

**"Potting/Creeling has some special dangers.**

**For instance, a moment's inattention and a hand or foot can be caught in a rope, causing serious injury and maybe pulling you overboard.**

**Make sure you know the risks and how to avoid them."**

# POTTING/ CREELING

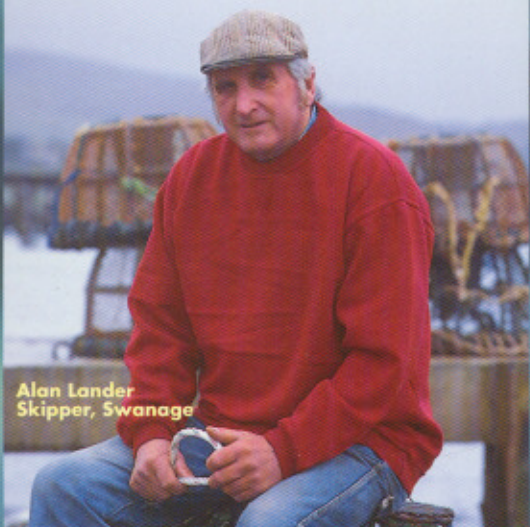


"Perhaps we shouldn't have been there, but catches were good. A spring tide was raging and calm weather quickly changed to a gale. The back rope was new and could take the strain, but a small bight of rope cost me three fingers as I passed it around the hauler. I felt nothing at first but saw the rope snap tight. It was December and my hands were frozen, but four pots later I took my glove off. A gruesome sight. When you push everything to the limit danger is never far behind. Be careful at all times."



**Robbie Clayton**  
South Devon

**Skipper Robbie Clayton and a partner, Skipper Mike Eden, now own a leading fishing gear firm, but never lose sight of how dangerous life is at sea as a potter.**



**Alan Lander**  
Skipper, Swanage



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# POTTING / CREELING


## GETTING IT RIGHT


 Making sure the equipment is set up to ensure smooth and safe operation and keeping all unnecessary gear away from the shooting and hauling area.


 Making sure the hauling winch is properly set up and maintained.

 Trying to separate the back rope from the working area (e.g. by fitting pound boards).


 Stowing pots in rotation wherever possible, and marking any pot which has to be stowed out of rotation.


 Keeping clear of the person who is shooting the pots and staying to the fore of all pots and ropes.


 Keeping close to the controls when operating a hauling winch so that you can stop it quickly.


 Carrying a knife for use in an emergency.


## GETTING IT WRONG


 Stacking pots too high. If you do, you may affect the vessel's stability and restrict visibility.


 Allowing stacked pots to prevent access to safety equipment.

 Stepping in a bight of wire or rope.

 Allowing concentration to lapse during shooting and hauling operations.

 Shooting pots in fairways or harbour approaches.

 Holding on to the gear when problems occur. Stand back, let it go over the side, and when the boat stops haul back and clear it.

 Letting the boat run over the back line and fouling the propeller.

If you would like more information on Potting/Creeling risks or any aspects of safety at sea, please phone FREE on 0800 731 9872



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