



## Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 09/04

**Issued: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

**Subject: Subsea Wellheads and Safety Zones**

A recent near miss took place adjacent to a platform in the North Sea. A fishing vessel on transit to a fishing ground had clearly identified the platform on the large scale chart and had plotted a course one nautical mile clear. Unfortunately this was right over a subsurface structure with its own safety zone. The structure had a floating line and marker buoys which were narrowly missed by the vessel. The subsurface structure was only shown on smaller scale charts which the boat operator was not using nor did they have on board. Fishsafe was not engaged as the vessel was in transit.

Mariners of all types are reminded to check the most detailed charts of areas they are transiting. Safety zones are established not only for the protection of installation staff but also for that of the marine community.

