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| Overview | This standard covers the competence required to take charge of a vessel during fishing operations, including crew management. It requires an ability to manage the vessel and crew effectively in a wide variety of circumstances and to handle the vessel so as to maintain the safe and effective operation of fishing gear.  Essential to performance is the ability to deal with abnormal situations such as fouled gear and gear that has become fast.  **Target Group**  This standard applies to individuals at the managerial level who have responsibility for controlling the implementation of fishing operations. |

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| **Performance criteria**  You must be able to: | 1. ensure that sufficient competent crew are on board the vessel 2. confirm that fishing gear and its method of operation complies with relevant fisheries legislation 3. inform crew members of their responsibilities at all stages of the fishing operation by clear, timely and accurate communication 4. co-ordinate the sequence of activities required to ensure a safe and efficient operation 5. use all available information to determine opportunities for catching fish and shellfish 6. ensure that safe and efficient working practices are used 7. recognise abnormal situations, promptly and clearly instruct the crew and take action to minimise the danger 8. set and retrieve the gear effectively and safely 9. position and control the vessel within safe limits of operation to optimise fishing, taking environmental factors into account 10. maintain the safety of the vessel and crew throughout fishing operations, ensuring that any deviations from normal procedures are minimised 11. maintain stability of the vessel throughout fishing operations 12. control the speed and position of the vessel correctly with regard to fishing operations and weather conditions at all stages of the operation 13. monitor the performance of fishing gear and make adjustments to the rigging to match changes in operating conditions 14. obtain and interpret information in making decisions to optimise fishing opportunities |

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| Knowledge and understanding  You need to know and understand: | 1. how to ensure that crew numbers meet the requirements for safe operation 2. how weather affects fishing operations 3. sources of available fishing information and how to access it 4. fish types, fish movement and fishing gear 5. the operation of fishing gear, including how to account for factors that affect fishing gear performance 6. the precautions to be observed when operating during heavy weather, at night time and in fog conditions 7. methods of communication including hand signals 8. how to achieve effective crew organisation 9. handling characteristics of vessels and constraints during fishing operations 10. use of stability data, stability and trim tables and pre-calculated operating conditions 11. effects of loading on stability 12. abnormal situations and dangers involved with fouled gear 13. the operating characteristics of fishing gear linked to gear handling systems, vessel capabilities and intended area of operation 14. how fishing gear is rigged and adjusted to match different fish species and operating conditions 15. the behaviour of target species in relation to fishing gear 16. how to monitor the performance of fishing gear 17. how to evaluate and apply statutory regulations and guidelines, organisational instructions and guidance, and vessel contingency plans 18. the dangers associated with fishing activities |

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