

LIFE RAFT:

Inflatable life rafts were made compulsory for British fishing fleets in 1956 - and since then not a single life has been lost at sea through the sinking of a British fishing vessel. A firm whose rafts have saved no less than six crews in the past year and a quarter demonstrate, at Greenock, how these self-operating devices work.

Within 30 or 40 seconds, the big raft is fully inflated and ready for use. From a five-foot parcel, it's turned into a covered lifeboat big enough to hold 25 men.

There's a life-line for pulling in other survivors - and the equipment stowed in the raft, apart from food and water, includes signalling, devices, first aid kit, a fishing line and hooks, and even a pack of cards.

If a rough sea should happen to turn the raft over before it's loaded, one man can right it. It's inventions like this that are making the sea a safer place to work on.