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# CODES OF PRACTICE (COP) FOR SMALL FISHING BOATS



Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA II) Programme  
(The TRTA II Programme is funded by the European Union)



# Foreword

Fifty thousand fishermen go out to sea from the coastal area of Baluchistan every day to earn a living for their families. They retrace the same ritual every day, like their fathers and grandfathers have done for centuries. They manage to catch something around 150,000 tons for a total value of 330 million dollars per year, but alarmingly 70% of the result of their efforts is not suitable for human consumption and it goes largely to feed the fish meal industry spoiling the remuneration of these hard workers.

Several reasons are preventing these fishermen from generating a better livelihood. On the sea, they are still using inadequate techniques to fish and handle the catch on board. Further, the lack of financial means doesn't allow them to improve their simple and small boat; therefore the fish goes from the water into an inappropriate fish hold, where in addition the lack of ice means the fish spoils rapidly which greatly reduces the value of the catch.

It is to help these workers to improve their skills and therefore increase their income that the EU funded Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA II) programme implemented by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), trained a batch of 30 Master Trainers from Baluchistan Fisheries Department, Lasbela University and local leading NGOs who will now carry out a training programme in April 2014 for the fishermen community of Baluchistan.

The Development of Codes of Practice (COP) for handling the fish on small boats therefore was an essential element as a prerequisite for training as well as for ready reference for fishermen's use. The international and national experts along with the trainers of Baluchistan Fisheries Department of TRTA II programme have developed this first version of COP in an illustrated form which has an easy to understand approach for the Fishermen. Once developed and implemented, this COP would enable the fishermen to get optimum income from their catch.

It is worth appreciation here, the efforts put in by the TRTA II programmes team especially Dr Mike Dillon, Mr. Christopher Leftwich and Dr Nasim Akhtar in authoring and translating these Codes of Practice for fishermen operating on small fishing boats so that they can improve the quality of their catch, improve their health & safety leading to improved income and livelihood thereof. Moreover, Ms. Sehrish Waqars efforts in designing and streamlining this illustrated version of COP in an easy-to-understand manner is commendable.

We greatly acknowledge the support of the European Union Delegation to Pakistan in compilation of this COP through provision of funds to the TRTA II Programme.

**Bruno Valanzuolo**  
**Chief Technical Advisor-CTA**  
**Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA II) Programme**  
**United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**





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# Outcome of Implementing COPs on Small Fishing Boats

## Outcome of Implementing Codes of Practice for small fishing boats

COP's for handling practices on small vessel

- Essential use of communication and safety equipment.
- Appropriate boat design and structure.
- proper icing and storage of fish.
- Proper grading techniques.
- Good hygiene practices.

Good Quality Fish  
Shrimps and Crabs



Improved Safety



Better Health



Better Income

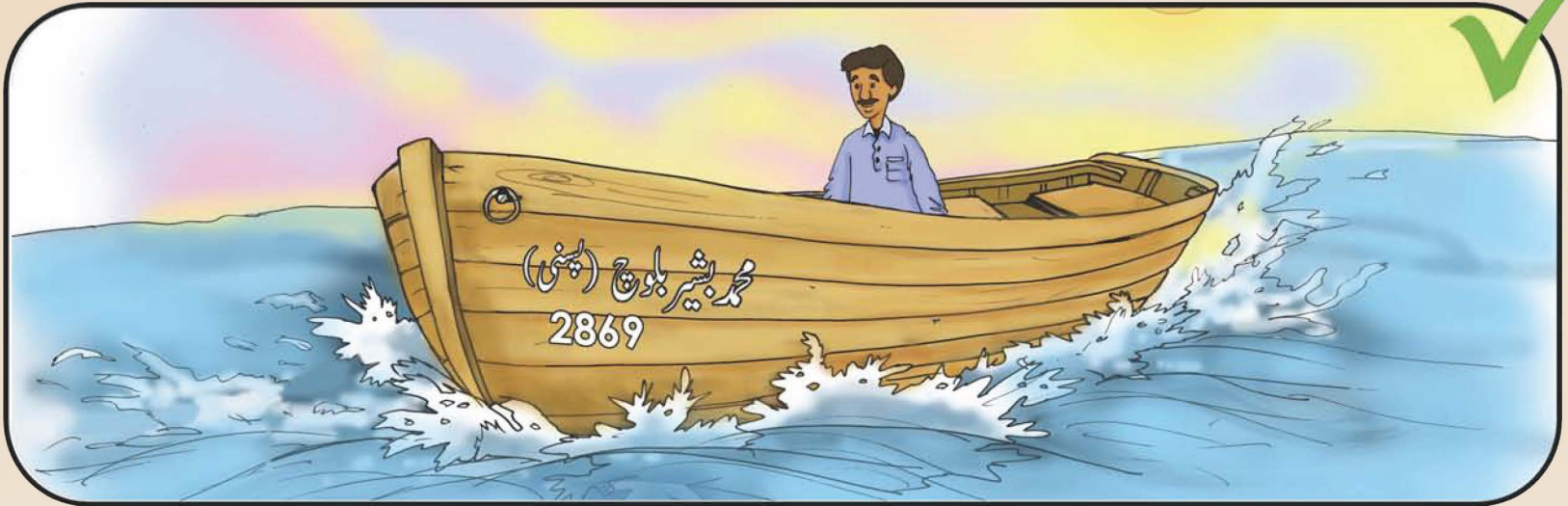


Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA II) Programme  
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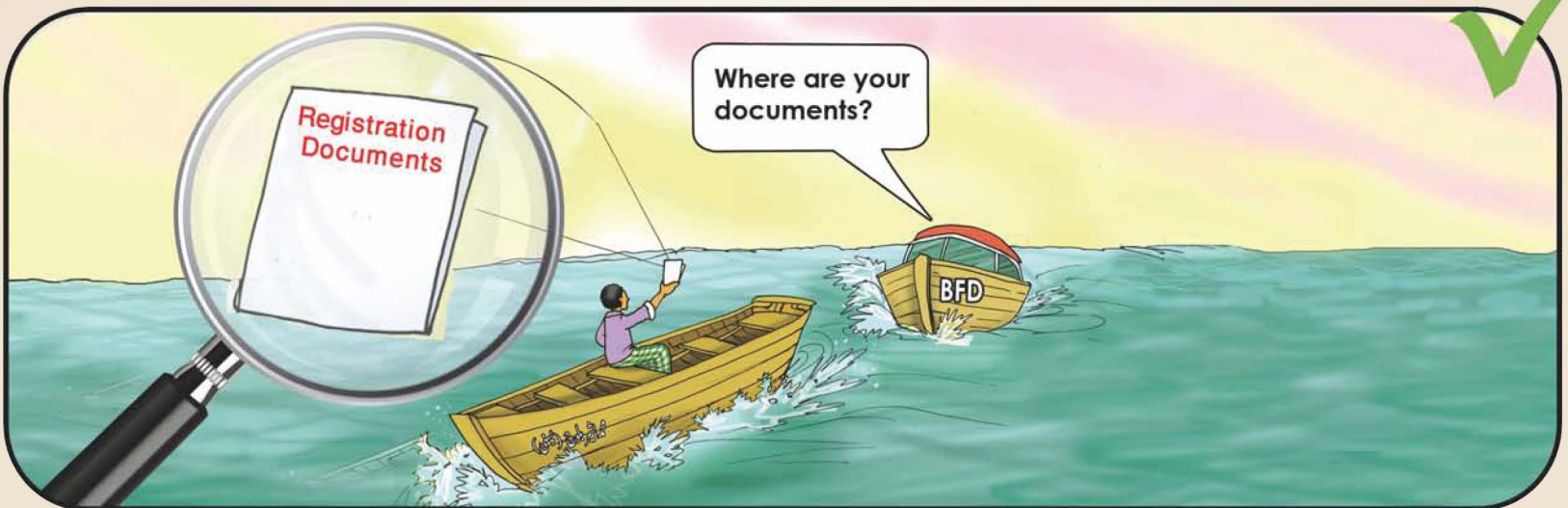


## Section 1

# Essential Requirements for Small Fishing Boats/Vessels



**The name and license number of the owner should be clearly visible on the side of the vessel.**



**The owners of the vessel must get their boats registered and should carry the documents on-board, during fishing.**

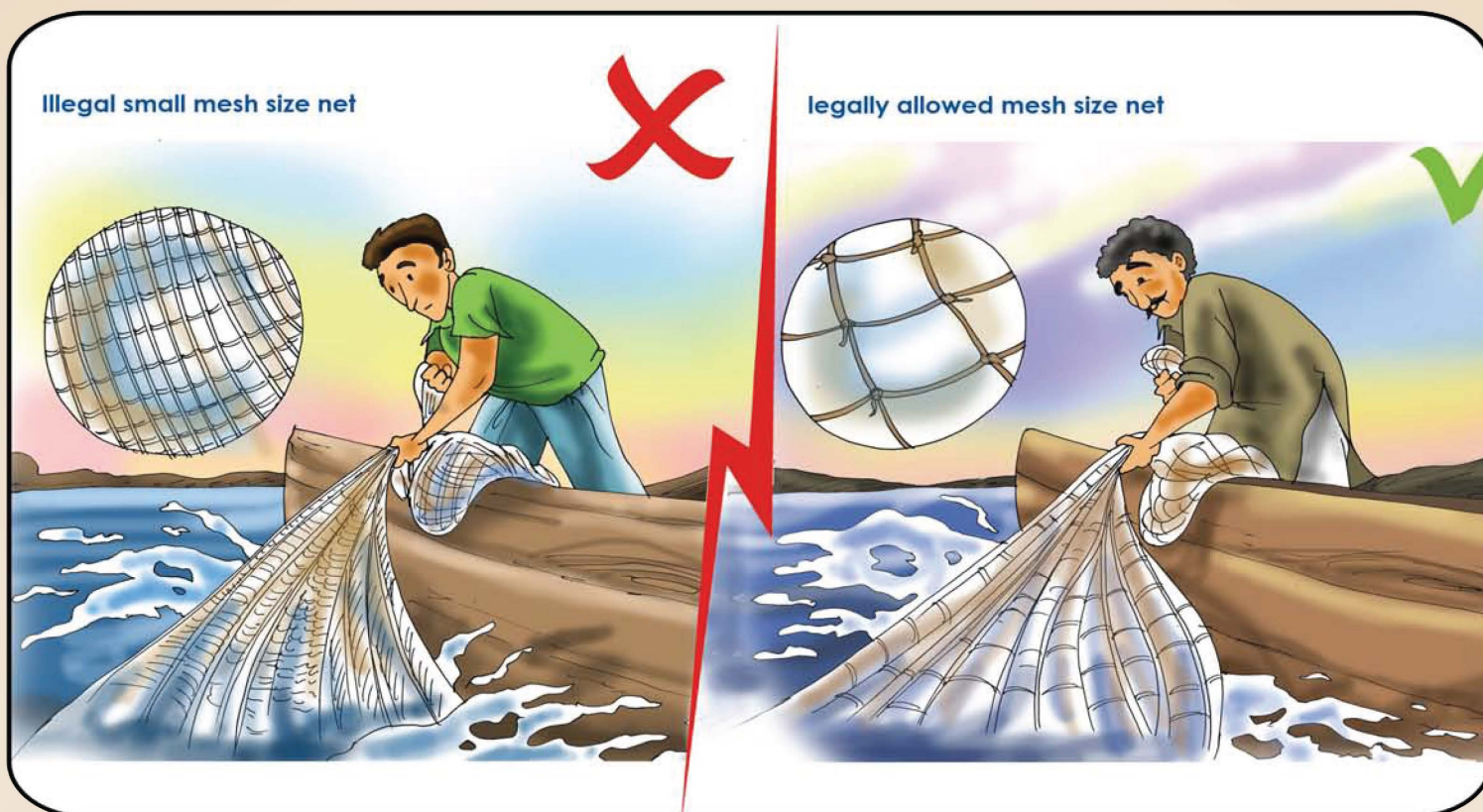


**There should be a proper sanitation system and a separate area for washing hands on small boats where design and space permits.**

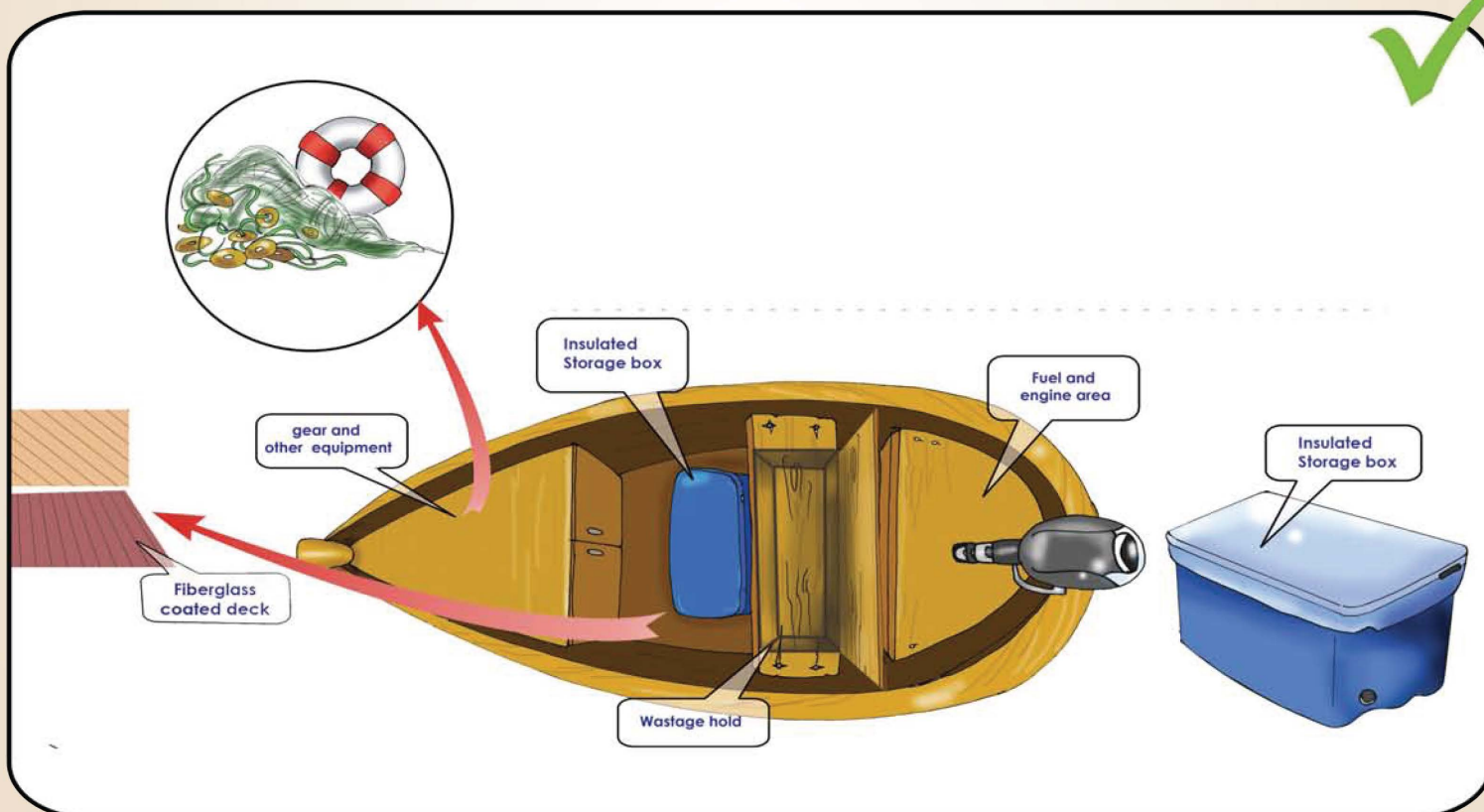




# Essential Requirements for Small Fishing Boats/Vessels



**Fishermen should not use any sort of illegal fishing net**



**Fishermen must take steps to ensure that the catch is properly looked after. The boat should be upgraded to a new design having separate compartments for various functions.**





# Essential Requirements for Small Fishing Boats/Vessels



Walkie Talkie

/Mobile



First-Aid



Buoy



Fire Extinguisher



Tool Kit



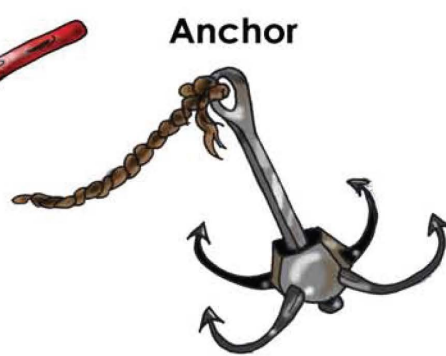
Flashlight



Life Jacket



Oar



Anchor



Bamboo pole

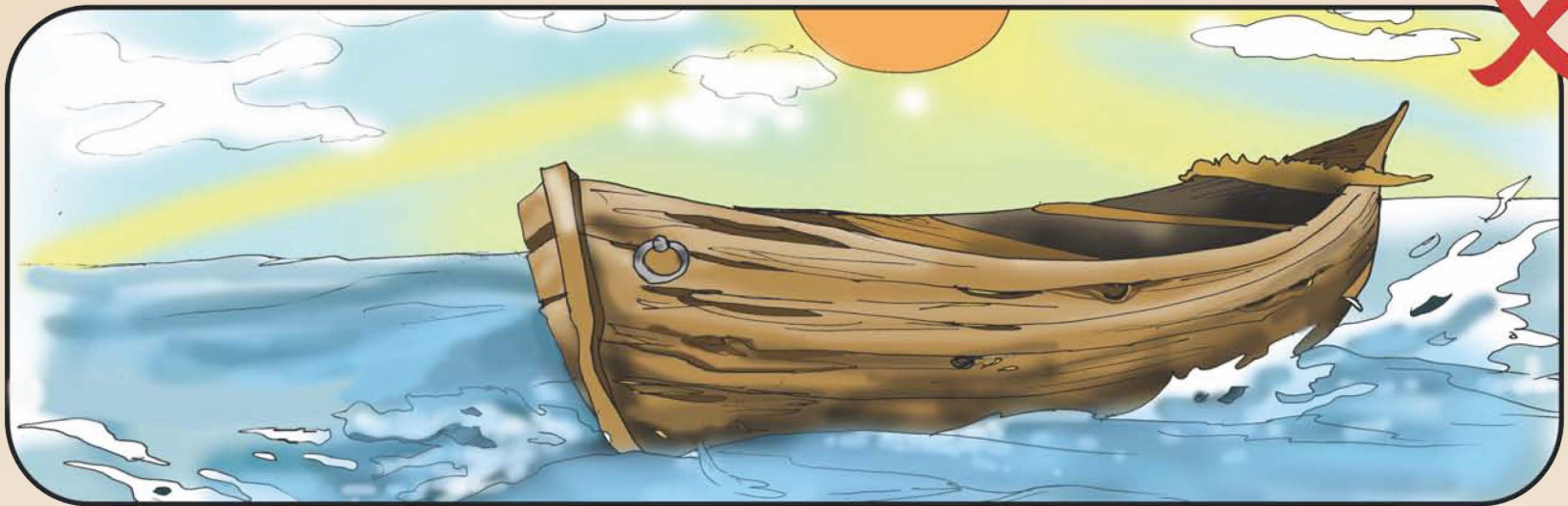
**Communication and safety equipment/gadgets should be available on the vessel at all times.**





Section 2

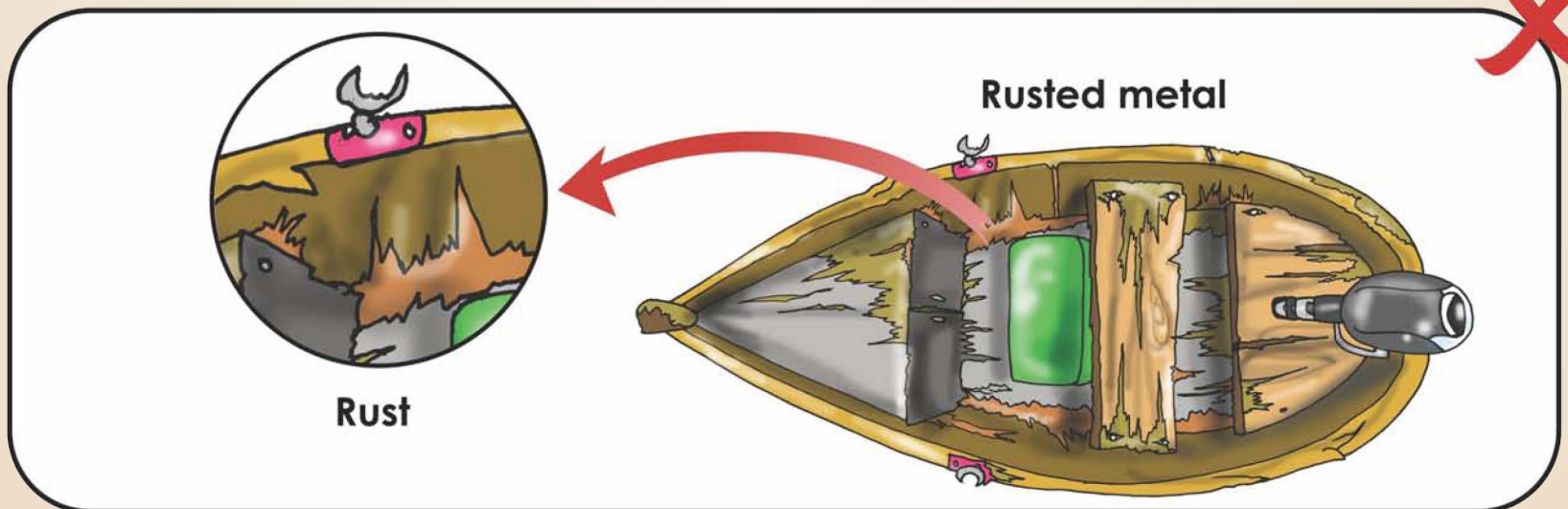
# Requisites for Boat Design and Structure in Order to Prevent Fish Contamination and Boat Damage



**The vessel should be strong and durable**



**Areas with fuel and oil should be well sealed and separately stored to prevent fish contamination.**



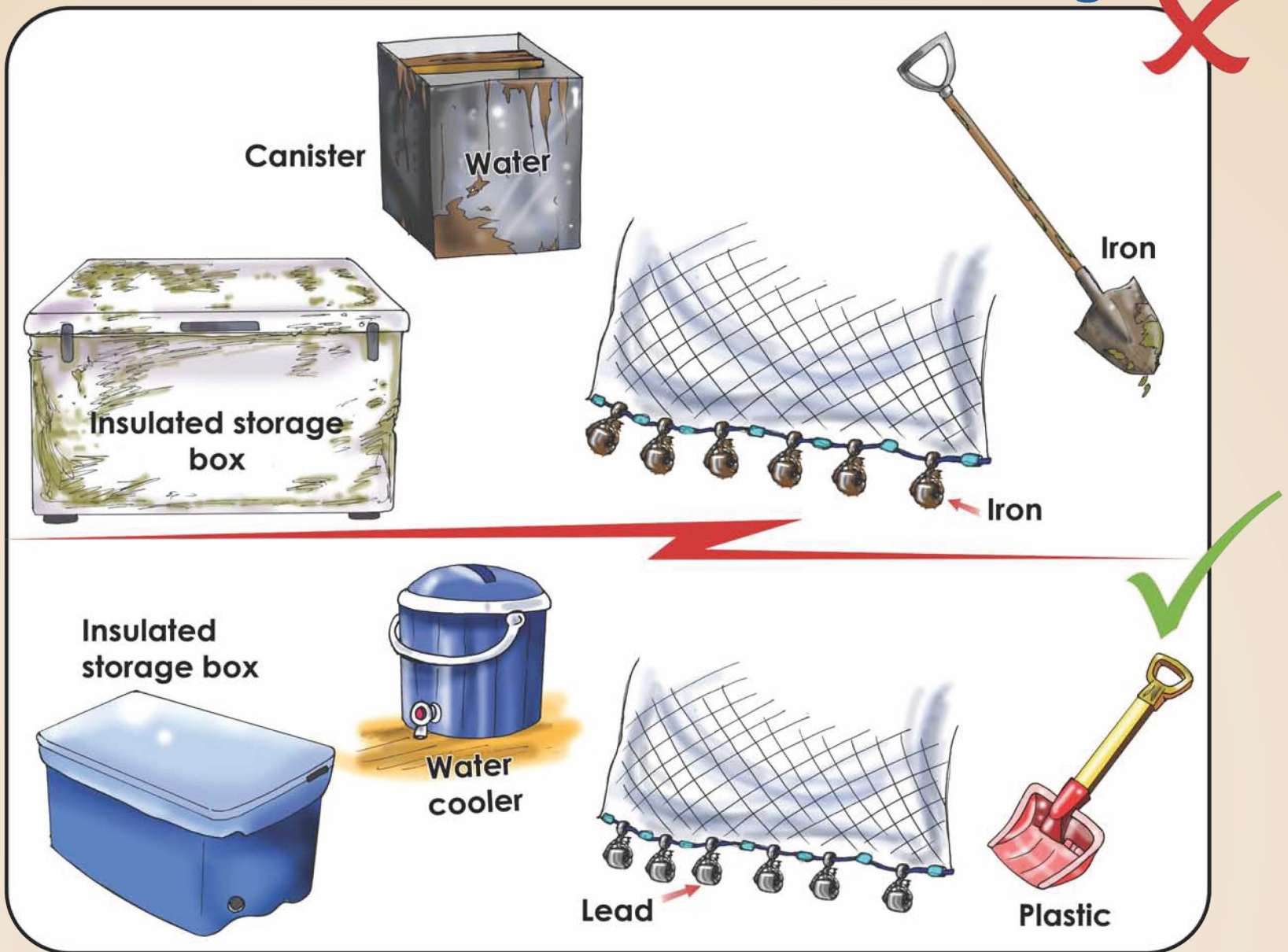
**The vessel should be well maintained with no rough, damaged or rusted surfaces, which may cause contamination.**





Section 2 (continued...)

# Requisites for Boat Design and Structure in Order to Prevent Fish Contamination and Boat Damage



**Equipment and material such as shovel, net, fish hold and water container should be made from corrosion resistant material that is easy to clean and disinfect.**



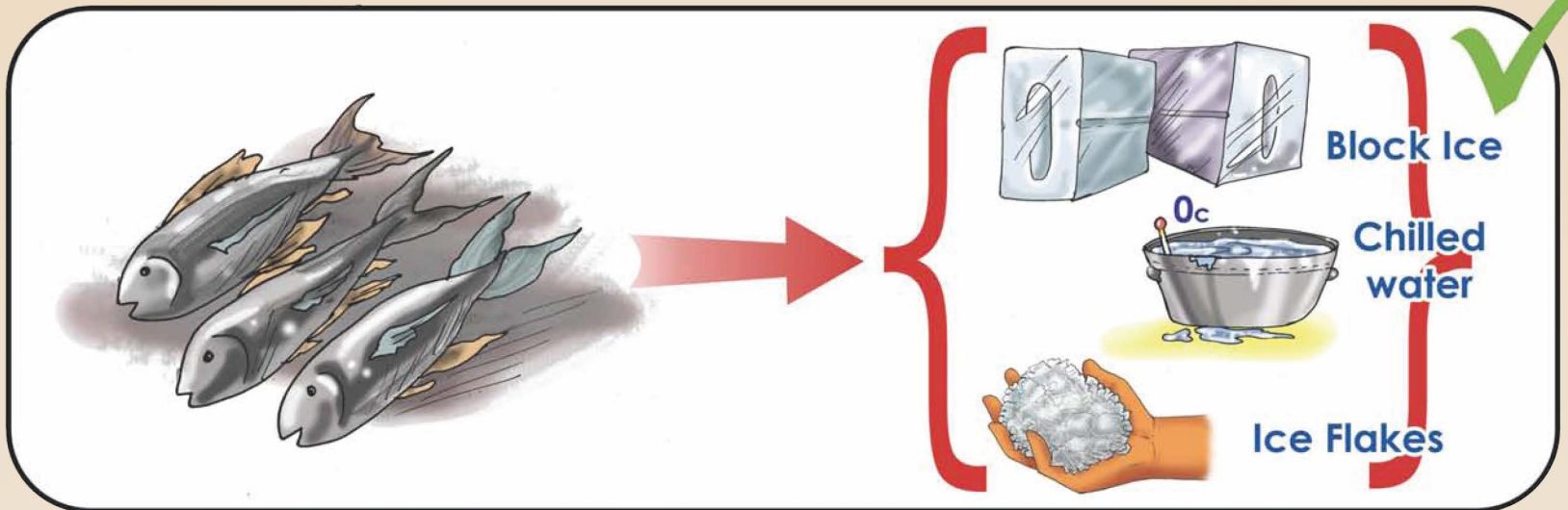
**Smoking, chewing of tobacco, eating beetle leaf and spitting should be avoided on-board, especially while handling fish.**



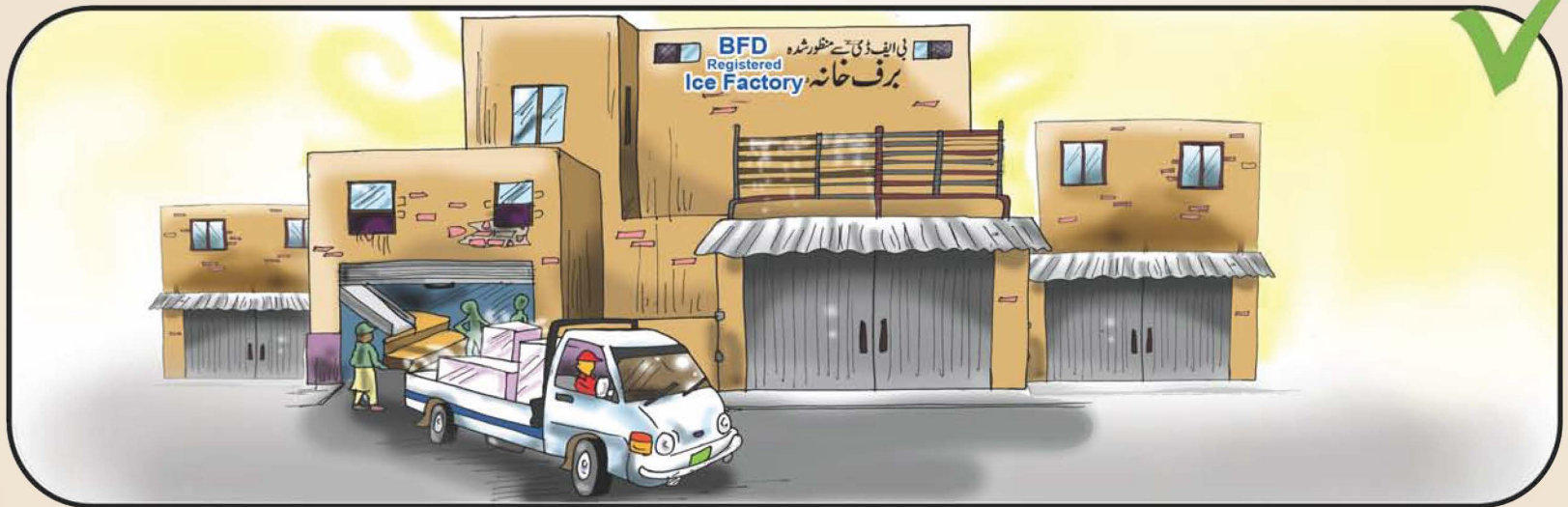


## Section 3

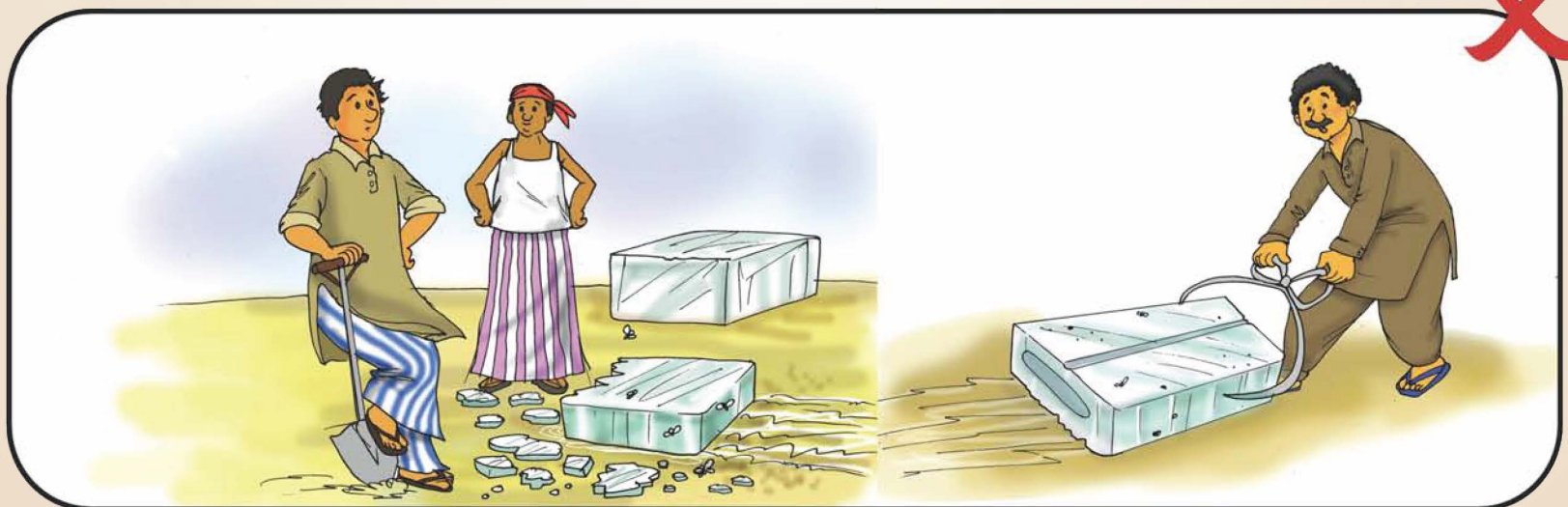
# Use of Clean Ice and Preventing Ice Wastage



Chilling can be done through block ice, chilled sea water (temp 0°C) and ice flakes.



Fishermen should buy ice from a reliable source.



Ice should be made from clean potable water and must not be crushed with dirty shovels or dragged on dirty floors.

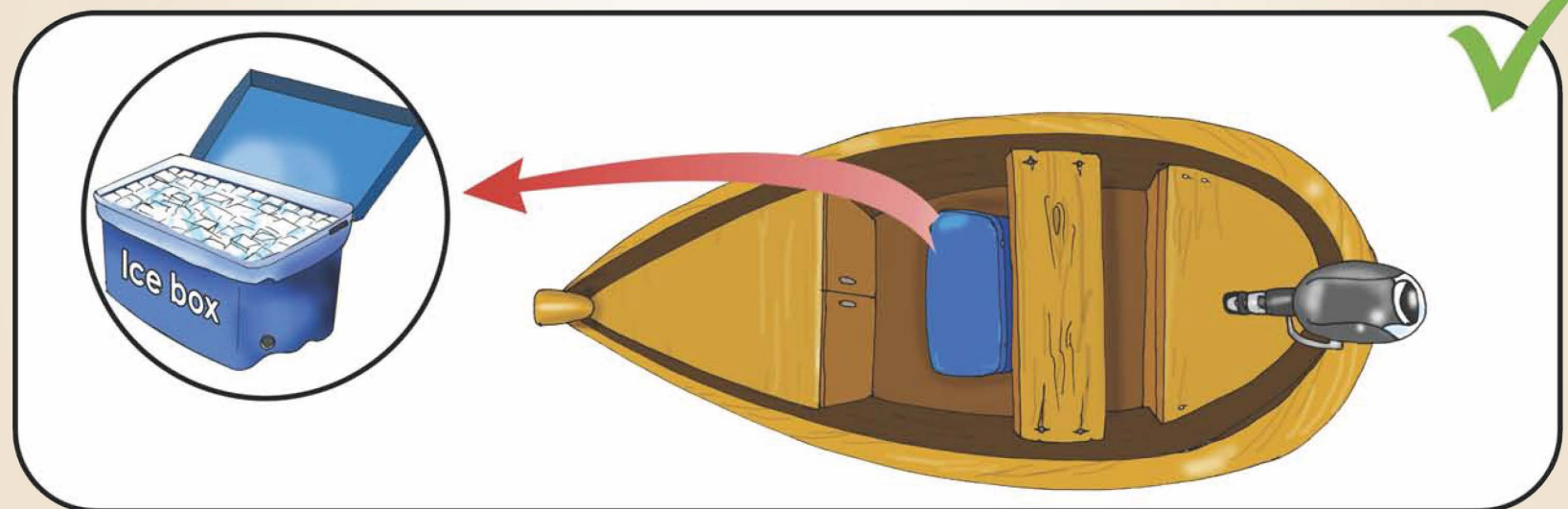




## Use of Clean Ice and Preventing Ice Wastage



**Ice crushing machine should be used to crush the ice.**



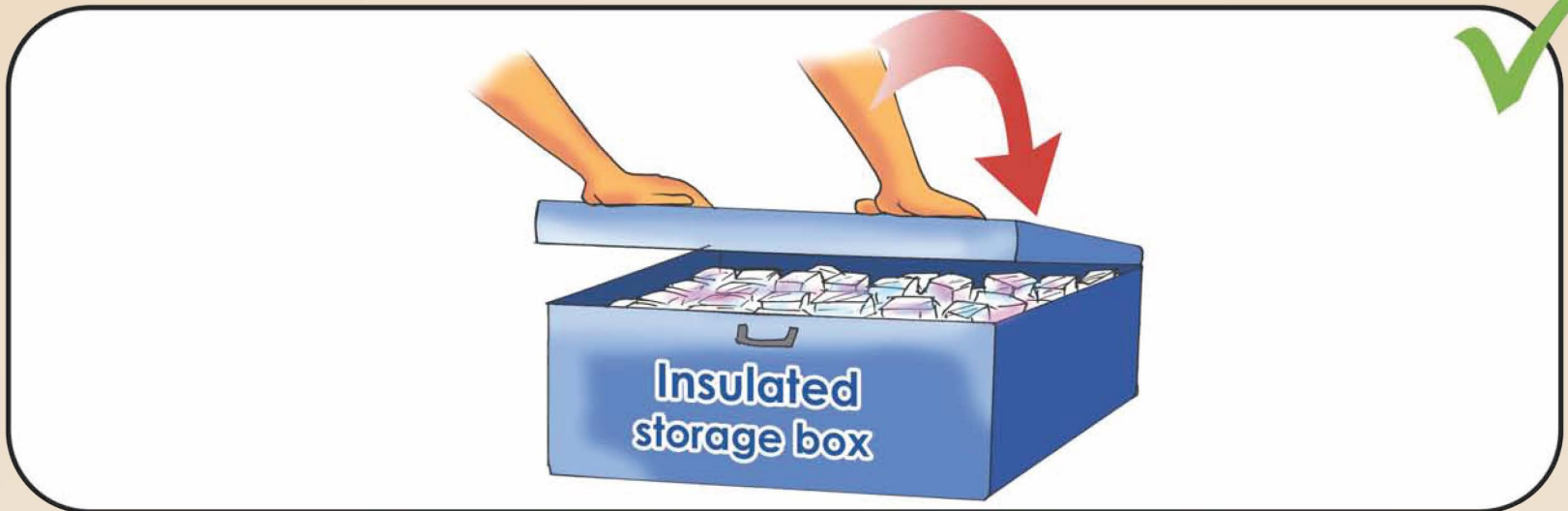
**Ice should be stored in covered insulated containers.**



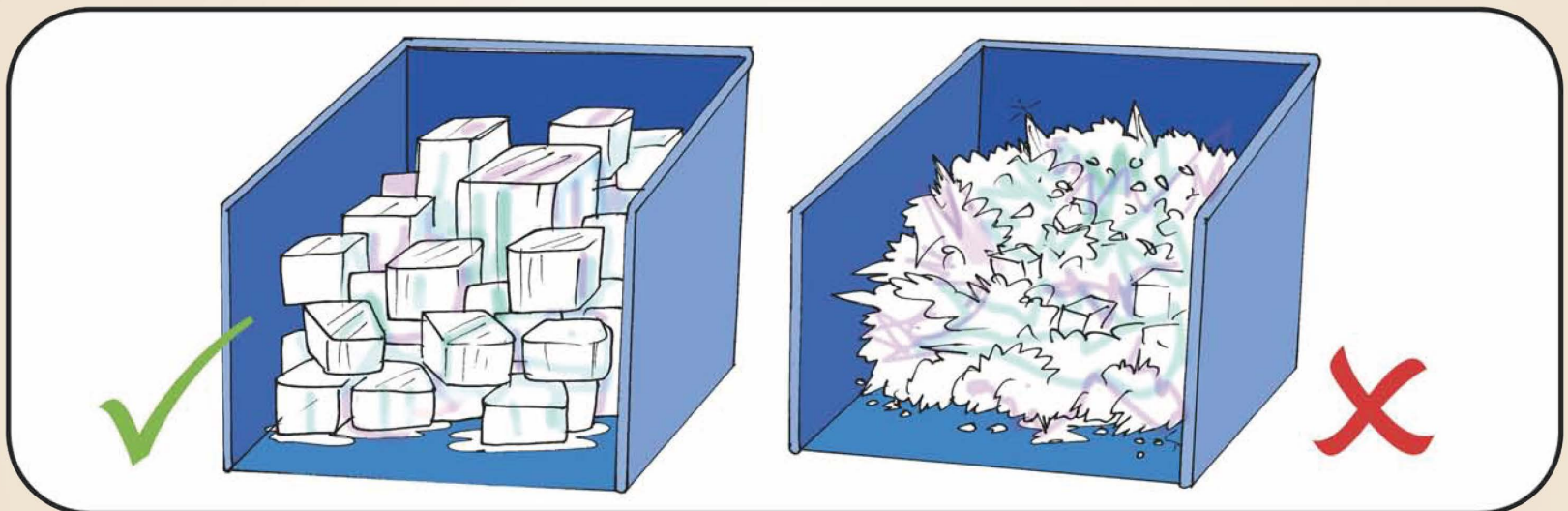


## Section 4

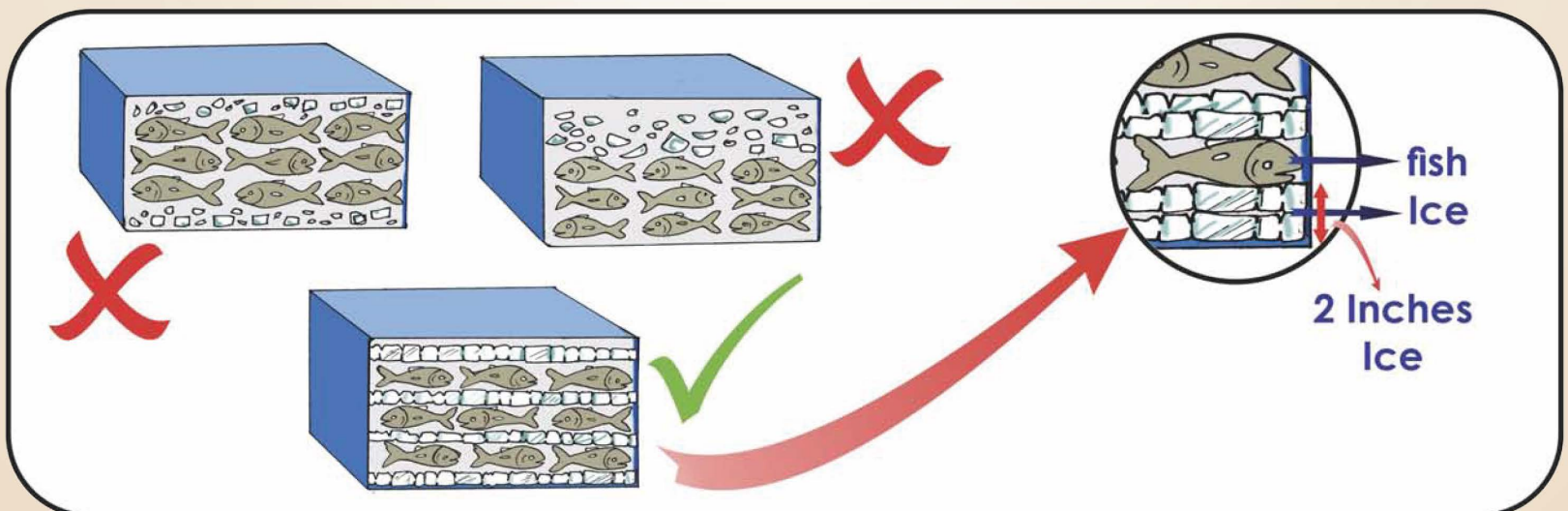
# Proper Techniques of Icing Fish on Small Boats



**When ice is stored in a container, lid should be put on top immediately after use.**



**Ice should be properly crushed and should not have sharp edges that can harm the fish.**



**Proper methods of icing should be used for storage of the fish.  
Cover each layer of fish with at least two inches of ice.**

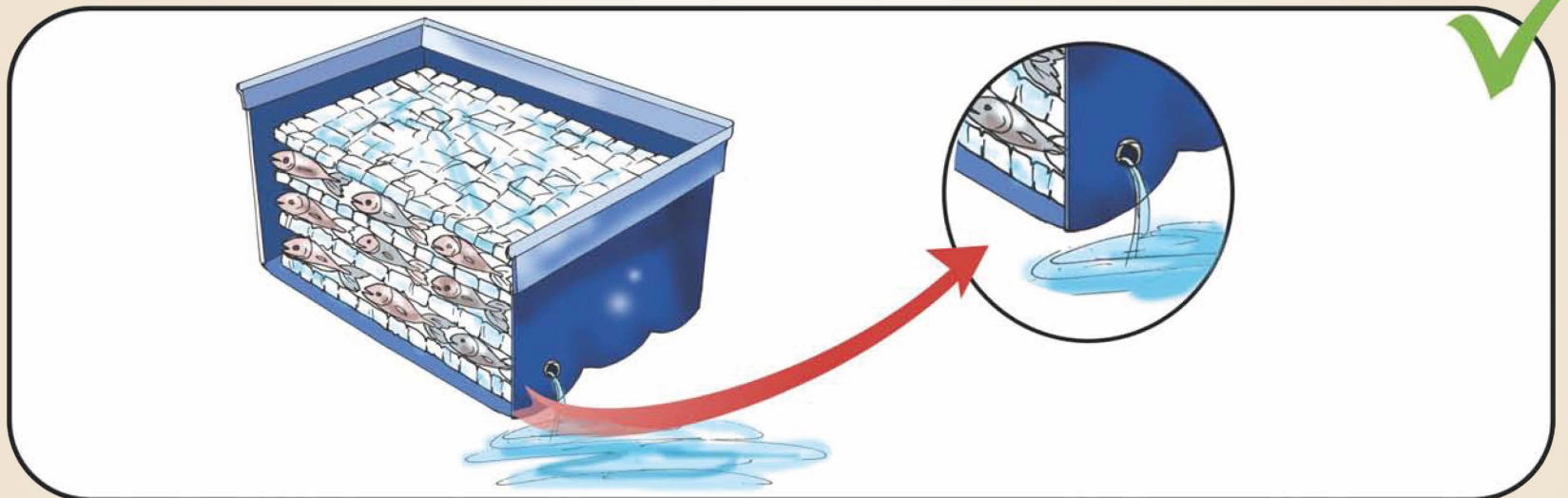




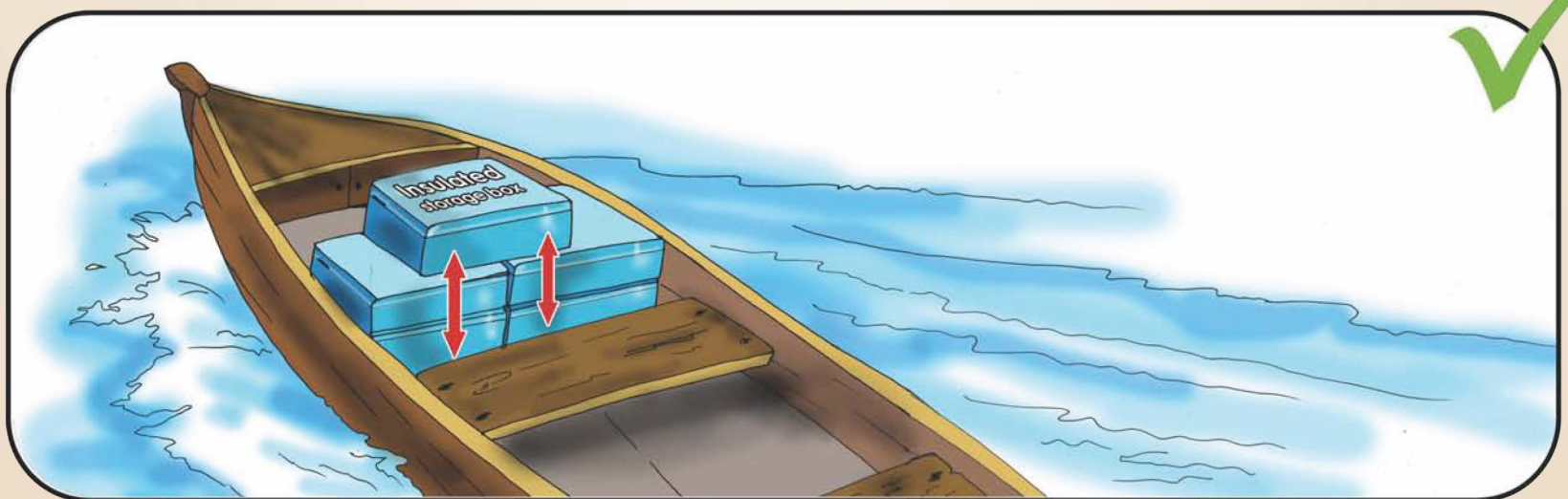
## Proper Techniques of Icing Fish on Small Boats



**There should not be any head or body part of the fish sticking out of the ice.**



**Insulated containers must have a proper drainage system.  
Melt water should be allowed to properly drain out of the container.**



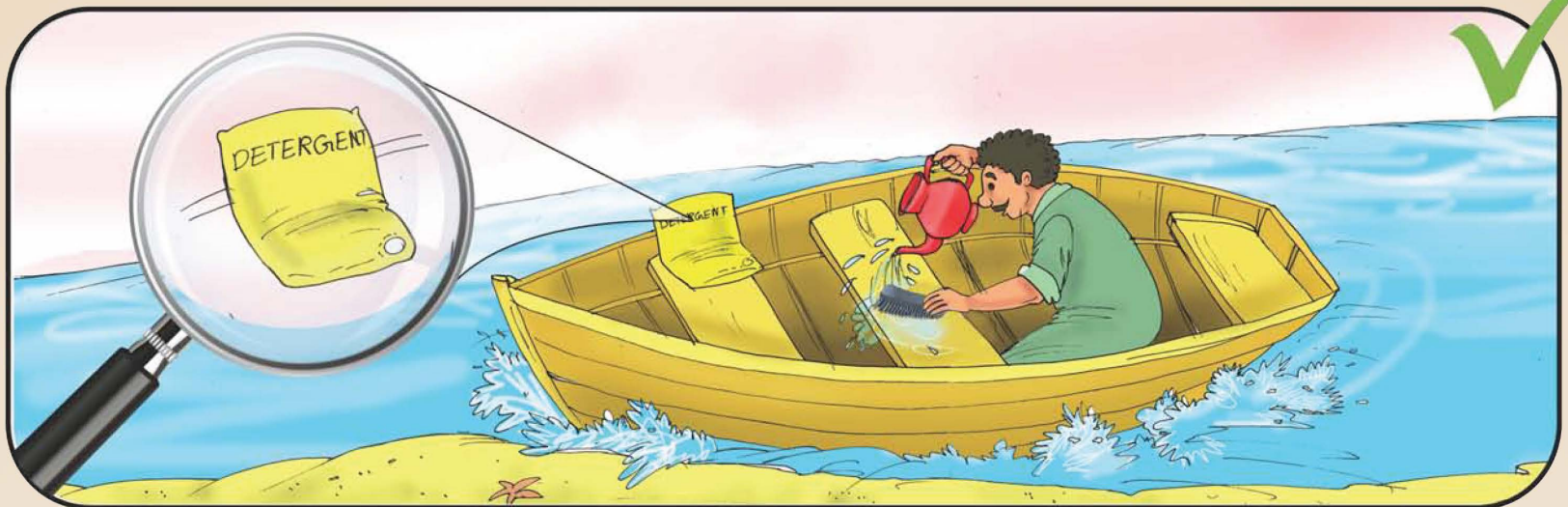
**Ice boxes should be properly stacked on the vessel.**



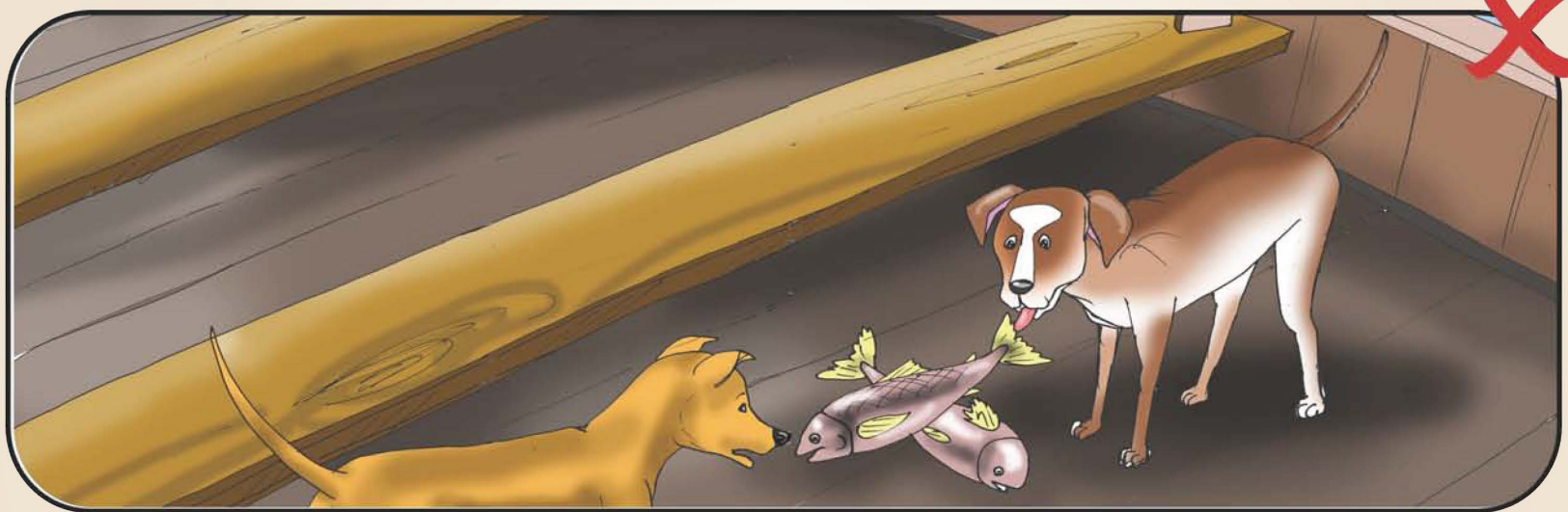


## Section 5

# Good Hygiene Practices On-Board



**The vessel should be washed regularly with clean sea water using detergent.**



**Animals must be kept physically away from the vessel and fish.**

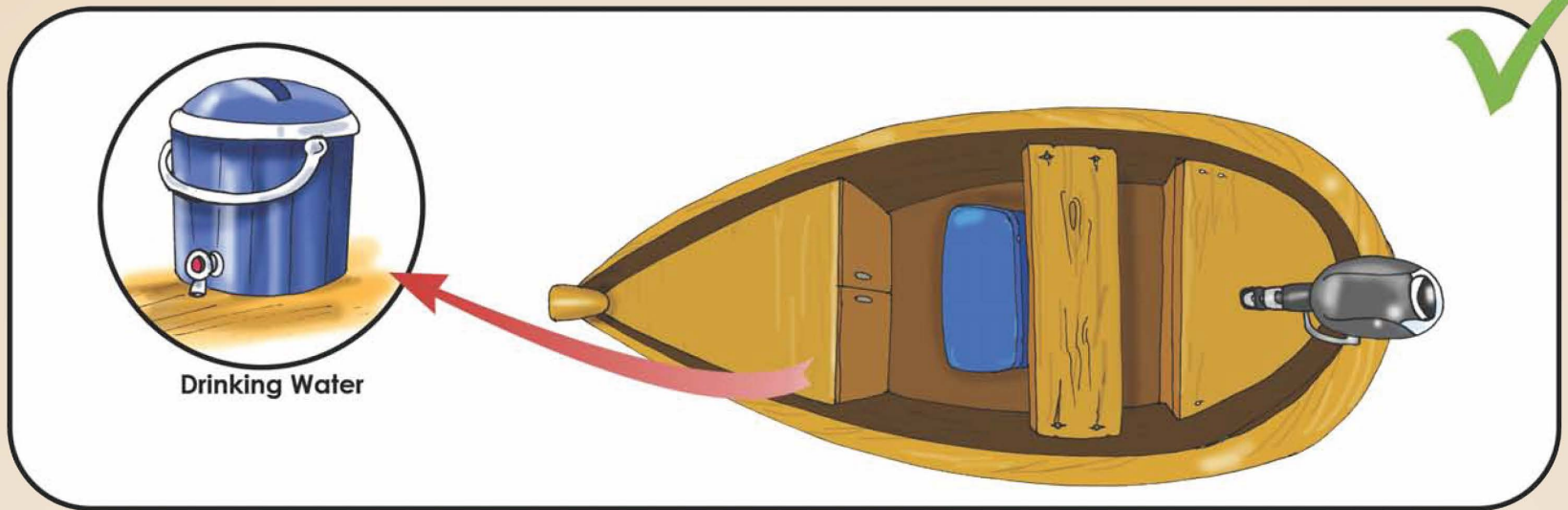


**Fishermen should wash hands with clean water and an odorless soap/hand cleaner should be available on the vessel at all times.**





## Good Hygiene Practices On-Board



**The drinking water should be clean and stored in a separate place on the vessel.**

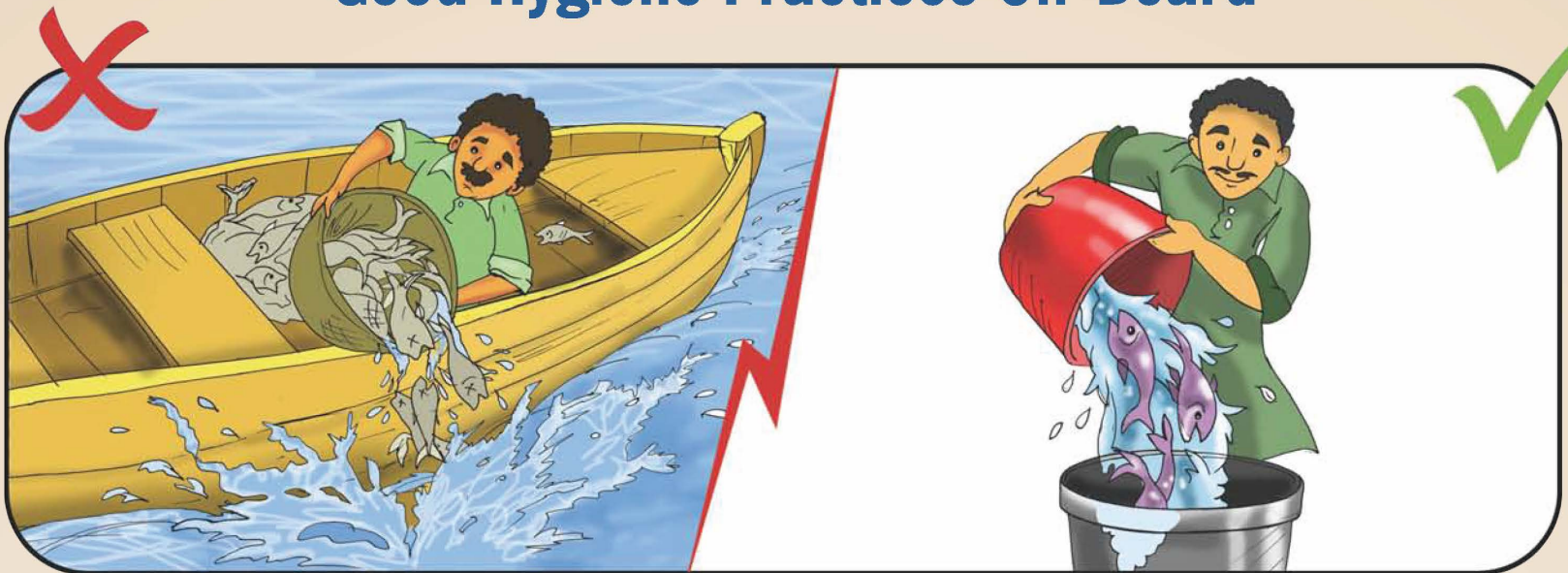


**Fishermen should wear clean clothes and avoid wearing any accessories that may harm the fish.**

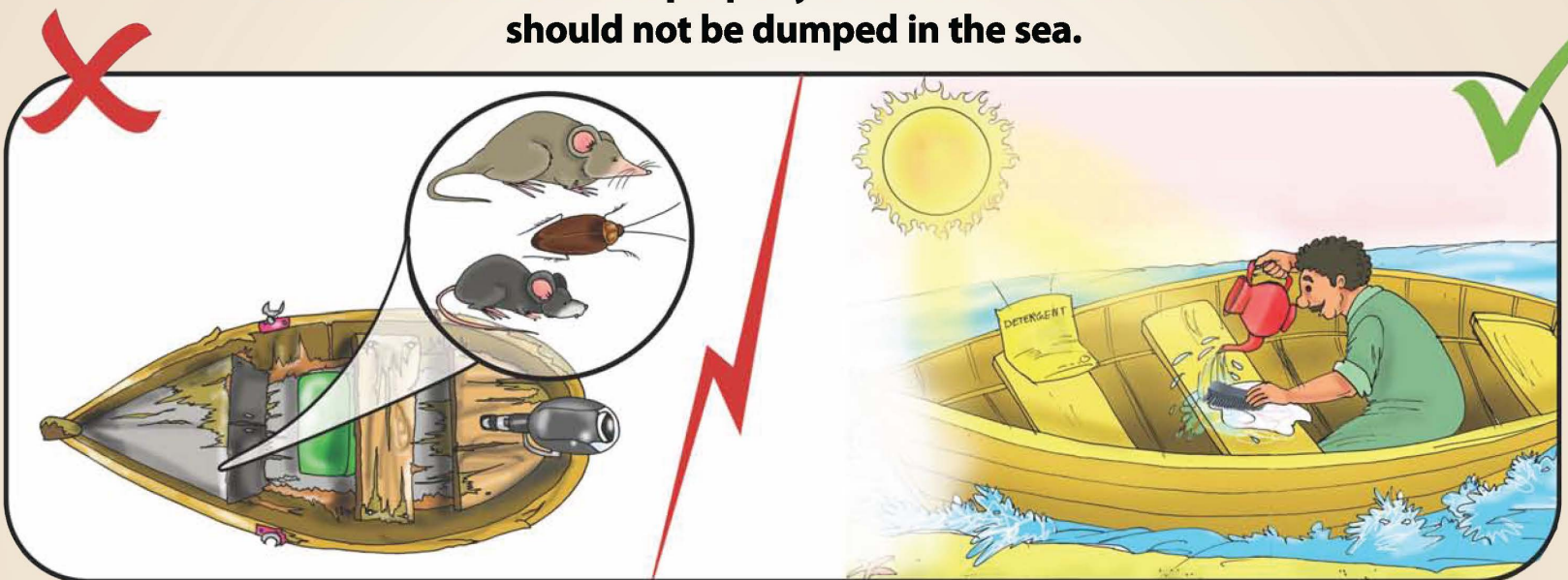




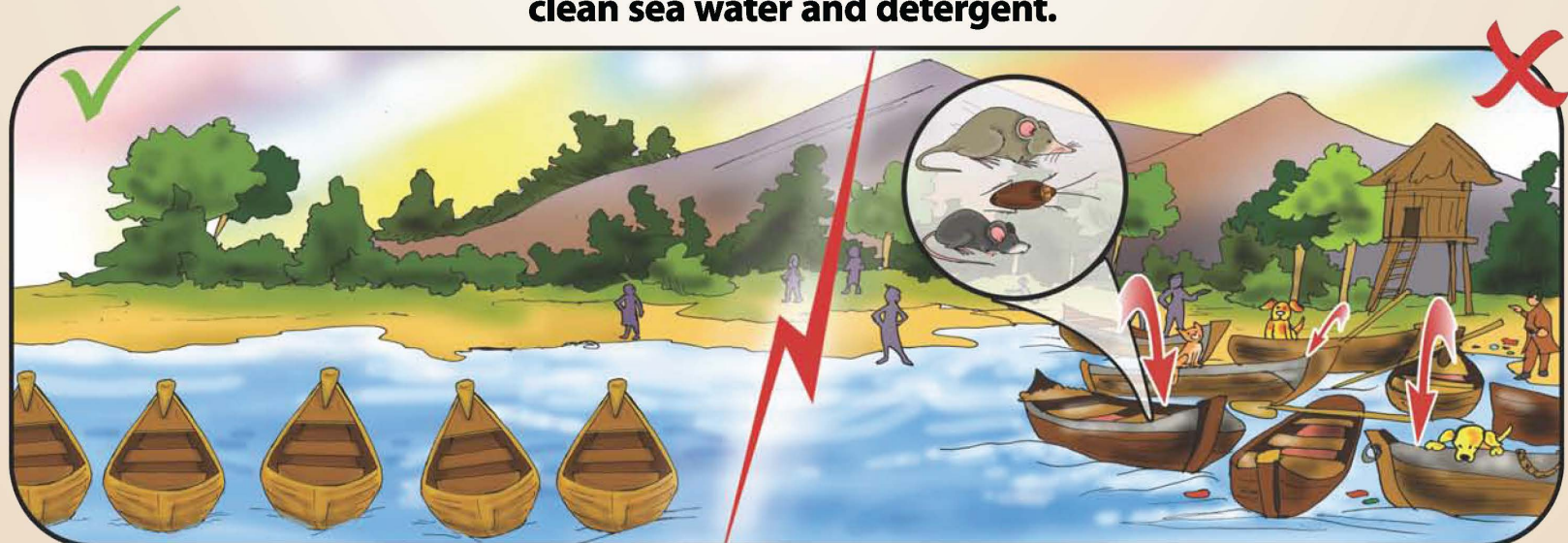
## Good Hygiene Practices On-Board



**All waste fish should be properly discarded from the vessel and should not be dumped in the sea.**



**All areas on the boat should be cleaned after use with clean sea water and detergent.**



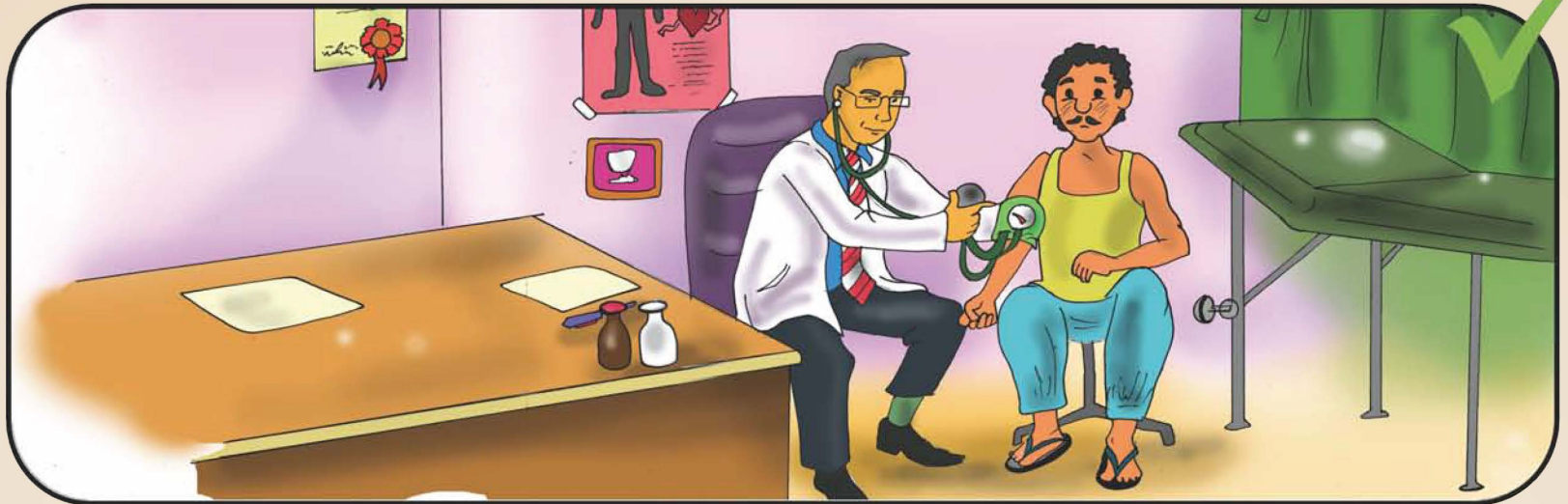
**Crowding of the boats should be avoided in order to control pest transfer from one boat to another.**



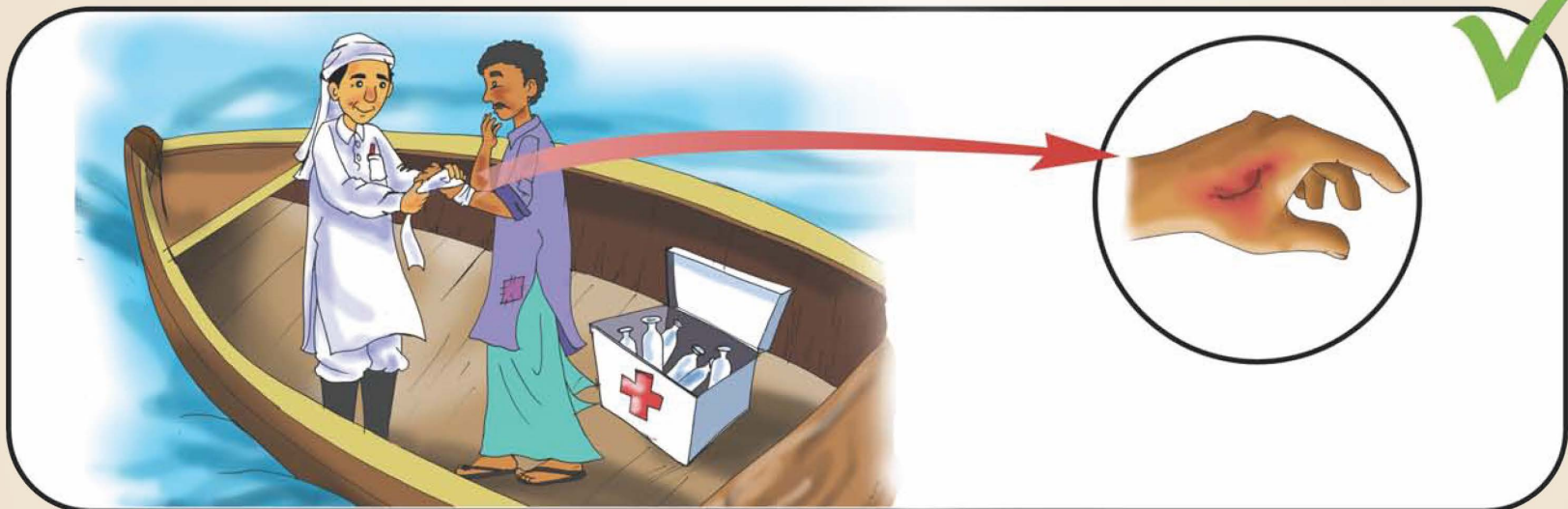


## Section 6

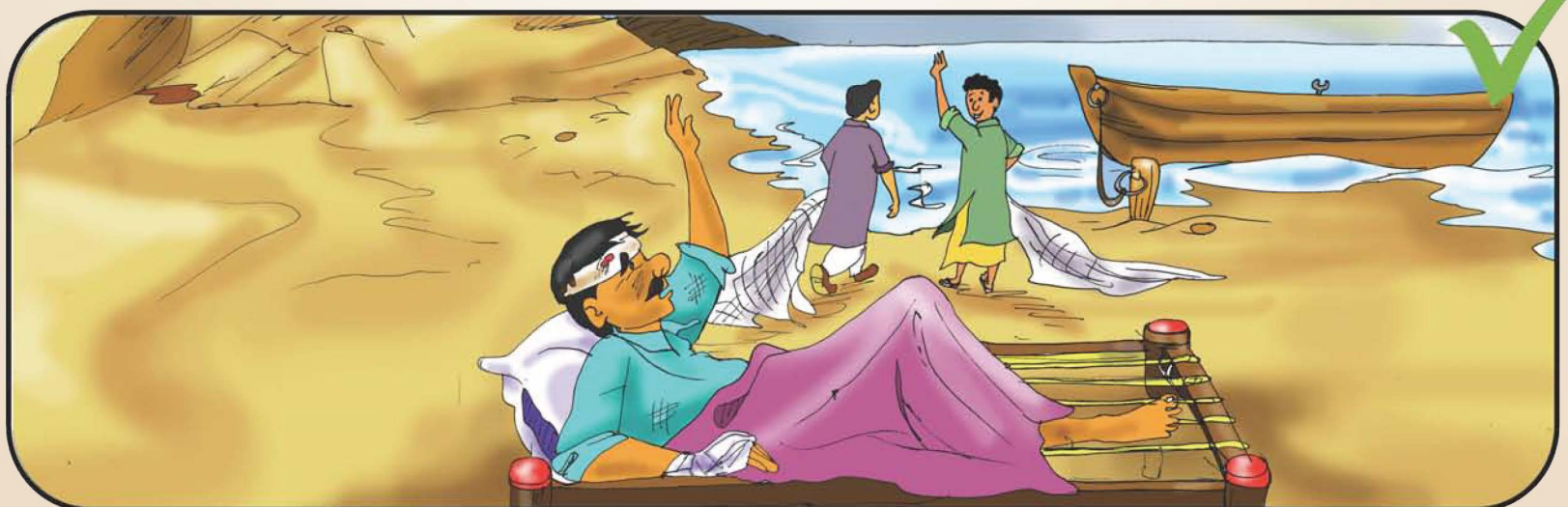
# Good Health Care for Fishermen and Other Crew Members on the Boat



**The fishermen and other crew members should receive a regular health check.**



**Someone in the crew on-board should be trained in providing First Aid.**



**Any fisherman suffering from illness must avoid accompanying the crew.**

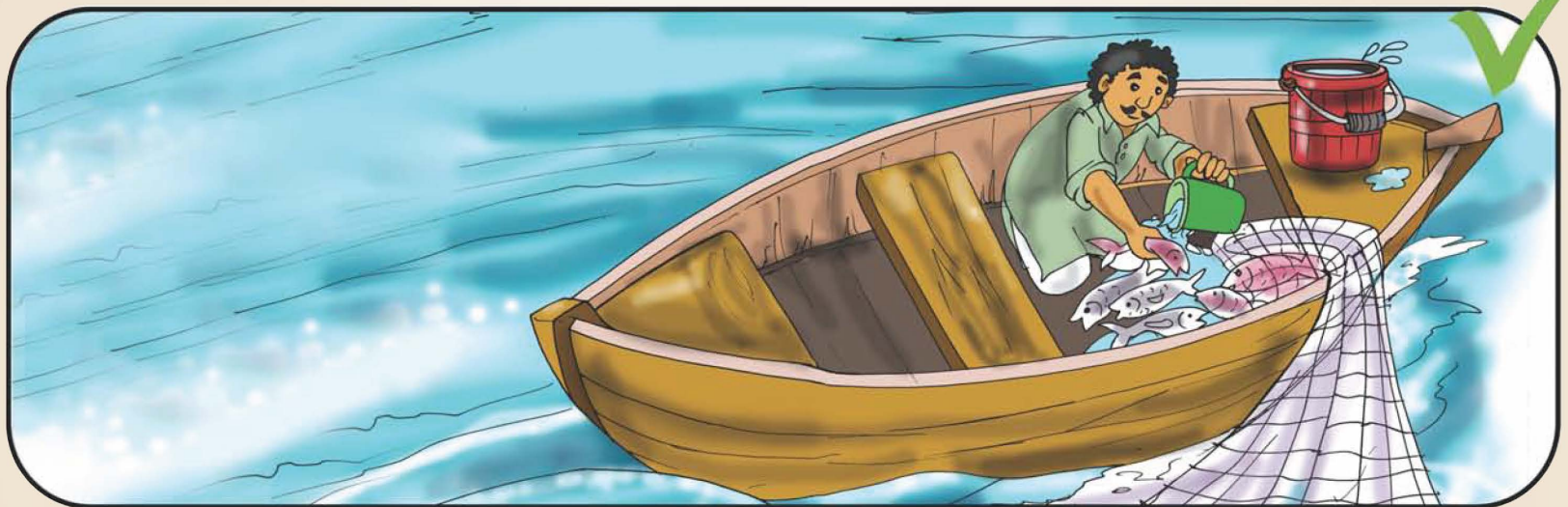




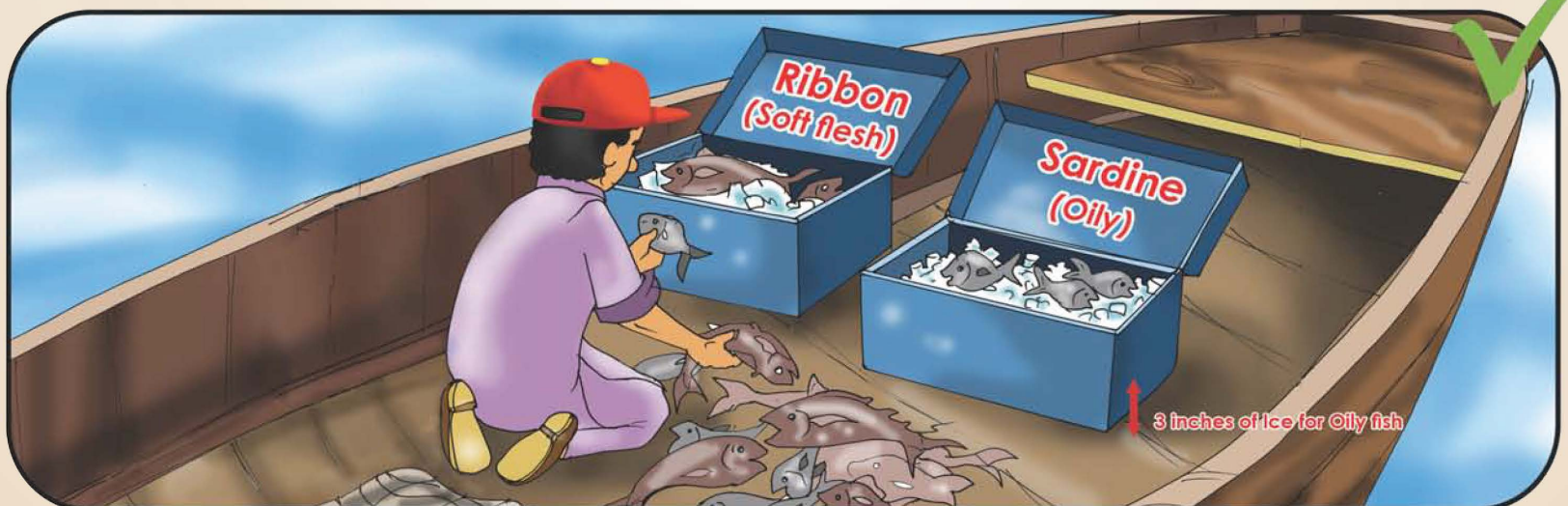
## Sorting and Grading of Fish On-Board



**The Fish hold should be washed with clean sea water before loading and after unloading the fish.**



**Fish should be washed immediately with clean sea water as soon as it is brought on-board.**



**For the purpose of sorting out the fish, different methods of icing should be used for oily (sardines) and soft flesh (ribbon) fish respectively.**

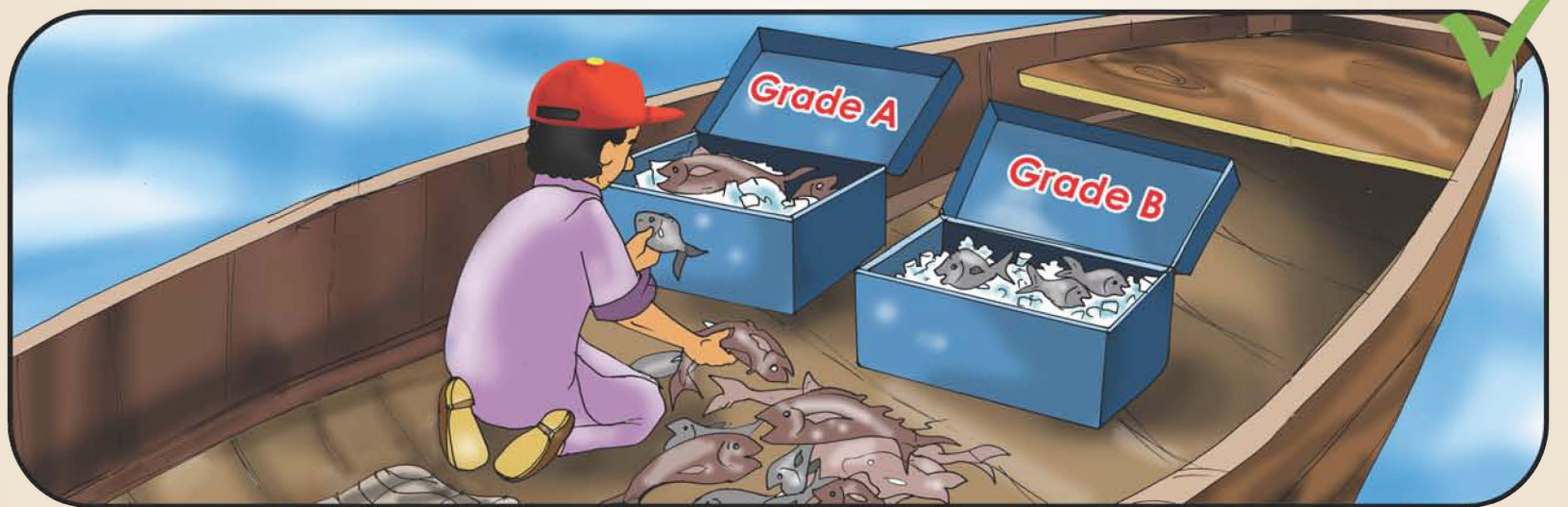




## Sorting and Grading of Fish On-Board



**Improper fish handling and storage cause revenue loss.**



**Fish should be stored in different compartments on-board according to its grading type and freshness.**




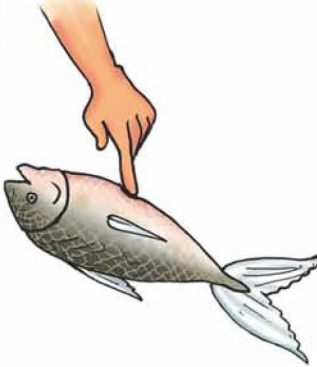




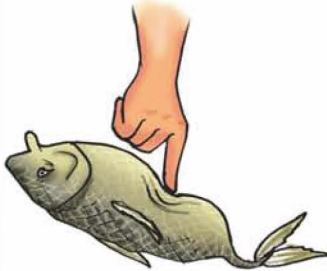
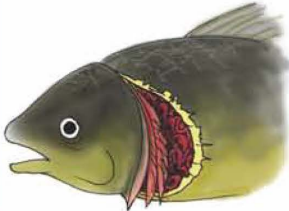


**Avoid overloading.**





## Sorting and Grading of Fish On-Board

Good	Smell	Appearance	Texture	Gills	
					
Bad					

Grading should also be done according to the smell, appearance and touch of the fish.





### Four Types of Fish Grades

<b>Grade E</b> EXCELLENT	<b>Grade A</b> GOOD	<b>Grade B</b> ACCEPTABLE	<b>Grade U</b> UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION
-----------------------------	------------------------	------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------

### Freshness Criterion Appearance

Skin & Mucus  
Eyes  
Gills & Mucus





### SKIN & MUCUS

<p><b>Grade E</b></p> <p><b>Skin:</b> Shiny Bright and in full Bloom</p> <p><b>Mucus:</b> Transparent or Water White</p>	<p><b>Grade A</b></p> <p><b>Skin:</b> Slight Dullness and loss of bloom</p> <p><b>Mucus:</b> Milky and Slightly Brown</p>	<p><b>Grade B</b></p> <p><b>Skin:</b> Definite Dullness and Lose of Bloom</p> <p><b>Mucus:</b> Brown</p>	<p><b>Grade U</b></p> <p><b>Skin:</b> Completely Dull, Faded and DeColourized</p> <p><b>Mucus:</b> Very Slimy and Dark Brown</p>
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### EYES

<p><b>Grade E</b></p> <p>Convex, Clear and Translucent Cornea</p>	<p><b>Grade A</b></p> <p>Flat, Dull and Slightly Opaque Cornea</p>	<p><b>Grade B</b></p> <p>Slightly Concave and Opaque Cornea</p>	<p><b>Grade U</b></p> <p>Fully Sunken Opaque Eyes</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------

### GILLS & MUCUS

<p><b>Grade E</b></p> <p><b>Gills:</b> Bright Red Colour</p> <p><b>Mucus:</b> Translucent</p>	<p><b>Grade A</b></p> <p><b>Gills:</b> Colour Fades to Pink</p> <p><b>Mucus:</b> Slightly Opaque</p>	<p><b>Grade B</b></p> <p><b>Gills:</b> Bleached and Grey in Colour</p> <p><b>Mucus:</b> Opaque</p>	<p><b>Grade U</b></p> <p><b>Gills:</b> Fringed, Pale and Dark Grey</p> <p><b>Mucus:</b> Fully Opaque and Slimy</p>
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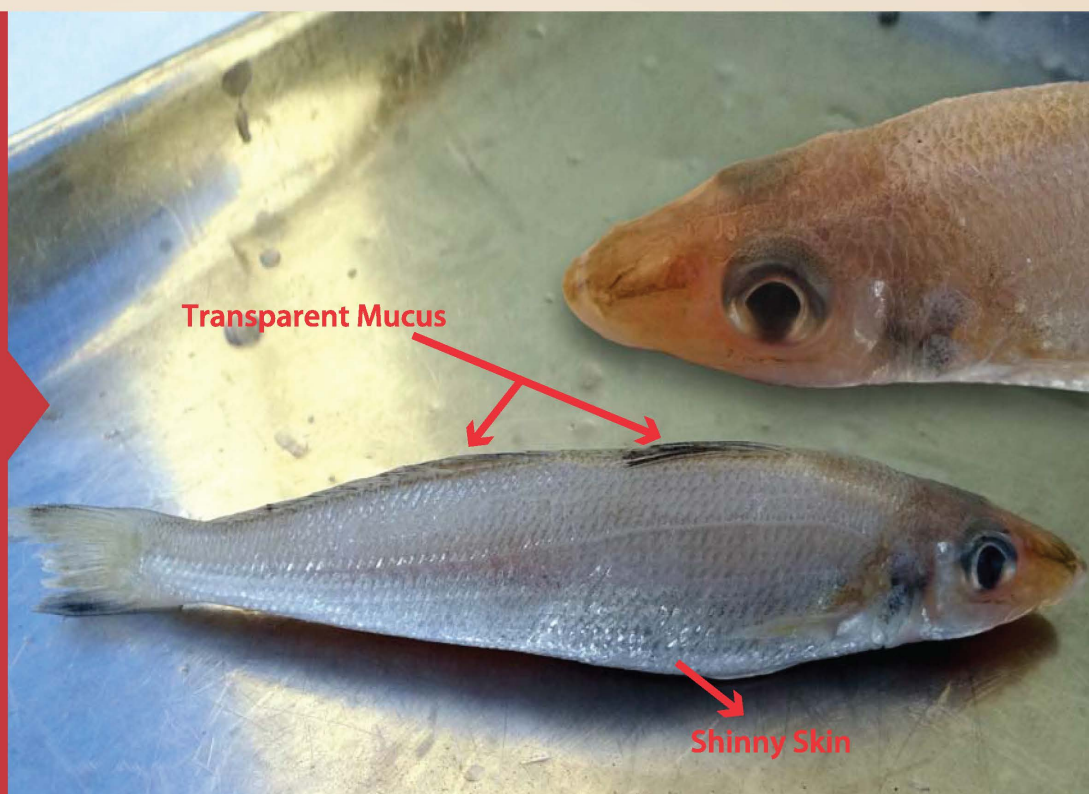


### SKIN & MUCUS

#### Grade **E**

**Skin:** Shiny Bright and in full Bloom

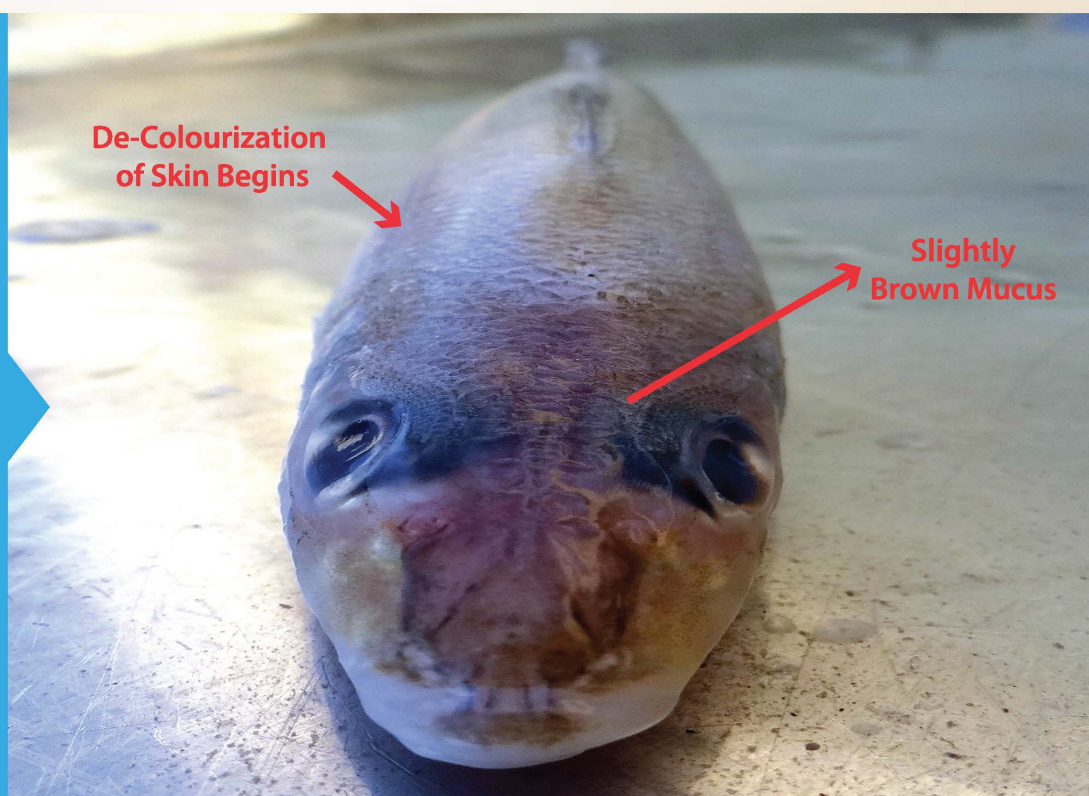
**Mucus:** Transparent or Water White



#### Grade **A**

**Skin:** Slight Dullness and loss of bloom

**Mucus:** Milky and Slightly Brown

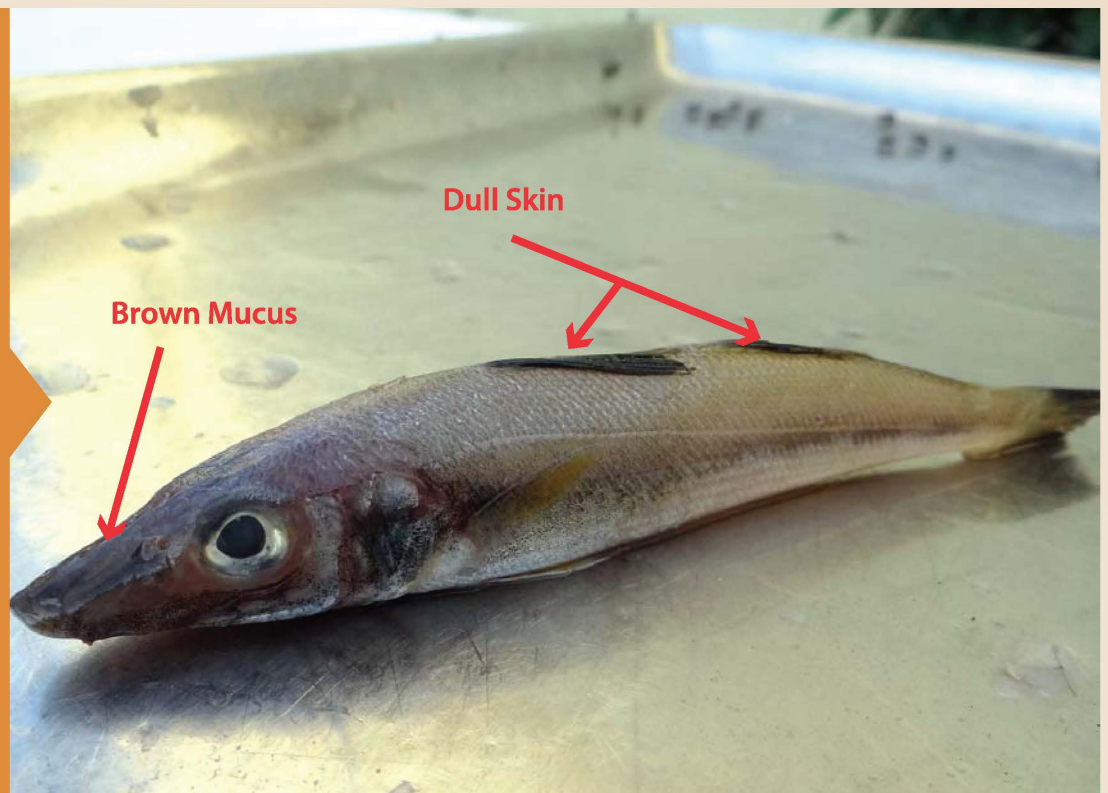




### SKIN & MUCUS

#### Grade **B**

**Skin:** Definite Dullness and Loss of Bloom  
**Mucus:** Brown



#### Grade **U**

**Skin:** Completely Dull, Faded and DeColourized  
**Mucus:** Very Slimy and Dark Brown





### EYES

#### Grade **E**

Convex, Clear and Translucent Cornea



#### Grade **A**

Flat, Dull and Slightly Opaque Cornea

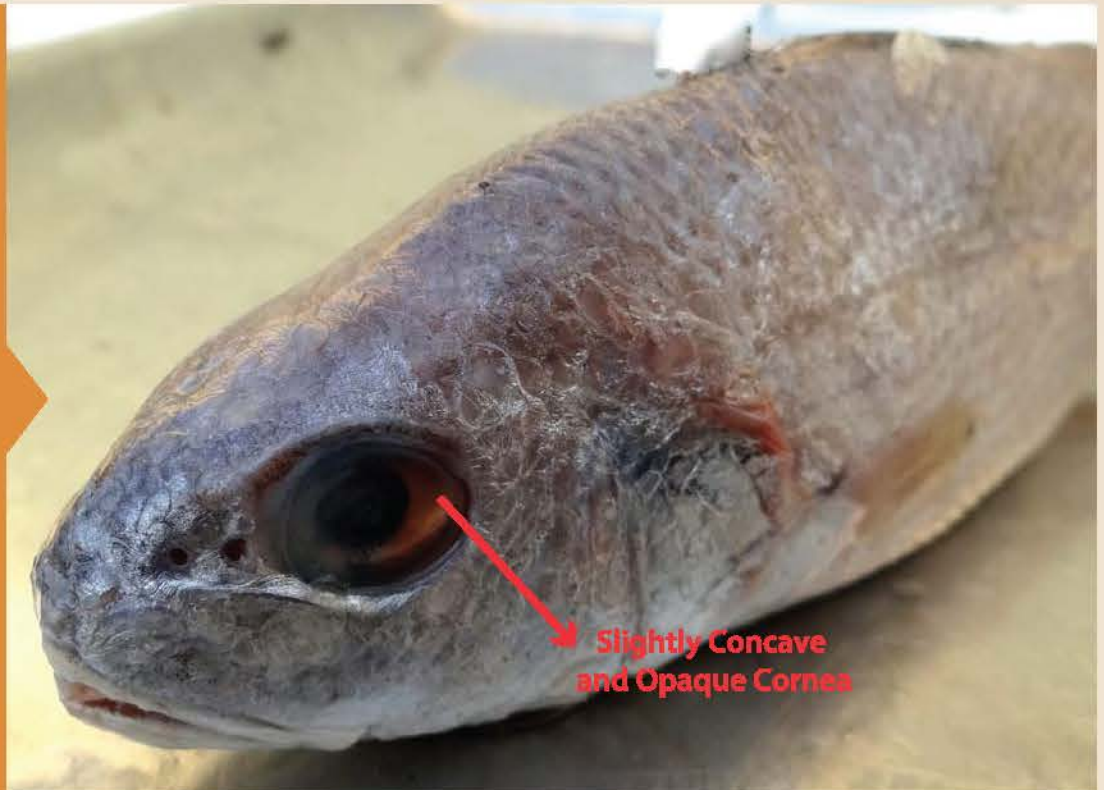




### EYES

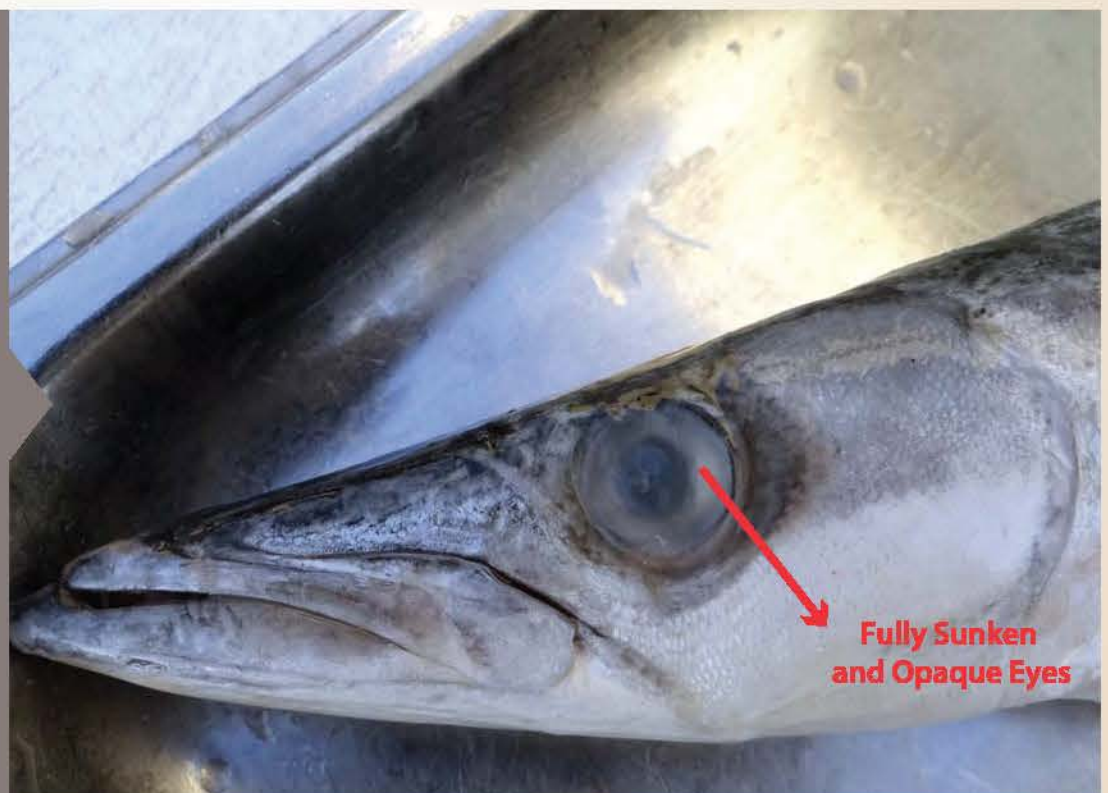
#### Grade **B**

Slightly Concave and Opaque Cornea



#### Grade **U**

Fully Sunken Opaque Eyes





# Section 7A (continued...)

## Grading of **Fish**

### GILLS & MUCUS

#### Grade **E**

**Gills:** Bright Red Colour  
**Mucus:** Translucent



#### Grade **A**

**Gills:** Colour Fades to Pink  
**Mucus:** Slightly Opaque



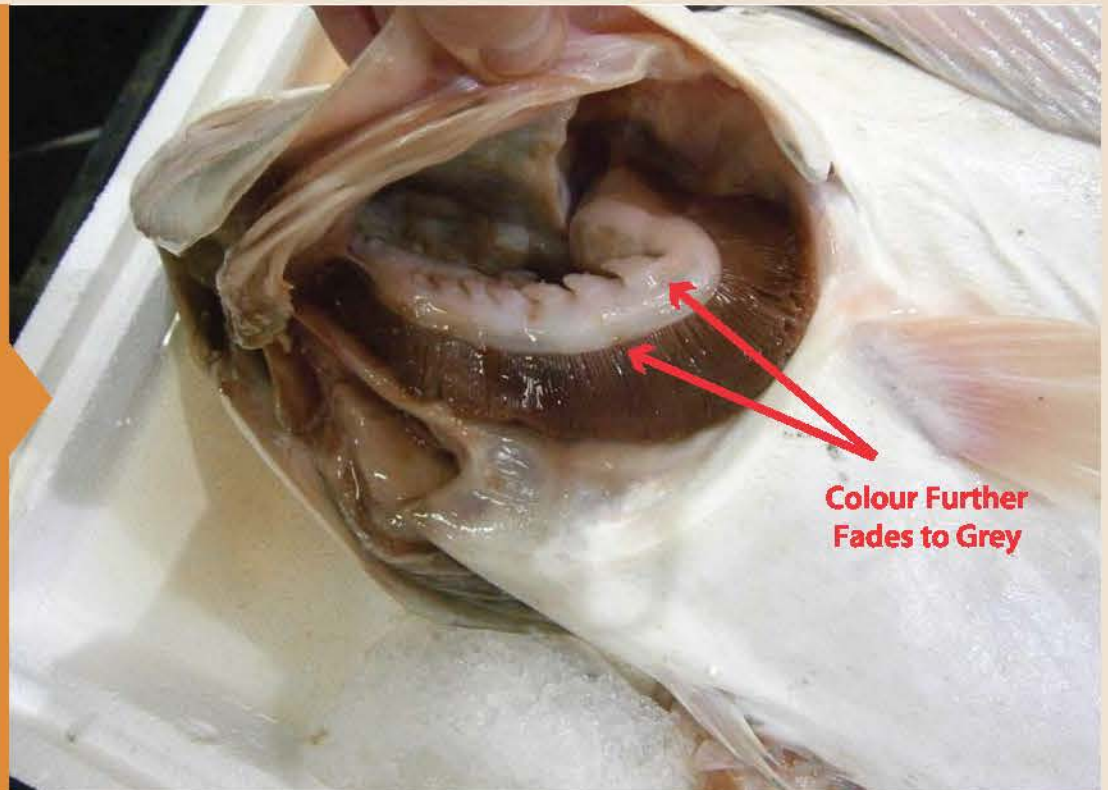


### GILLS & MUCUS

#### Grade **B**

**Gills:** Bleached and Grey in Colour

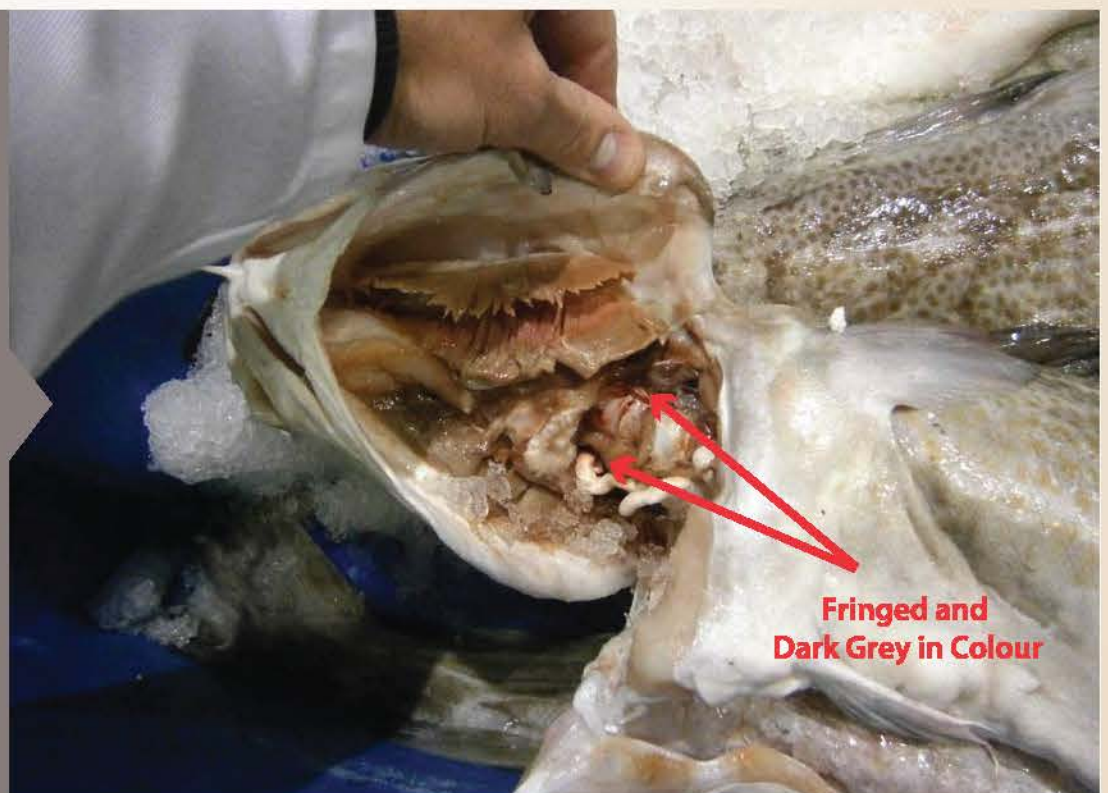
**Mucus:** Opaque



#### Grade **U**

**Gills:** Fringed, Pale and Dark Grey

**Mucus:** Fully Opaque and Slimy





### Three Types of Grades of Shrimps & Crabs

**Grade E**  
EXCELLENT

**Grade A**  
GOOD

**Grade U**  
UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

#### Freshness Criterion

Shell/Texture

Colour

Odor

Flesh

### SHRIMPS

**Grade E**  
**Shell/Texture:** Surface of shell firm, moist and shiny  
**Colour:** Translucent  
**Odor:** Odorless  
**Flesh:** Translucent and intact body

**Grade A**  
**Shell/Texture:** Shell still firm with slight loss of moisture and shine  
**Colour:** Slight Discoloration  
**Odor:** slightly unpleasant odor  
**Flesh:** Intact body but flesh starting to lose translucence

**Grade U**  
**Shell/Texture:** Softshell with sticky surface  
**Colour:** Blackening of shell and discoloration of tail  
**Odor:** Bad Odor  
**Flesh:** Complete loss of translucence with tail hanging from the body (separation of head and tail)

### CRABS

**Grade E**  
**Shell/Texture:** Live Crab  
**Colour:** Live Crab  
**Odor:** Live Crab  
**Flesh:** Live Crab

**Grade A**  
**Shell/Texture:** Freshly Dead, bright in color with clean white underside.  
**Colour:** Freshly Dead, bright in color with clean white underside.  
**Odor:** Odorless  
**Flesh:** freshly dead. The underside is firm and white

**Grade U**  
**Shell/Texture:** Loss of liquid from the body  
**Colour:** Discolored bottom/ underside of carapace and mouth parts.  
**Odor:** Bad Odor  
**Flesh:** Open mouth parts and loose and limp legs and claws





# Section 7B (continued...)

## Grading of Shrimps & Crabs

### SHRIMPS

#### Grade E

**Shell/Texture:** Surface of shell firm, moist and shiny

**Colour:** Translucent

**Odor:** Odorless

**Flesh:** Translucent and intact body



#### Grade A

**Shell/Texture:** Shell still firm with slight loss of moisture and shine

**Colour:** Slight Discoloration

**Odor:** slightly unpleasant odor

**Flesh:** Intact body but flesh starting to lose translucence





### SHRIMPS

#### Grade U

**Shell/Texture:** Soft shell with sticky surface

**Colour:** Blackening of shell and discoloration of tail

**Odor:** Bad Odor

**Flesh:** Complete loss of translucence with tail hanging from the body (separation of head and tail)





### CRABS

#### Grade E

**Shell/Texture:** Live Crab

**Colour:** Live Crab

**Odor:** Live Crab

**Flesh:** Live Crab



#### Grade A

**Shell/Texture:** Freshly Dead, bright in color with clean white underside.

**Colour:** Freshly Dead, bright in color with clean white underside.

**Odor:** Odorless

**Flesh:** freshly dead. The underside is firm and white





### CRABS

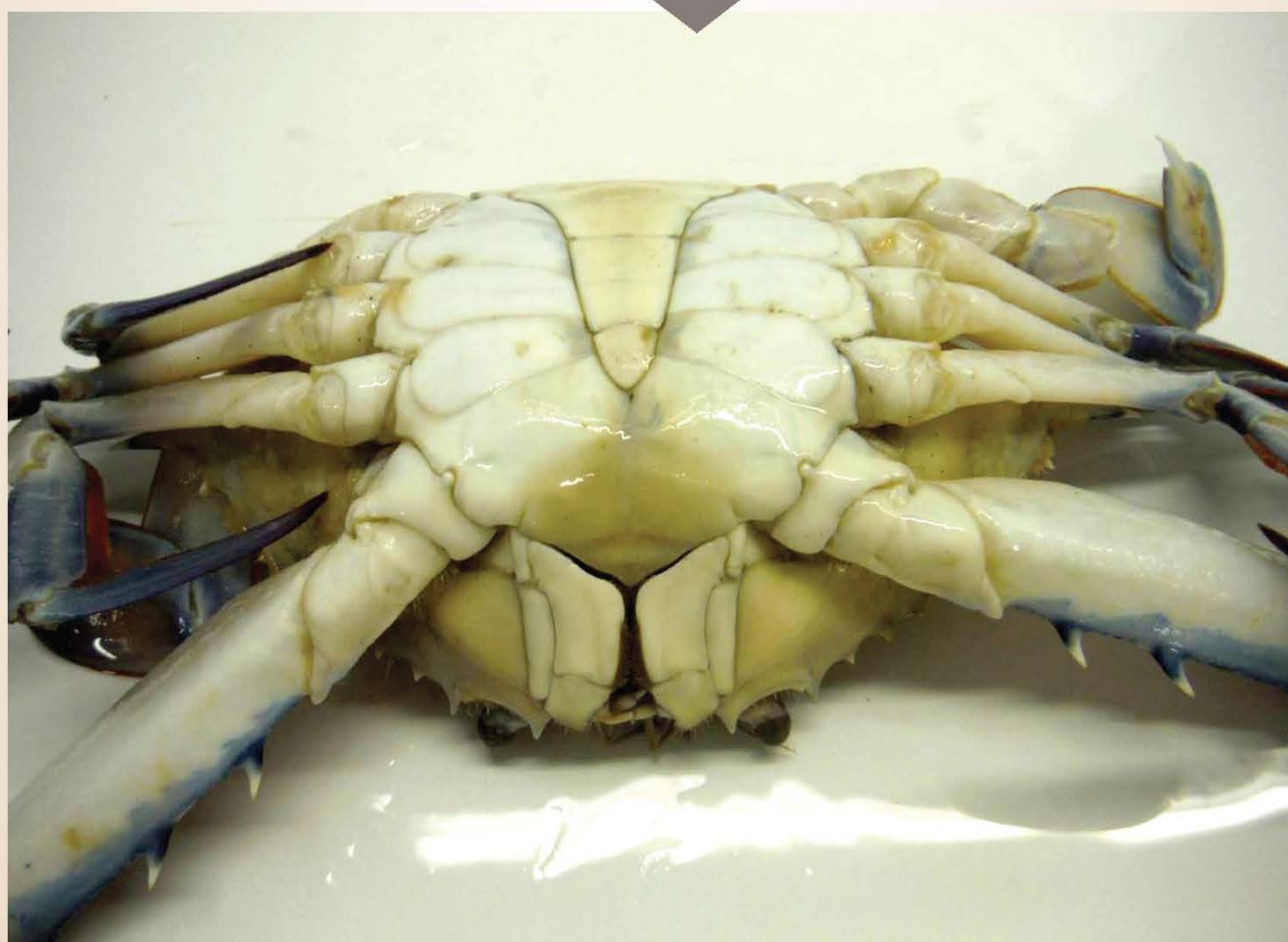
#### Grade U

**Shell/Texture:** Loss of liquid from the body

**Colour:** Discolored bottom/underside of carapace and mouth parts.

**Odor:** Bad Odor

**Flesh:** Open mouth parts and loose and limp legs and claws











International  
Trade  
Centre



Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA II) Programme  
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