### Purpose

To aid in safely loading a vessel and maintaining stability.

### Responsibilities

* Master – Ensure this procedure is carried out as written and to make any changes needed to this procedure to ensure the safety of the crew.
* Crew – Follow the procedure below at the direction of the vessel master.

### Procedure

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| **Step** | **Safe Loading & Stability**  |
| **1.** | Ensure that nets, ropes, ice and pots are laid out in such a way that the vessel sits level in the water without any listing, and with adequate freeboard. |
| **2.** | Check compartment limber holes to ensure they are free of dirt and debris. |
| **3.** | Ensure bilge pumps are operational. |
| **4.** | Consider the type of catch you’re fishing and how it could move around in the hold. Minimize free surface effect by using pen-boards and smaller containers.  |
| **5.** | Always be mindful of the vessels centre of gravity. Placing loads higher up raises your centre of gravity and reduces vessel stability.  |
| **6.** | Keep your total load within the vessels rated deadweight.  |
| **7.** | Keep suspended loads as close to the vessel as possible to reduce the lever effect which can cause the vessel to list.  |
| **8.** | If the vessel is listing, address the cause before taking on more weight. Listing increases the risk of free surface effect and can get out of hand quickly.  |