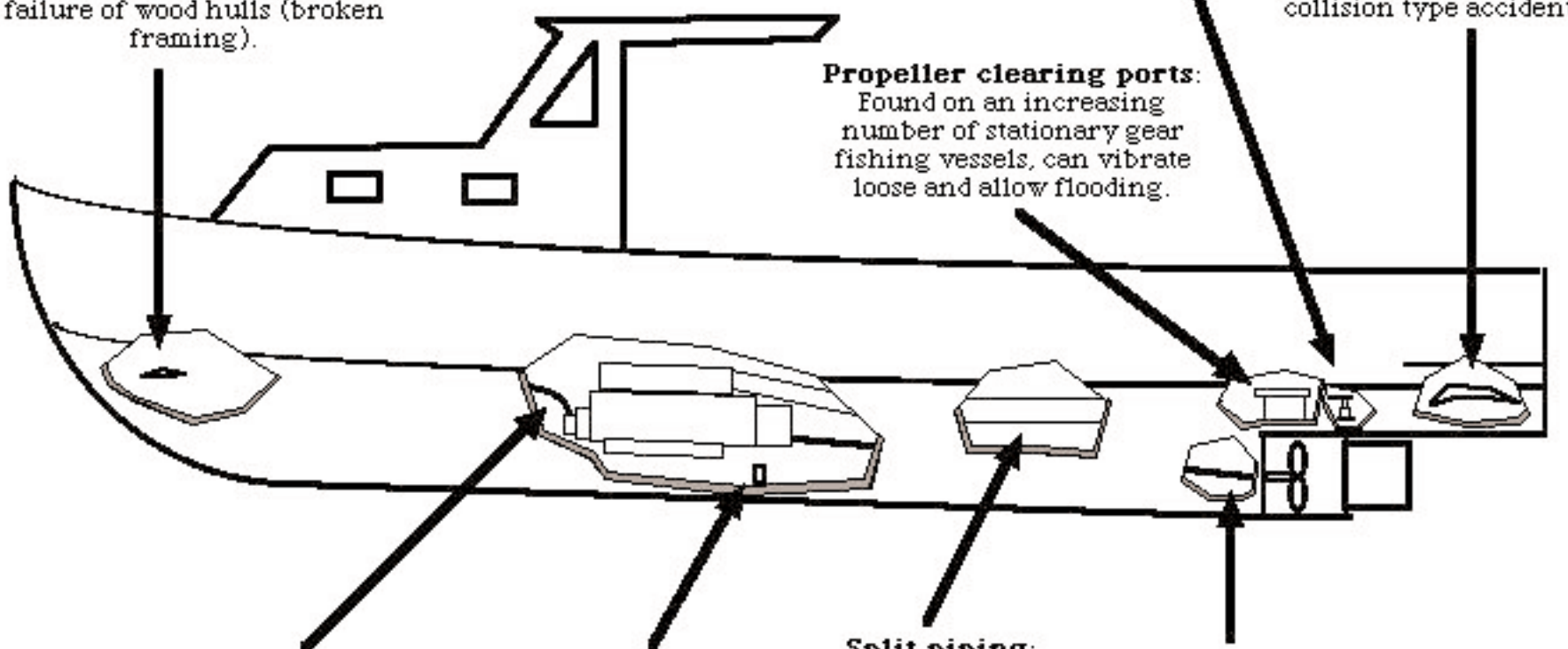
U.S. Coast Guard
Marine Safety Office Portland, Maine

Common Small Fishing Vessel Flooding Sources



Small hull breach: Located here possibly from impact with floating debris such as logs. Also possible from impact of hull by fishing gear, or in structural failure of wood hulls (broken framing).

Damaged rudder port fittings: Packing problems with rudder posts results in many flooding cases. Structural failure (cracking) of the fitting housing has also been observed.

Large hull breach: Known to result from impact from fishing gear (otter doors, etc.). Can also result from grounding and collision type accidents.

Propeller clearing ports: Found on an increasing number of stationary gear fishing vessels, can vibrate loose and allow flooding.

Chaffed hoses: Resulting from vibration damage to hoses in washing and engine cooling systems.

Open seacocks: Resulting from corrosion damage or improper hose connections.

Split piping: Freeze damage to wet exhaust lines, or failures in pump system piping.

Main shaft packing gland: A perpetual maintenance problem on boats, can also result from emergency maneuvers with fouled propellers.