

HAZARD ALERT

Industry: Fishing

Age: 31 years

Experience: 3 years

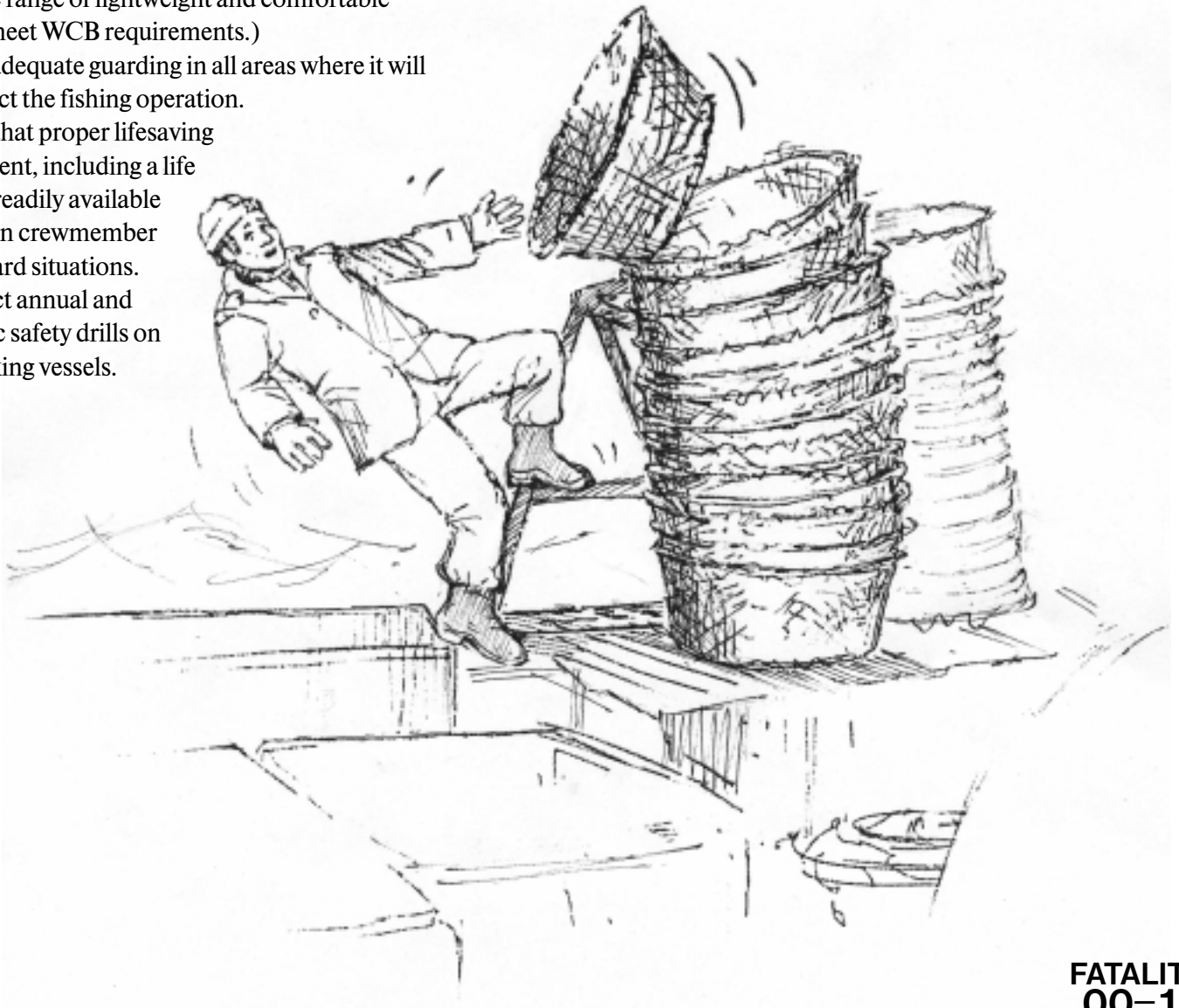
Area: Queen Charlotte Islands

PFDs must be worn to save lives

A crewmember accidentally fell overboard while black cod fishing. The weather was calm and sea conditions were good, with only low swells. Two crewmembers were making a second attempt to stack a heavy trap when it fell off the pile again. Both crewmembers scrambled to get out of its way. As one crewmember moved to one side, the vessel rolled off a small swell to the same side. This caused him to stumble and fall overboard wearing his rain gear, rubber boots, and thick clothing. He could not swim and was not wearing a personal flotation device. He was retrieved in less than 10 minutes, but he could not be revived.

Safe work practices:

- Always wear a personal flotation device (PFD) while on deck of any vessel.
(A wide range of lightweight and comfortable PFDs meet WCB requirements.)
- Install adequate guarding in all areas where it will not affect the fishing operation.
- Check that proper lifesaving equipment, including a life ring, is readily available for use in crewmember overboard situations.
- Conduct annual and periodic safety drills on all working vessels.



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