

Digby 'Fisherman's' Wharf - Main Wharf mooring

Realizing that circumstances of the individual vessel, weather conditions, and the operation of a fishing vessel has inherent risks - the notes below are not all encompassing or prescriptive to each vessel's experience.

Task Analysis of mooring procedures used at the Port of Digby for the Main Wharf.

Types of risks associated with this task

- Improper attachment of lines can allow the vessel to drift under the walers or wharf structure leading to damage to the wharf or vessel.
- Vessels can become free of moorings and damage the wharf, other vessels, or themselves.
- Temporary mooring to a ladder or fender, if left unattended, can result in the line becoming taught and causing damage to the wharf structure or the vessel.
- When the vessel is fastened to bits, fore and aft, and the temporary lines are released, the vessel may drift away from the wharf to the extent of the slack in the lines. This gap can create drowning hazard, or strain injuries of crew during egress or boarding at a later time.
- When the tide is low, getting the heavy lines from the boat to the bit creates challenges. Typically a light line might be used to draw the heavy line off the boat to the wharf deck.
- Crew can suffer injury from being pinned between the wharf and the vessel.
- Crew can slip on ladders or wharf and end up in the water.

Mooring points at high tide, low tide, and other tide levels (also Methods of securing a fishing vessel to the wharf)

- The vessel is secured by heavy line, fore and aft, to bits on the wharf with enough slack to allow the vessel to fall with the tide without becoming suspended from the wharf. It is common for the vessel next to the wharf to have the stern line fastened to the wharf side of the vessel to help keep the vessel oriented parallel with the wharf.
- Spring lines are recommended for the boat nearest the wharf to maintain orientation and placement of the vessel.
- It is expected that temporary attachment to a fender or ladder, with a light line, is needed to hold the boat in place until the vessel is secured to the wharf. **Once the boat is secured to the bits the light line must be removed.**
- Bits along the edge of the wharf are the mooring points used in all tide ranges.