



**Guidance Note No: 121/2011**

**Revision No: 1**

## **Beaching of vessels to perform maintenance**

Following the death of a fishing tour operator in 2010 who was killed when his beached vessel rolled onto its side while he was carrying out hull cleaning and maintenance, NT WorkSafe issued a Health and Safety Alert (copy attached) to highlight the dangers of this practice.

All vessel owners (commercial and recreational) are urged to exercise care when undertaking any maintenance and/or cleaning of their vessels and to use facilities that are designed and fit for the purpose.

Signed by: Sri Srinivas  
Date Issued: 15 August 2011

---

**For further information contact Marine Safety Branch:**

2nd Floor, Energy House, 18-20 Cavenagh, Darwin NT 0800, GPO Box 2520, Darwin NT 0801

Telephone: 08 8924 7100, Facsimile: 08 8924 7009

Email: [marinesafety@nt.gov.au](mailto:marinesafety@nt.gov.au)

---

**Disclaimer:** While care is taken to ensure that information contained in NT Government publications is true and correct at the time of the publication, this information is provided on the basis that users undertake responsibility for assessing the relevance, accuracy and currency of its content. The Northern Territory of Australia gives no warranty or assurance and makes no representation, express or implied, as to the accuracy of this information or that it is suitable for your intended use. To the maximum extent permitted by law, each user waives and releases the Territory from any and all claims relating to the use of this information and in no event shall the Territory of Australia be liable for loss or damage arising directly or indirectly from the use of or reliance on it for whatever purpose.

## Attachment A

Health and safety alert >



# Beaching of vessels to perform maintenance

This alert is to highlight to owners/operators of the dangers of beaching vessels to perform maintenance on the vessels hull below the water line.

## Background

A fishing tour operator received fatal crush injuries after beaching his vessel on its keel to perform maintenance. The vessel was balanced on its keel allowing access to both sides of the vessel. The deceased was underneath the vessel when it rolled onto its side crushing him.

## Contributing factors

- The vessel was beached in an upright position balanced on the keel.
- The vessel was not stabilised whilst it was beached.
- People were allowed onboard the vessel whilst the maintenance work was being performed.



Beached vessel resting on keel without support.

## Actions required

- Carry out a risk assessment to identify the risks and appropriate control measures to mitigate the risks.
- Consider employing a suitably qualified person who has the appropriate facilities, equipment and experience to carry out the work.

## Related Publications

Information Bulletins

- 09.01.02 Duty of Care
- 14.01.06 Guide to assessing risk

Codes of Practice

- Code of Practice for Antifouling and In Water Hull Cleaning and Maintenance. (Cwth)

## Further Information

Information on workplace safety matters is available at NT WorkSafe:

GPO Box 1722 Darwin NT 0801  
Telephone: 1800 019 115  
Facsimile: (08) 8999 5141  
Email: [ntworksafe@nt.gov.au](mailto:ntworksafe@nt.gov.au)  
Website: [www.worksafe.nt.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au)