



Marine Notice No. 48 of 2021

*Notice to all Shipowners, Fishing Vessel Owners, Operators, Agents, Shipmasters, Skippers,
Fishers, Yachtsmen and Seafarers*

Correct Use of Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) on Fishing Vessels.

NOTE: This Marine Notice supersedes Marine Notice 34 of 2017.

The Department of Transport wishes to highlight one of the recommendations of a recent report published by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board (MCIB) of a fatal incident involving a Fishing Vessel **less than 15m** in length. The sinking of 'FV Alize' occurred off Hook Head, Co. Wexford on 4th January 2020, the full report may be obtained from the website of the MCIB at www.mcib.ie

In response to the MCIB's report, the Department reminds all fishing vessel owners, operators, skippers, crew and course training providers that:

- Every person onboard a fishing vessel must wear a suitable PFD when on deck of the vessel, or, in the case of an open undecked vessel, on board the vessel, whether at sea, in harbour or coming to and from moorings. (See Fishing Vessel (Personal Flotation Devices) Regulations 2001 ([S.I. No.586 of 2001, as amended](#))).
- Inflatable PFD's must be worn over all items of clothing - **not underneath**. This is to ensure that there is sufficient space for the PFD to inflate and to ensure the wearer's breathing is not restricted and enables access to activate a manual Personal Locator Beacon (PLB).
- A PFD should be fitted with a hold-down device (such as a crotch strap or thigh straps), which should be worn to maximise life-saving potential and reduce the risk of the PFD riding up on the wearer, potentially moving it to an incorrect position. The Department is aware that some PFD's are sold with the hold-

down device as an optional extra and these should always be purchased and used to provide the maximum level of safety to the wearer.

For additional information on PFD requirements, including recommendations for the selection, correct use and servicing of PFDs, please consult Marine Notice [No.32 of 2019](#), Marine Notice [No.27 of 2016](#) and Marine Notice [No.39 of 2013](#).

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