



**LOCAL
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U.S. Coast Guard Safety Requirements Commercial Fishing Vessel Checklist (Educational Overview)

**An educational resource for commercial fishermen
preparing for a dockside safety exam**

Developed by Local Fish to support new and emerging commercial fishermen

Disclosure & Important Notes:

This presentation is provided for educational purposes only and is not an official U.S. Coast Guard document, regulation, or safety exam checklist.

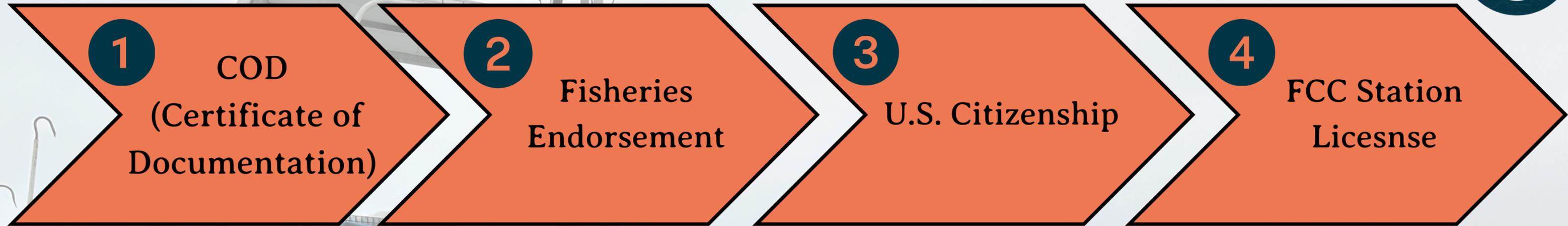
The requirements shown are based on a 35-foot documented commercial fishing vessel operating on the U.S. West Coast and are derived from Coast Guard guidance and checklist generators. Actual safety and equipment requirements vary based on multiple vessel-specific factors, including but not limited to:

Vessel length and gross tonnage, Documentation and endorsements, Number of crew, Distance offshore and operating area, Whether the vessel operates beyond the boundary line, Water temperature and operating region, Gear type and fishing operation, Vessel construction and installed systems

*Final determinations of compliance are made by a U.S. Coast Guard examiner or an accepted third-party examiner at the time of inspection. Fishermen should always consult directly with the Coast Guard or an approved examiner for vessel-specific requirements before requesting an exam.



Required Documents



1. Valid vessel documentation paperwork

a. The Certificate of Documentation is the federal “title” and registration for vessels in the United States.

i. It’s issued by the U.S. Coast Guard National Vessel Documentation Center (NVDC) and is required for all commercial vessels over 5 net tons that operate in U.S. waters or the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

2. AND a fisheries endorsement

a. A specific endorsement printed on the COD that allows the vessel to engage in commercial fishing — that is, catching and selling fish or other living marine resources in U.S. waters.

3. The person operating this vessel must be a U.S. citizen

4. FCC Station License

- A Station License is a federal license for the radio station installed on your vessel — not for you as the operator, but for the vessel itself.
- Every vessel that uses certain types of marine radio equipment (especially offshore or international vessels) is technically considered a radio station, and must have this license to transmit legally.

Placecards



1

Emergency Broadcast Placard

- An Emergency Broadcast Placard is a required safety sign posted on a commercial fishing vessel (and many other documented vessels) that gives simple, step-by-step instructions for how to make a MAYDAY or distress call in an emergency.
- It's required under 46 CFR 28.265 for most commercial fishing vessels that carry a VHF, SSB, or other radio.

2

Oil Pollution Placard

- Oil Pollution Placard summarizes the key prohibitions from the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and MARPOL Annex I, including:
 - No discharge of oily waste (including bilge water with oil) into U.S. navigable waters.
 - Oil-contaminated bilge water must meet strict limits (15 ppm) and be processed through proper equipment before any discharge at sea.
 - Penalties, which can include heavy fines.
 - Requirements to notify the Coast Guard of any oil spill.

3

Injury Placard

- While wording can vary slightly, all injury placards include the same core information required by 46 CFR 4.05-1 and 4.05-10:
 - What must be reported to the Coast Guard
 - Any marine casualty that results in:
 - Death
 - Injury requiring professional medical treatment (beyond first aid)
 - Loss of consciousness
 - Inability to perform normal duties
 - Severe damage to the vessel
 - Material damage (often defined as >\$25,000)
 - Significant harm to the environment
 - The time requirement
 - Casualties must be reported immediately to the nearest Coast Guard Sector or Marine Safety Office.

Plans



1

1 person in the crew must show proof of training in Basic First Aid

2

1 person in the crew must show proof of training in CPR

3

Emergency Instructions on board (not required to be posted)

4

Safety orientation must be provided to any new crew before getting underway

5

Emergency drills with the crew must be conducted at least monthly

6

A person certified as a Drill Conductor must be present during all emergency drills



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FISHING VESSEL QUESTIONARRE

01 → Type of vessel

02 → Length of vessel

04 → Number of people
on board

05 → Vessel location

06 → Vessel distance
offshore in miles

07 → Vessel is
documented

08 → Gross tonnage

09 → Vessel operates beyond
the boundary line

10 → Vessel operates in cold
water

11 → Vessel has a Marine
Toilet

12 → Vessel is constructed
of metal

13 → Vessel uses ammonia
refrigerant

14 → Vessel has a fixed FF system in
the engine room

15 → Fishing operation restricts
vessel's maneuverability

16 → Vessel is a trawler

17 → Normally manned spaces are adjacent
to the operating station

18 → Gasoline used for
vessel propulsion

19 → Outboard engine

20 → Normally manned spaces too
loud to hear an audible alarm

21 → Vessel goes to foreign
ports

Bridge and Navigation Equipment



3 Parachute Flares (CG approval 160.036 or SOLAS approval 160.136)

Six handheld flares (CG approval 160.021 or SOLAS approval 160.121)

Three smoke signals (CG approval 160.022 or 160.037 or SOLAS approval 160.122)

An Anchor Day Shape is required if you ever anchor between sunrise and sunset

Navigation Lights are operational if the vessel operates from sunset to sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility



Life Saving Equipment



Sound-producing device - sufficient to make a sound

Single Sideband Radio - connected to emergency source of power capable of 3 hours continuous use

Copy of the US Coast Pilot



One Immersion or Exposure Suit for each person on board

Current Marine Charts for all operating areas



Personal floatation device light (approval 161.012) attached to each PFD, immersion or exposure suit

Copy of the Coast Guard Light List for all operating areas

Inflatable life raft with SOLAS B pack



Compass

VHF Radiotelephone - connected to an emergency source of power capable of 3 hours continuous use



Fire Fighting Equipment

Engine Room and Remaining Vessel Areas

General alarm system audible to all locations aboard the vessel

One ring life buoy, orange, minimum 24 inch diameter w/60' line attached

Bilge pumping system capable of draining any watertight space

Two 5-B fire extinguishers required

Marine sanitation device installed

Escape routes from working or accommodation spaces must never be blocked

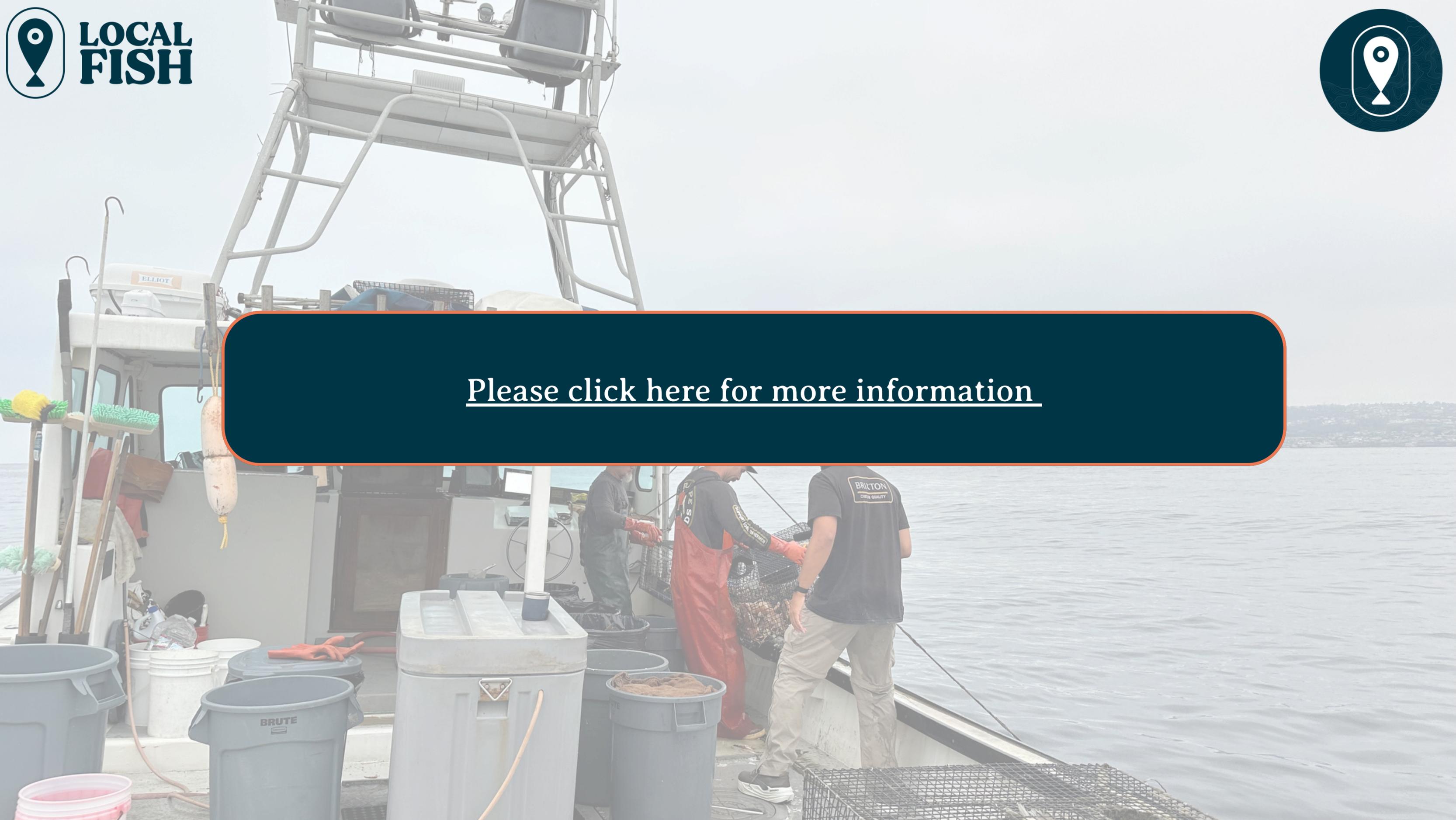
Vessel name marked on the port and starboard bow and on the stern (minimum 4 inch)

Guards for exposed hazards

Radar reflector

Anchor with chain, cable or rope

[Please click here for more information](#)





DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENT
Fish Processor	COC (2 year)
Fish Processor (ACSA)	Decal (2 year)
Fish Tender (Aleutian Trade Act)	COC (2 year)
Fisheries Observer Coverage Vessel*	Decal (2 year)
D13 Exemption Letter Condition	Decal (2 year)
At-Risk Vessel (Fishing Vessel or Fish Tender) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operates >3nm from territorial sea baseline, 50 ft & greater, built prior to July 1, 2013, <u>and</u> >25 years of age. 	Decal (2 year)
Fishing Vessel or Fish Tender operating >3nm from territorial sea baseline <u>or</u> anywhere with more than 16 POB.	Exam (5 year)
All others	Voluntary

*As required by fisheries regulations



If you have any questions, please contact:

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