“I’ve been fishing for almost 50 years and I thought I knew everything, but this class showed me I was wrong.”

What Fishermen are Saying About Our Training:

"This training could save your life or someone else's life."
"Extremely Informative. Prepares you for real life situations."
"Hands-on training makes a difference."
"If you have to figure it out during an emergency, it's too late."
"I have learned a lot of information that'll help me on any type of boat."
"The more you practice, the less you'll panic in an emergency."
"Every fisherman should take this class."

Fishing Partnership Support Services can come to your port with free, hands-on training that teaches you and your crew how to prevent and respond to emergencies that can occur on any fishing boat. Contact us today to find out where we’re headed next. Or better yet, help us plan a training in your port.

For more information, visit fishingpartnership.org or contact:
John Roberts, Director of Safety Training:
jroberts@fishingpartnership.org ~ (781) 825-1275
Why should I have safety training in my port?

Because you could save the lives of your crew or your own life. Fishing is among the deadliest profession in the country. But it doesn't need to be. Through training, fishermen can reduce their risk of an accident and learn what to do when emergencies occur. Alaskan fishermen used to have the highest fatality rate in the country. Then they started training. Now they have the lowest rate. The East Coast fisheries now have the highest fatality rate.

How much does training cost?

Nothing! Our training is FREE to fishermen and workers in the fishing industry. We receive federal, state and private funding from the U.S. Coast Guard, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and others to provide this training.

Why do we need your help?

Our training is a benefit to fishermen, not a burden. We want to collaborate with you to pick the right time of year and the right location to serve your fishing community. You can also help us get the word out to other fishermen to attend.
What courses do you offer?

**Safety and Survival Training:** Prepare for a day of hands-on training fighting fires, plugging leaks, swimming to a life raft in a survival suit, and more. Fishermen learn critical information and skills to respond to emergencies at sea. We encourage all fishermen to take this class, regardless of experience, fishery, or how far they work from shore.

**Drill Conductor Certification:** After completing the 1-day Safety and Survival Training Course, fishermen spend a second day learning how to lead monthly, on-vessel safety drills that are critical for building muscle memory and ensuring the crew retains their skills. Fishermen that complete this course become Certified Drill Conductors by the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA) in accordance with 46 CFR 28.270(c).

**CPR/First Aid/AED:** As fishermen, you are the first responders. This enhanced CPR & First Aid class is specifically designed for fishermen knowing you often don’t have the convenience of emergency personnel arriving in a few minutes to care for an injured crewman, and that you are administering care in challenging and austere conditions. This certification meets the U. S. Coast Guard requirements under 46 CFR 28.210.

**Fishing Vessel Stability:** This workshop provides practical information and hands-on training on vessel stability and emergency responses to flooding problems which cause many casualties. Attendees will review case studies of actual fishing vessel accidents caused by inattention and other unsafe practices. Though larger vessels with multiple compartments are what first come to mind when thinking of stability, the principles are applicable to all vessels.
Are these trainings required?
Thousands of fishermen that have taken our classes are overwhelmingly happy that they did, regardless of a requirement. However, there are federal regulations for documented vessels that may require training. Some states require training as well.

• **Safety and Survival Training:** Not required by law, but is a pre-requisite for Drill Conductor Certification. We encourage every fisherman to attend this class.

• **Drill Conductor:** Each month, the captain and crew of a documented vessel that operates in federal waters must practice their emergency procedures for abandoning ship, firefighting, man-overboard, and flooding. These drills must be led by someone that is certified as a Drill Conductor. They do not have to be a member of the crew (some vessels hire a drill conductor each month). But if you complete this class, you will be certified to lead your own monthly drills at no cost.

• **CPR/First Aid:** If you fish with more than two people on a documented vessel, federal regulations require someone on board to have a CPR certification and someone to have a First Aid certification (it can be the same person).

• **Fishing Vessel Stability:** This course is not currently required. However, Congress passed a law directing the Coast Guard to make it a required class for the captain of documented fishing vessels. Our course was created by AMSEA and is accepted by the Coast Guard to meet that future requirement.
What about the weather? If there’s fair weather, we have to go fishing.

Yes, you do! We’ve been training fishermen since 2005 and understand that fishing comes first and that we can’t change the weather. We try to hold our trainings during a slow time of year when seasonal fishermen are fishing less often.

Who are your instructors?
Our instructors are experienced fishermen or mariners. The Safety, Drill Conductor, and Stability instructors are trained by the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA) and certified by the Coast Guard to teach the courses. Our CPR/First Aid instructors are certified by the American Safety and Health Institute and are seasoned trainers, Wilderness First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, commercial fishermen and Coast Guard veterans. Our opioid awareness and narcan instructors are community health workers within our organization or are part of a local prevention program. A list of our instructors and partners is available on our webpage: Fishingpartnership.org.

How does someone become an instructor?
Attendance at an AMSEA Instructor course, followed by certification by the Coast Guard is required. Fishing Partnership is currently looking for new instructors to add to our cadre of professionals. Former commercial fishermen, Coast Guardsmen, marine surveyors, or someone of equivalent maritime experience are ideal candidates. Prior instructor or teaching experience is a plus. If interested, or for more information contact John Roberts: jroberts@Fishingpartnership.org.
What is Fishing Partnership Support Services?

We were created in 1997 by leaders in the fishing communities of Massachusetts to help fishing families obtain health insurance. Over the last two decades, we have been dedicated to helping fishermen take care of many of their health, safety, and economic security needs so that they can stay focused on what they do best. Fishing!

Over the last few years, we’ve been able to expand our safety training beyond Massachusetts to fishermen throughout New England and the Mid-Atlantic. Learn more about our programs and services at our website: Fishingpartnership.org.

Can my fishing association help organize and promote a training?

Absolutely. We also have a specific budget to cover certain costs incurred by an association, like the printing of flyers, advertising, and outreach. Please get in touch with us and we will start planning.

I know someone that would donate to support this training. Do you accept donations?

Yes. Please go to our website to donate and learn about all the ways we help the fishing community. Your donations help us meet the required match for our federal grants and allow us to keep this critical training free for all fishermen.