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**DATE: 31/10/2014**

Dear Consultee,

**CONSULTATION OF THE REVISED STABILITY GUIDANCE FOR FISHING VESSELS OF UNDER 15M OVERALL LENGTH**

This consultation seeks comments on the Merchant Guidance Note which provides guidance on stability for fishing vessels of under 15m overall length. It is intended to replace MGN 427 with simplified guidance.

The consultation period will run for 4 weeks. Please send your responses to MCA by email to Gareth.love@mcga.go.uk or to the address at the head of this letter by 05/12/2014.

The Consultation has one appendix.

Appendix 1 – MGN 526 (F)

The consultation documents are available online from the Gov.uk site at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultations&topics/maritime-and-coastguard-agency](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?keywords=&publication_filter_option=consultations&topics%5B%5D=all&departments%5B%5D=maritime-and-coastguard-agency&official_document_status=all&world_locations%5B%5D=all&from_date=&to_date)=

**Freedom of Information Act**

*Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).*

*If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.*

*The Department will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and in the majority of circumstances; this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.*

**Consultation Criteria**

This consultation has been conducted in accordance with the [Cabinet Office Consultation Principles Guidance](http://m3net.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/consultation_principles.pdf).

**Feedback**

If you have any comments regarding the conduct of this consultation please contact the Consultation Co-ordinator at consultation.coordinator@mcga.gov.uk. We are continually trying to improve the way in which we conduct consultations and appreciate your views, so we would also be grateful if you could complete and return the attached feedback form. These should be submitted to the Consultation Co-ordinator and are not affected by the deadline for this consultation.

Yours Sincerely,

Gareth Love
Vessel Policy Branch