

CASE STUDY

VESSEL TYPE: FISHING VESSEL
TRADING AREA: AUSTRALASIA & PACIFIC
HEADING: OVERBOARD BUT SAFE

THE BELOW CASE STUDY HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM: MARITIME NEW ZEALAND'S 'LOOKOUT' ISSUE 10.

THE INCIDENT:

The crew member was working aft in readiness to haul in the net when a large wave hit the stern of the ship and the crew member was lost overboard. Immediately, the Master and crew responded, following well-rehearsed safety procedures.

Three liferings were thrown to the crew member in the water, and the Master made a radio call to all vessels in the vicinity, alerting them the vessel had a man overboard. He then brought the vessel hard to starboard while the crew got the lifesaving equipment ready.

Within five minutes the crew member, who was wearing a lifejacket and hard hat, was spotted on the ship's foreside. The crew threw him a line, and he was brought safely back on board. He was warmed, and within an hour had fully recovered.

OBSERVATIONS:

1. This is a good example of a well-trained crew saving the life of their crewmate. Safety drills must be repeated regularly so that they can be carried out swiftly and automatically if ever needed. There is strong evidence that not enough vessels carry out safety drills. Fatal accident statistics show that once a person is in the water, a lack of safety equipment and emergency planning is a major contributor to their death.
2. The crew member was wearing a lifejacket and a hard hat – the correct personal protective equipment for the role he was undertaking.

