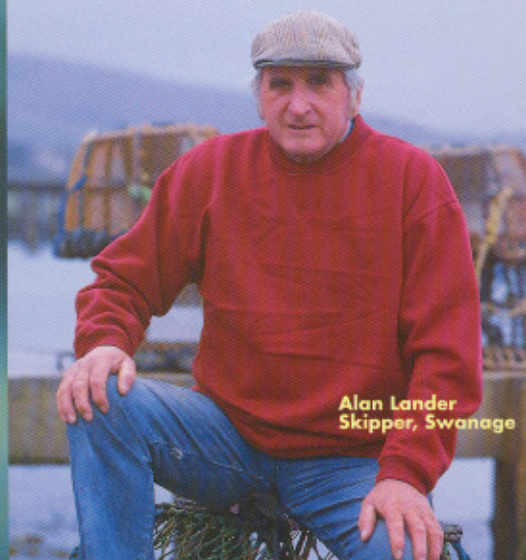


"The risks of working single handed are obvious.

If you don't take adequate precautions, a minor incident can soon develop into a tragedy when there's nobody around to help."



Alan Lander
Skipper, Swanage

SINGLE HANDED OPERATION



Vyvyan Ping,
Mylor Bridge, Cornwall

Geoff Ping worked single handed from Mylor in Cornwall. Nine years ago he left port never to return.

Here are the words of his widow, Vyvyan: "Nine years on and it still hurts. Seeing our daughters Sarah (16) and Helen (14) hurts even more, because Geoff never saw them grow up. If he hadn't been fishing single handed perhaps it may never have happened. We will never know, and that's the worst pain of all. I hear of many fishermen working single handed saying they're safe because other fishermen are nearby, but the truth is that nobody's ever close enough.

If you work on your own, you must take extra care. Be prepared for everything."

Geoff's 28ft netter, Nil Desperandum, was found unmanned only hours after he left port.

SAFE FISHING

KEEPS YOU FISHING, KEEPS YOU ALIVE

Produced by The Fishing Vessel Safety Trends Initiative Steering Group with support from



SINGLE HANDED OPERATION

GETTING IT RIGHT

- Making sure you and your vessel are fit to go to sea.
- Checking the weather forecast before you set off.
- Telling someone ashore where you intend to fish and when you expect to return.
- Carrying a VHF radio and keeping in regular contact with other vessels in the area or shore base.
- Fitting machinery emergency stops and maintaining them.
- Dressing to keep as warm, dry and safely protected as possible.
- Making sure safety equipment is easily accessible.
- Wearing a flotation garment (buoyancy aid, lifejacket or survival suit) at all times.
- Considering using a safety harness while you are working on deck.
- Considering wearing a personal locator beacon and carrying mini flares.

GETTING IT WRONG

- Leaving on your fishing trip without checking the engine over.
- Sailing in bad weather or fog.
- Operating beyond the limitations of your radio equipment.
- Forgetting to keep a clear lookout whenever possible during fishing operations.
- Relying entirely on a mobile phone for emergency communication.
- Overloading your vessel.
- Exhausting yourself.
- Forgetting to check that you have all your safety equipment on board before you leave.
- Delaying calling for assistance if you are in difficulties.
- Not carrying an alternative means of propulsion on a small vessel (oars or a spare outboard motor).
- Taking unnecessary risks. There is no one to help you if you make mistakes.

If you would like more information on Single Handed Operation risks or any aspects of safety at sea, please phone FREE on 0800 731 9872



KEEPS YOU FISHING, KEEPS YOU ALIVE