

Storm Preparedness Guide for Marine Vessels



PRIOR TO HURRICANE SEASON

Growers can make preparations to minimize losses due to extreme weather

- Ensure **insurance is current and review** policy for coverage. Update if needed
- **Combine, duplicate, and secure vessel documents** (i.e., insurance, boat registration, engine details)
- **Consolidate important phone numbers** (i.e., insurance, Coast Guard, and RCMP)
- **Maintain vessel and trailer** in working order. Maintain extra supplies (i.e., batteries)
- Compile an **inventory list** to be maintained on vessel and updated as items are removed
- **Review storm preparedness and post-recovery plans** with employees

HURRICANE SEASON GUIDELINES

Hurricane season occurs between June 1 to November 30

TROPICAL STORM OR HURRICANE WATCH ISSUED

Continuous tracking of the storm to evaluate next actions. Growers should avoid being on the water < 24 hr prior to landfall. After all on the water preparations are made, prepare vessels:

Trailable Vessels

- **Haul vessel, secure** vessel to trailer, and **store** vessel / trailer in a building or an area absent of trees or debris
- **Place blocks** at the trailer's tongue jack / wheel and fore / aft each wheel
- Using lines / ropes to **secure vessel / trailer** to fixed objects or anchors
- **Remove batteries** from vessel and tow vehicle to reduce fire risk
- **Remove or secure movable equipment** / gear off the vessel, noting in inventory list to ensure supplies are replenished

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TROPICAL STORM OR HURRICANE WATCH ISSUED

Non-Trailerable Vessels

- **Double lines** to mooring or wharf; **add anchors (360°)** – **do not raft with other vessels**
- **Evaluate battery function**; consider installation of a secondary battery
- Ensure vessel's **fuel is maximized** and **remove moveable gear / equipment**

PRIOR TO LANDFALL

- **Turn on automatic bilge pump(s)** (marine moored); **remove drain plugs** (land based)
- **Purchase and safely store diesel** for post storm recovery
- Focus on **personal preparations** and **protection**
- **Document vessel condition** with dated photographs or video

POST-STORM RECOVERY

- **Assess accessibility of the vessel** only return if conditions (i.e., wind or waves) allow
- **Turn off automatic bilge pump(s)** (marine moored); **return drain plugs** (land based)
- **Take pictures or video footage** and make detailed notes on the vessel condition
- **Return gear / equipment** removed during storm preparations
- **Remove anchors and lines**; launch vessel if conditions allow (i.e., functional ramp, wind, or waves)
- **Communicate extent of damages** to associations and government bodies