

## **ANNEX 15 - STATUS OF RESEARCH SCIENTISTS AND PASSENGERS ABOARD FISHING VESSELS**

**To be read in conjunction with Annex 14**

### **1.0 Introduction:**

1.1 From time to time, in accordance with statutory<sup>1</sup> and other non-statutory duties and research requirements, Departmental and Executive Agency marine scientists are required to join fishing vessels in order to complete practical observations which contribute to the recording of fishing data, and to undertake a range of fisheries research activities such as the development of fishing methods and gear and the reduction of by-catch.

1.2 Principally, but not exclusively, among such other non-statutory and research requirements initiatives is the recently established Defra<sup>2</sup>, Fishing Science Partnership, and currently under implementation in various sectors of the fishing industry. Similar activities are undertaken in Scotland and Northern Ireland but these will be sponsored by the local department having competence in fishing and fishing related matters.

1.3 If the vessel is not fishing commercially for profit it must comply with Annex 14. If the vessel is fishing commercially for profit whilst research scientists or other persons are on board, it must comply with this Annex.

### **2.0 Arrangements:**

2.1 If the registered Fishing Vessel is carrying passengers while it is engaged in fishing for profit (including passage to and from the fishing grounds), it may do so, provided that it is equipped with adequate lifesaving appliances for all onboard and no more than 12 such passengers are carried.

2.2 For vessels under 15 metres length overall (LOA), regardless of whether the vessel has had a safety inspection in the last five years, it should be strongly recommended to the vessel owner or any passengers a safety inspection of the vessel is undertaken by the MCA prior to the vessel being used.

2.3 It should also be strongly recommended that any passengers attend a Basic Sea Survival Course prior to the vessel being used.

2.4 Where passengers are carried, items that the skipper should brief the passengers are set out below.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No:1543/2000 "Establishing a Community framework for the collection and management of the data needed to conduct the common fisheries policy"

Council Regulation (EC) No:2347/2002 "Establishing specific access requirements and associated conditions applicable to fishing for deep sea stocks"

Council Regulation (EC) No:812/2004 "Laying down measures concerning incidental catches of cetaceans in fisheries and amending regulation (EC) No:88/98"

<sup>2</sup> Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs

1. All passengers should be briefed on the stowage and use of personal safety equipment such as lifejackets, thermal protective aids and lifebuoys, and the procedures to be followed in cases of emergency.
2. Safety drills such as fire drills and drills on the use of life-saving appliances are recommended prior to departure to make passengers aware of what to do in an emergency.
3. Passengers should be made aware of where the safe areas onboard are, and of any dangers that there may be onboard.
4. Passengers should be made aware of the escape routes from the accommodation.