

Danger at Sea: Schechter, Shaffer & Harris Urges Maritime Workers to Know Their Rights

HOUSTON, TX, UNITED STATES, October 20, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Updated Coast Guard safety guidance is putting renewed focus on hazards facing commercial fishing crews. This October, [Schechter, Shaffer & Harris, LLP](#) is encouraging maritime workers to recognize onboard dangers and understand their legal rights if an injury occurs.



The Coast Guard's updated Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels Best Practices Guide, posted October 1, includes recommendations addressing lithium-ion batteries, flotation devices, emergency equipment, and watchstanding. These safety measures highlight why preparation and awareness matter when working at sea.

"Maritime workers face demanding and sometimes dangerous conditions, but preventable hazards should never be treated as simply part of the job. Understanding safety risks and knowing what legal protections may be available can help injured workers make informed decisions when an accident changes their lives." said [Matthew D. Shaffer, Partner at Schechter, Shaffer & Harris, LLP](#)

Know the Risks Before You Head Out

Workers should stay alert to hazards such as slippery decks, defective machinery, inadequate safety equipment, and fatigue. Following safety procedures, reporting hazards, and ensuring emergency equipment is accessible can help reduce risks.

Injured at Sea? Know Your Rights

Depending on their job and circumstances, injured maritime workers may have protections under federal law:

- Jones Act: Qualifying seamen may seek compensation when employer negligence contributes to an injury.

- Unseaworthiness: Seamen may have a claim if an unsafe vessel condition causes an injury.
- Maintenance and cure: Eligible seamen may receive basic living expenses and necessary medical care while recovering, regardless of fault.

After an injury, seek medical care, report the incident, and preserve relevant records when possible. Understanding your rights can help you make informed decisions about your recovery and financial future.

Schechter, Shaffer & Harris, LLP provides this information for general maritime safety and legal awareness purposes. It does not address any specific accident or legal matter.

About Schechter, Shaffer & Harris

[Schechter, Shaffer & Harris, LLP](#) is a Houston-based maritime and personal injury law firm representing individuals and families affected by serious injuries and wrongful death throughout Texas and nationwide. The firm has more than 100 years of combined legal experience and has recovered over \$1 billion for clients.

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