Vessel Flooding Drill

F/V _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

Scenario

The vessel is running from the fishing grounds with a deck load of fish and gear. Wind and seas are rising and are off your quarter.

Before Drill

Make sure the crew is familiar with the vessel's plumbing system, through-hull fittings, pumps, and equipment available for damage control.Setting Up the Drill

Initiating the Drill

The drill leader tells crewmembers that the vessel seems to be getting sluggish, and asks them to check lazarettes, holds, and the engine room. The drill leader then informs the crew of the location and extent of the problem. Keep the drill moving by telling the crew the level of flooding. Let them know how effectively they are controlling the problem as the drill proceeds.

Critical Points to Look for During Drill

1. Alarms/Communication

Yes	No	
☐	☐	Does person discovering the emergency initiate the alarm?
☐	☐	Does crew report information such as location, extent, and cause of flooding?
☐	☐	Does person on watch alert all crewmembers? How?
☐	☐	Are Coast Guard and other vessels made aware of the problem?
☐	☐	Does entire crew recognize the general and high water (flooding) alarms?
☐	☐	How soon is entire crew aware of the emergency?
☐	☐	Are any crewmembers unaware of the emergency due to an inoperative signal or lack of communication?
☐	☐	Is communication to the wheelhouse sufficient to maneuver the vessel to lessen risk of capsizing?
☐	☐	Does crew communicate with each other?
☐	☐	Do crewmembers account for others?
☐	☐	Is simulated distress signal called off once the flooding is under control?

2. Response

Yes	No	
☐	☐	Do crewmembers react in accordance with their Emergency Assignments?
☐	☐	Do crewmembers readily do unassigned, but needed jobs (cross-training)?
☐	☐	Does crew work together as a team?
☐	☐	Do crewmembers anticipate or react to events?
☐	☐	Does person on watch initiate appropriate maneuvers to lessen risk of capsizing: Reduce speed? Head into seas? Minimize roll?

Yes	No	
☐	☐	Is person on watch safely able to leave the wheel, if necessary, to inspect the flooded area?
☐	☐	What actions are taken to improve stability?
☐	☐	Fish/gear tossed?
☐	☐	Freeing ports cleared?
☐	☐	Blocks lowered?
☐	☐	Stability plan used?
☐	☐	Is watertight integrity maintained by closing all watertight doors, hatches, etc.?
☐	☐	Are through-hull fittings, shaft housings, and other penetrations checked for leakage?
☐	☐	Is everyone familiar with operation of the vessel's pumps?
☐	☐	Are tarps, plugs, blankets, etc., used to slow leaks?
☐	☐	Are extra pumps (hand and power) and buckets used to dewater?
☐	☐	If gas pumps are used below decks, are carbon monoxide/carbon dioxide problems considered?
☐	☐	Are there problems with the vessel's pumps?
☐	☐	Do crewmembers prepare survival equipment (life rafts, immersion suits, EPIRBs, extra clothing, water, food, flares, log, first aid kit, etc.) in case of sudden loss?
☐	☐	Is a flooding control kit available with many of the tools and patching equipment you would want in one spot?

Notes:

Drill Conductor: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Instructions: Mark the "Yes" or "No" check box next to each question in response to your observations of the crew's performance during the drill. Strike through or mark "N/A" any question that is not applicable to your vessel. Record any other obserations in the notes section. You may also want to record the names of crewmembers that participated in the drill.

Use the recorded observations in your debrief of the drill with the crew. Retain this record to document the crew's performance over time.