Incidents are shown by number per size category.

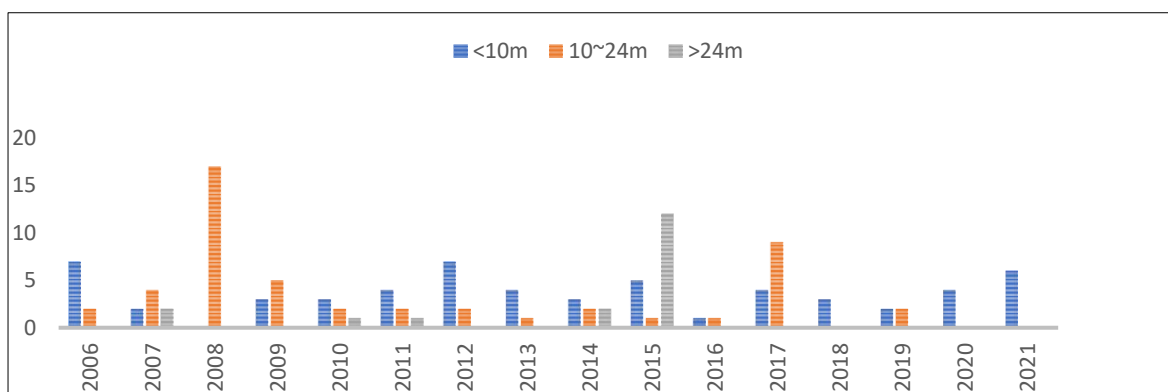


2. **Deaths by size category.**

Deaths are shown as a percentage by size category.



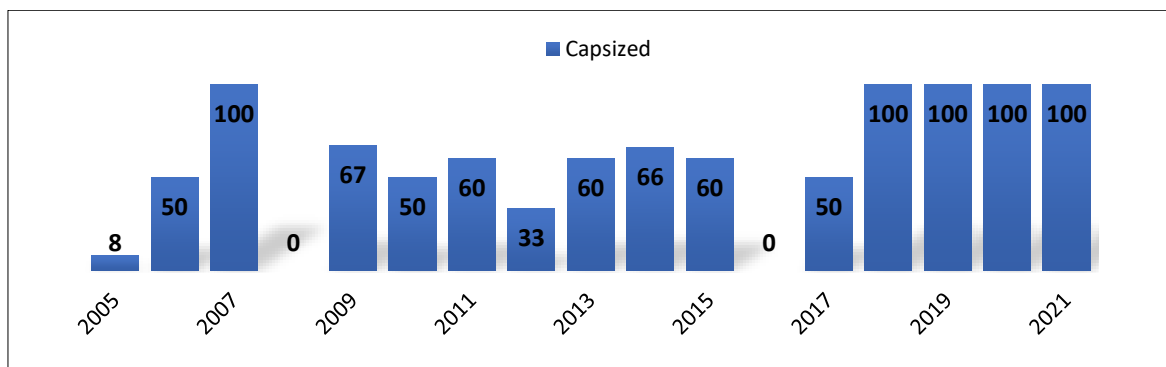
Deaths are shown as numbers per size category.



3. Types of incidents.

Types of incident are shown as a percentage per size category.

a. Capsized (Vessels <10m)

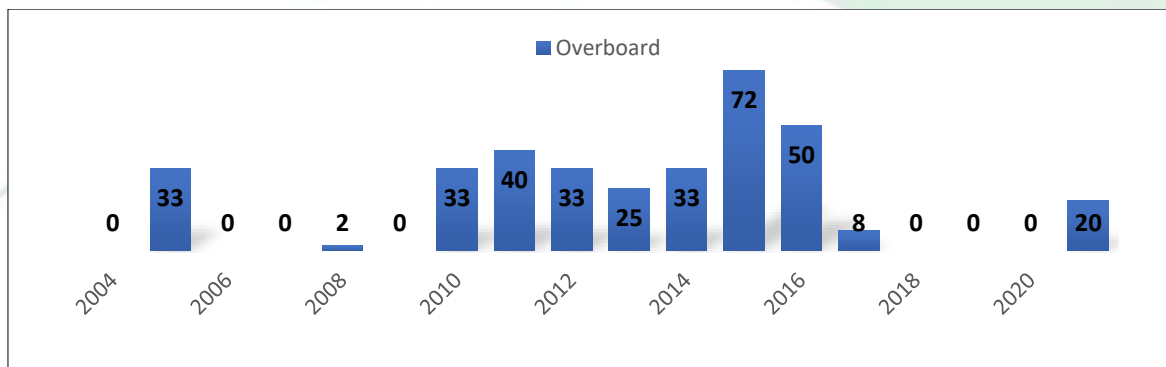


Capsize of small vessels is primarily due to 4 reasons:

- at sea in unsuitable weather conditions;
- hauling of anchors over the side and not the bow;
- too close to the shore; and
- overloading.

The requirement that flotation aids are worn within the surf zone can only reduce the number of fatalities.

b. Overboard



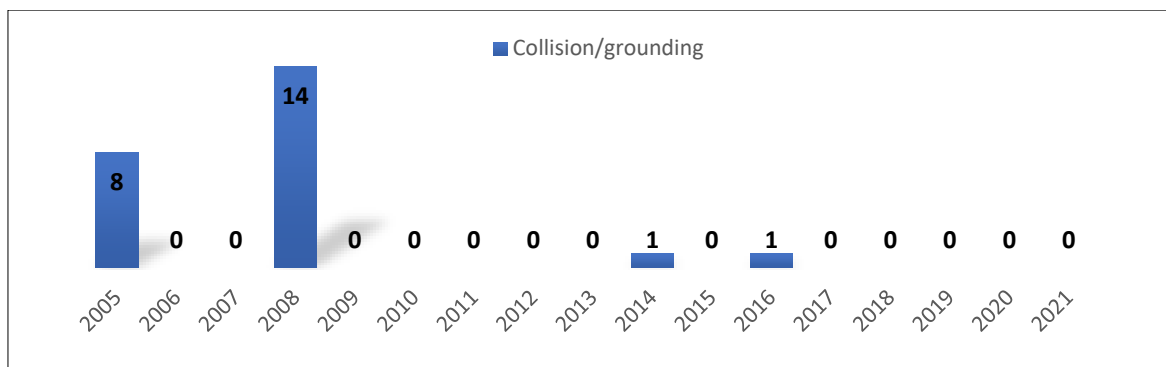
After the capsizing of small vessels this is the single largest category leading to death. Crew members lost overboard are either lost:

- while shooting or hauling fishing gear;
- at night when the vessel is steaming;
- during inclement weather.

To reduce this reason for death the following steps should be taken onboard:

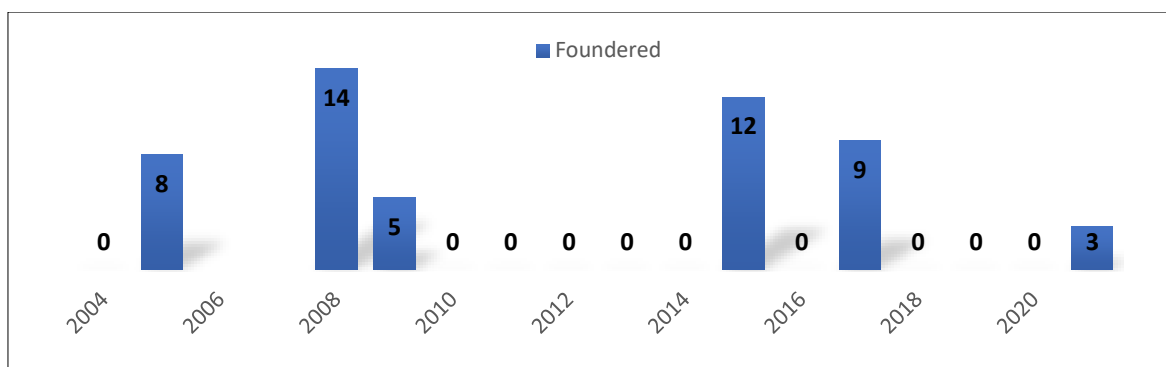
- flotation aids are worn at all times on deck where the nature of the work can lead to a crew member being knocked overboard,
- crew members that go on deck while there is no fishing operation should never be alone. Skippers are encouraged to introduce a buddy system where there are always 2 crew members together, this is especially important at night; and
- when working near or at the side of the vessel safety harnesses should be worn.
- skippers and officers to take into consideration the dangers of fatigue due to prolonged fishing operations and to emphasize the importance of safety briefings.

c. **Collision/Grounding. (Fishers lost)**



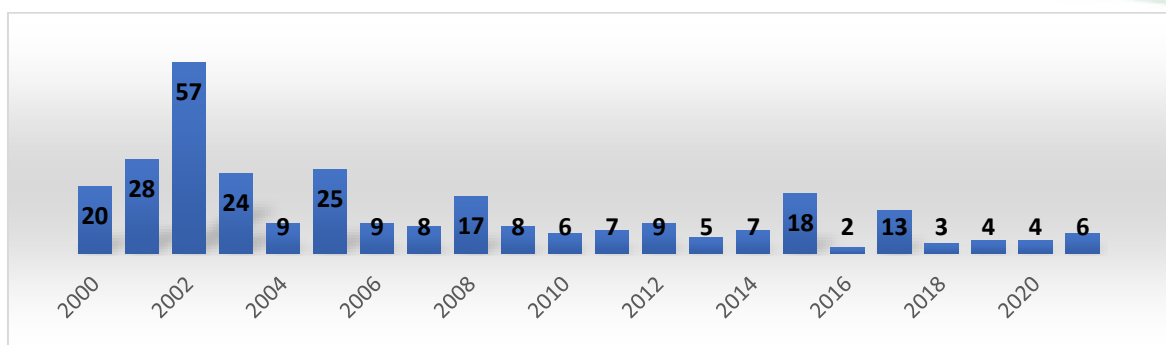
Groundings are totally avoidable if the watchkeeping officers and crew adhere to the principles of good seamanship and watchkeeping.

d. **Foundered (Loss of a vessel >10m (Fishers lost))**



It is vital that skippers continually monitor all methods of receiving weather reports and consider if the fishing trip is safe in the predicted weather conditions. Early consideration should be given to seeking shelter when the predicted weather may endanger the vessel.

4 Deaths per year



SAMSA offers safety workshops in communities that operate small vessels. If you would like our Fishing Safety Specialist to visit your community, please contact Selwyn Bailey on 041 582 2138 or on sbailey@samsa.or.za.

5 Deaths by area

Year	Sald	C.T	M.B	P.E	E.L	Dbn	R.B	Ocean/	Total
1996	3	0	2	12	0	1	0	0	18
1997	6	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	15
1998	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	17	21
1999	0	2	2	45	0	1	1	0	51
2000	6	3	6	2	0	2	1	0	20
2001	4	7	2	10	0	0	5	0	28
2002	11	17	20	4	3	2	0	0	57
2003	16	2	2	2	0	2	0	0	24
2004	5	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	9
2005	1	3	1	19	1	0	0	0	25
2006	1	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	9
2007	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	8
2008	0	3	0	14	0	0	0	0	17
2009	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	8
2010	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	6
2011	2	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	7
2012	1	5	0	1	0	1	1	0	9
2013	2	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	9
2014	4	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	7
2015	3	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
2016	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
2017	1	1	0	9	2	0	0	0	13
2018	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2019	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
2020	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
2021	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Total	86	89	50	131	6	11	8	17	397

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