

# Marine Fisher's Disaster Handbook



## Before Going to Sea

Marine fishermen are strongly urged to listen to the radio/television for weather forecasts and advisory before heading out to sea. Fishers should not venture out unless confident that their boat can be navigated safely under forecast conditions of wind and sea. If at sea, fishers should look out for the approach of dark threatening clouds which may foretell a squall or a thunderstorm.

Having a radio is essential to check weather broadcasts periodically. The absence of proper feed is also useful, as heavy static on the radio typically suggests nearby thunderstorm activity. If a thunderstorm catches you afloat put on personal flotation device.

## After release of warning

- Retrieve and secure fish pots, only if you have time (36 hours or more before the storm is due).
- Secure boats away from the reach of waves. Turn them upside down and tie securely to poles. If boats are kept in an area known to flood, fill them with water and secure to strong points, to prevent them from floating away.
- Ensure that boats are not in danger from falling trees or branches.
- Remove and secure boat engines, all gear, safety supplies etc.
- Inform all other fishers at sea through radio, flares, flags or mirror communication signals.
- Secure or remove all unsecured machines/ equipment and objects.
- Turn off all fuel pumps and secure all pump nozzles.
- Store all hazardous chemicals in a cool, secured room and contain within waterproof/airtight vessels (to reduce vapour release and the risk of electrical fires).
- Tape or cover all glass windows and keep them locked.
- Protect vital records in waterproof container or remove to safe off-site location.

## Recovery Measures

- Do not turn on electrical devices until proper checks by a competent person confirm that it is safe to do that.
- Listen to radio advisories.
- Remove all debris especially sharp objects.
- Assess damage to boats, landing sites, engines and other gear.
- Check all dispenser hoses and above ground piping, before dispensing fuels.
- Check all aboveground tanks and other storage devices before resuming station operations.
- Check cold storage to see how it functions.
- Contact community groups for reports of missing persons.
- Report all missing persons to your local police.
- Contact the Jamaica Defence Force Coast Guard for assistance with search and rescue.