## Abstract

An analysis of all serious accidents involving Belgian fishing vessels over the past 34 years shows that on average 0.92 fishing vessels were involved in a serious accident, representing 1.4% of the fleet. Of the fishing vessels that experienced a serious accident, an average of 0.6 capsized per year. Because of these alarming figures, this thesis has analysed the recent accidents and associated accident reports. From this, it can be concluded that today's beam trawlers have too little stability, even with the required 20% increase in stability criteria compared to other vessels. Vessels of 24 metres or less in length are found to be particularly vulnerable to stability risks from fishing conditions and they face serious risks on a daily basis. In 74% of the 19 accidents investigated, asymmetric loading played a role to some extent. The stability booklet contains no information on fishing conditions or asymmetrical situations. The study concludes that the current regulations are outdated and should be updated and expanded in several areas. In addition, it is important for fishermen to gain more practical knowledge, for example, on a simulator. In short, significant risks are currently being taken in the industry and it is time for action to reduce them.