



The Falkland Islands Government

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COVID Guidance to Fishing Vessels wishing to enter Falkland Islands Waters

This document should be read in conjunction with the COVID-19 Shipping General Guidance – Version 2 issued in September 2021.

Falkland Islands Waters is all parts of the Falklands Outer Conservation Zone (FOCZ), Falklands Inner Conservation Zone (FICZ), the Territorial Sea and Archipelagic Waters of the Islands.

All fishing vessels must submit a completed COVID declaration letter to the Fisheries Department on each and every occasion they enter the Falkland Islands Waters to fishops@naturalresources.gov.fk

A copy of this letter can be found below (Appendix 1).

Fishing Licences may be awarded remotely by the Falkland Islands Government to a vessel that has crew on board who are, at the time of application, recovering from a COVID outbreak or completing their 10 days “clean at sea” period, and this may be done using a remote licence briefing and inspection.

Taking as a start date the date and time when all the crew have tested negative, or have had last contact with anyone outside of their vessel, the vessel must spend at least 10 days at sea (including time spent in Falkland Islands waters) without Covid-19 symptoms emerging among the crew. This 10-day period may be reduced only if the entire crew is eligible for early test to release. Details of the early test to release option are included within the COVID-19 Shipping General Guidance – Version 2.

The vessel shall only be permitted to enter port in the Falkland Islands or board a member of FIG staff, when it meets all criteria in relation to a ‘clean vessel’ as defined in the Infectious Diseases Control (Coronavirus: International Travel, Operator Liability and Quarantine) Regulations 2021, or if all crew fully comply with the requirements for early test and release.

The following guidance is provided to assist vessel operators in their planning and mitigation to prevent and manage outbreaks of Covid-19 on their vessels.



Guidance for Covid-19 risk assessment on fishing vessels

Crewed vessels (time onboard 7-30 days)

Activity	Risk	Controls
Pre-boarding and getting onboard vessel	Infection with COVID-19 due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">compromised social distancing from an infected person when travelling between	Wearing a face mask in transit to the vessel Remaining 2m from other persons Avoidance of groups of other fishermen Wearing disposable latex gloves when touching communal ladders, railings, mooring ropes etc Sanitise hands and boots once onboard



Activity	Risk	Controls
	<p>home and boarding the vessel; or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contracting the disease through touch of a surface holding droplets carrying the virus <p>Carrying infection onboard and infecting others</p>	<p>Sign-in / out sheet for any contractors working on board in harbour in order to support contact track and trace</p> <p>Carry additional oxygen and regulators over and above the regulated requirements</p> <p>Seek 'priority worker' testing for all crew prior to boarding, then isolate until test results are known.</p> <p>Undertake health questionnaire with each crew member prior to them boarding the vessel</p> <p>Crew advised to self-isolate and seek test if displaying COVID-19 symptoms at home</p> <p>Crew advised to self-isolate if they believe they have been in close contact with an infected person</p> <p>Crew temperatures and logged taken prior to boarding</p> <p>Measures being implemented onboard to reduce the risk of infection / spreading of the disease are explained to all crew</p> <p>Keep a log of all other contractors or persons accessing the vessel while in port/ harbour</p> <p>Ensuring all crew are aware of the symptoms of Covid-19 infection</p> <p>Isolation and evacuation procedures for infected crew are documented / explained</p>
Deck and Fishing activities	<p>Infection with COVID-19 due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> compromised social distancing from an infected crew member; or contracting the disease through touch of a surface holding droplets carrying the virus 	<p>When working within 2m of other crew members avoid standing face-to-face wherever possible by either standing side to side or back to back</p> <p>Sanitising hands upon entering and leaving the working deck area</p> <p>Wearing of gloves</p> <p>High temperature cleaning and sanitisation of protective working clothing (oilskins, gloves etc)</p> <p>Wearing of a clear, full face visor when working within 2m of other crew members</p>
Wheelhouse and accommodation	<p>Infection with COVID-19 due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> compromised social distancing from an infected crew member; or contracting the disease through touch of a surface holding droplets carrying the virus 	<p>Outgoing watchkeeper sanitises all steering, engine and navigational equipment controls at the end of the watch</p> <p>Incoming watchkeeper sanitises hands upon entry</p> <p>Wearing of disposable latex gloves (optional)</p> <p>Increased frequency of cleaning regime</p> <p>Seating plan drawn up to maximise social distancing</p> <p>Crew sanitise hands before and after meals</p> <p>Only one person will be responsible for preparing meals and making drinks</p>



Activity	Risk	Controls
		If 2m distancing cannot be maintained then the wearing of a clear, full face visor when or face mask when handing over the watch should be considered
Fish room	<p>Infection with COVID-19 due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> compromised social distancing from an infected crew member; or contracting the disease through touch of a surface holding droplets carrying the virus 	<p>When working within 2m of other crew members avoid standing face-to-face wherever possible by either standing side to side or back to back</p> <p>Sanitising hands upon entering / exiting fish room</p> <p>Wearing of gloves</p> <p>High temperature cleaning and sanitisation of protective working clothing (oilskins, gloves etc)</p> <p>Wearing of a clear, full face visor when working within 2m of other crew members</p>
Landing catches	<p>Infection with COVID-19 due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> compromised social distancing from fish market / harbourside workers; or compromised hygiene and contracting the disease through touch of an un-treated surfaces (e.g. pallet truck, boxes, ladders, fridge handles, forklift trucks, ice shovels, weighing scales etc) 	<p>Remaining 2m from other persons</p> <p>Avoidance of groups of other fishermen</p> <p>Wearing latex gloves when touching communal ladders, railings, mooring ropes etc</p> <p>Sanitise hands and boots once back onboard</p> <p>Wearing a face mask or full-face clear visor if required to work at long periods within 2m of other personnel</p>
Leaving the vessel	<p>Infection with COVID-19 due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> compromised social distancing from fish market / harbourside workers; contracting the disease through touch of a surface holding droplets carrying the virus 	<p>Wearing a face mask when in transit</p> <p>Remaining 2m from other persons wherever possible</p> <p>Avoidance of groups of other fishermen</p> <p>Wearing disposable latex gloves when touching communal ladders, railings, mooring ropes etc</p> <p>Sanitise hands and boots at home</p> <p>Stress importance to observe social distancing during time ashore in order to protect fellow crew and families</p>

Updated 1 September 2021



Appendix 1: Letter to Fishing Vessels

Telephone: (+500) 27260/ 27266

E-mail: fishops@naturalresources.gov.fk

Vessel Name:

Date

Dear Captain

Please respond to the following questions and return to the email listed above:

1. Can you confirm that your vessel has not been in any South American port within the last 10 days?

Answer:

2. Can you confirm if you have had any crew change in the last 10 days, if you have, please state how many days have passed since your crew change took place.

Answer:

3. If you have had a crew change in the past 10 days but not in a port in South America, please explain how this crew change was facilitated (Did another vessel assist? Name the other vessel).

Answer:

4. During the past 10 days have you had any of the following Coronavirus (Covid-19) signs or symptoms on board your vessel?

- ☐ A new or worsening cough
- ☐ High temperature
- ☐ Shortness of breath,
- ☐ Sore throat
- ☐ Sneezing and runny nose
- ☐ Temporary loss of taste and/or smell

Other symptoms which may be indicative of Covid-19 or other infectious diseases which must be notified to the Falkland Islands Government authorities, which include:

- ☐ Chills that cause shaking (rigors)
- ☐ Gastroenteritis
- ☐ Muscle aches and fatigue

Answer:

Name of Captain:

Signature of Captain: