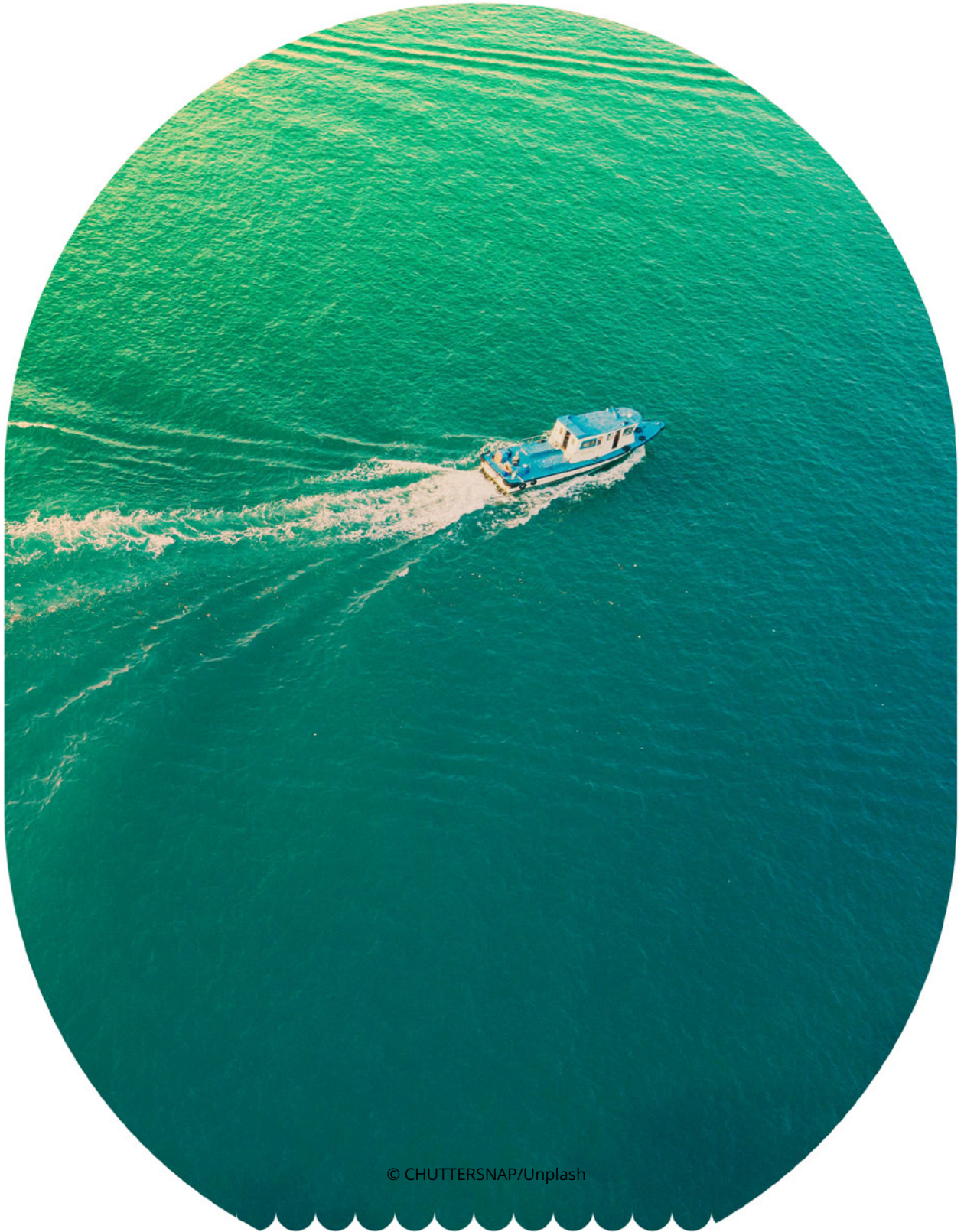




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Action Plan for Safety, Social Protection and Decent Work in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) Region





© CHUTTERS/NAP/Unplash

Action Plan for Safety, Social Protection and Decent Work in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) Region

Required citation:

FAO. 2024. Action Plan for Safety, Social Protection and Decent Work in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) Region. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd3641en>

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

ISBN 978-92-5-139441-0

© FAO, 2024



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo/legalcode>).

Under the terms of this licence, this work may be copied, redistributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that FAO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the FAO logo is not permitted. If the work is adapted, then it must be licensed under the same or equivalent Creative Commons licence. If a translation of this work is created, it must include the following disclaimer along with the required citation: "This translation was not created by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original [Language] edition shall be the authoritative edition."

Disputes arising under the licence that cannot be settled amicably will be resolved by mediation and arbitration as described in Article 8 of the licence except as otherwise provided herein. The applicable mediation rules will be the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization <http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/mediation/rules> and any arbitration will be conducted in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

Third-party materials. Users wishing to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, are responsible for determining whether permission is needed for that reuse and for obtaining permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

Sales, rights and licensing. FAO information products are available on the FAO website (www.fao.org/publications) and can be purchased through publications-sales@fao.org. Requests for commercial use should be submitted via: www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request. Queries regarding rights and licensing should be submitted to: copyright@fao.org.

Front and back cover photos © WINDREF

Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Problems/current situation	3
2.1 Defining safety at sea, social protection and decent work	4
2.1.1 Safety at sea	4
2.1.2 Social Protection	4
2.1.3 Decent work	5
3. Why a Plan of action for enhanced safety, decent work, and social protection in the fisheries sector in the WECAFC region is required	5
4. The role of WECAFC in promoting safety and decent work in the region's fisheries	6
5. Actions needed by WECAFC	8
5.1 Data and information collection, sharing, analysis and results dissemination	9
5.2 Vessels and equipment	10
5.3 Decent work	12
5.4 Insurance and social protection	13
5.5 Social security schemes	14
5.6 Governance in fishing safety and decent work	15
6. Actions	21
References	30

1 Introduction

This action plan aims to set clear priorities for the purpose of achieving the goal of safety of life at sea, social protection, and decent work in fisheries in the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) region. This document has been prepared pursuant to WECAFC's concerns about the high number of accidents, injuries and fatalities occurring within the region and the willingness to formalize the WECAFC mandate to work on safety, social protection, and decent work.¹

The action plan builds on the document *"Safety at Sea, Social Protection and Decent Work in Fisheries in the WECAFC Region"* which presents a review of initiatives, opportunities, and challenges on promoting safety and enhancing fisher's welfare within the fisheries sector. It provides guidance to Member States on international best practices to improve safety, promote decent working conditions, and extend social protection coverage in the region. Hence, WECAFC Member States are expected to adopt the plan, keeping the Secretariat informed of any technical requirements and the progress of its implementation.

The WECAFC Secretariat will provide technical assistance to its Member States in the adoption of the plan. It will also periodically review the progress of its implementation. In addition, the organization will seek cooperation with other national and international organizations to implement best practices on safety, decent work and social protection in the region. Finally, WECAFC will provide a platform for member-to-member experience sharing and lesson learning.

In this context, the objective of the action plan is to provide guidance to its members on concrete actions to ensure safety, social protection and decent working conditions on fishing fleets operating under WECAFC's mandate for the period 2023–2033. It is foreseen that the plan will assist the fishery sector by promoting international fisheries instruments and improving safety, social security, and decent work in the WECAFC region's fisheries as well as in supporting members to conduct relevant training and capacity building activities with respect to labour laws and safety of fishers.

For their part, WECAFC Member Countries are expected to adopt the plan, keep WECAFC informed of any technical requirements and the progress of its implementation.

The proposed activities are presented in a project log-frame format for easy adoption, monitoring and reporting.



© Windref

¹ The WECAFC secretariat would like to thank Elda Belja and Roland Baldeo for their contribution to the development of the action plan.

² For more information see <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/82a5f03f-2672-49ce-a27c-be960ba9a1c7/content>

2 Problems/current situation

Commercial fishing remains one of the world's most dangerous occupations. FAO amended its global estimate of the number of fatalities in fisheries in 2019 to 32 000 casualties per year, however, latest estimates suggest that the number of fatalities within the fishing sector is likely to exceed 100 000 annually (FAO, 2022). Major causes of accidents and fatalities among fishers include: drowning after falling overboard, getting lost at sea, sinking of vessels due to bad weather, engine failures, getting tangled in gears or machinery, loss of steering systems, running aground, water leakage, running short of fuel, fire on board, and collisions with other vessels.

The accidents at sea and loss of lives also have great impact on small-scale fishing communities (Shrestha, *et al*, 2022). These fishers have not received safety training, the vessels they operate are generally unsafe and safety equipment is lacking on-board. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is also a key driver of fatalities in fisheries. IUU fishing interacts with other drivers underpinning risk, such as overfishing, climate change, local conflicts, and poverty, to further increase the prevalence of fishing fatalities.

Within the past two decades, issues of safety at sea, social protection and decent work in fisheries have gained international attention among artisanal, small-scale, semi-industrial and industrial fishing fleets. International concern over poor working and living conditions on fishing vessels has amplified as there have been documented instances of unsafe work environments, non-payment of wages and human rights abuses of fishers (Ridings, 2021).

The question of safety of fishing vessels and decent work onboard has been an issue of concern for FAO for a long time. FAO is collaborating with the other United Nations specialized agencies, namely the International Labour Organization (ILO) and International Maritime Organization (IMO), in developing safety and decent work standards for the fisheries sector as well as recognizing the importance of expanding social protection's coverage to the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Over the years, these standards have been developed and were included either in binding instruments or non-binding codes, guidelines and recommendations.

However, whereas there is a large number of such instruments, the degree of their implementation leaves much to be desired. Safety of fishing vessels still lacks applicable binding uniform standards. As a result, the FAO and its subsidiary fisheries bodies, in collaboration with relevant international organizations, have spearheaded numerous initiatives and publications that seek to address these pertinent issues, to improve the social and economic conditions of fishers and their families, provide food and nutrition security, aid in the development of regional economies and attain sustainable fisheries.

Fisheries and aquatic resources in the WECAFC region represent a critical component of the cultural, social, and economic development of the people of the region. However, the susceptibility of the region to social, economic, natural, and anthropogenic induced vulnerabilities from climate change and climate variations poses significant challenges, but also creates opportunities for future development. Other important structural challenges such as the political will, policy environment, legal, financial, and institutional framework need to be addressed to ensure that opportunities are created to enhance the welfare of fishers.

Ensuring vessels and personnel are safe and working conditions are decent can also reduce search and rescue costs, medical and compensation expenses, inspection times, and reputational risks connected with indecent working conditions (including child labour and forced labour) (Lozano, *et al*, 2022).

2.1 Defining safety at sea, social protection and decent work

Fishing is considered as one of the most dangerous occupations due to the on-board work environment, conditions of employment, the distance from shore to fishing grounds, especially with declining stocks near-shore, natural disasters and adverse weather conditions due to climate change, as well as limited availability of appropriate technology due to inadequate access to financing. Therefore, enhancing safety at sea and decent working conditions on board fishing vessels is paramount for fishers and for sustainable development.

2.1.1 Safety at sea

Safety means protection from danger, risk, or injury, in the context of non-intentional events, such as accidents or events caused by human error. The Safety and Shipping Review 2021³ reports that, for the period 2012–2021, fishing vessels are the second highest type of vessels which have recorded total losses (124 in total), with 7 losses in 2021. Contributing factors include bad weather, poor visibility leading to contact, flooding and water ingress and machinery breakdown.^{4, 5}

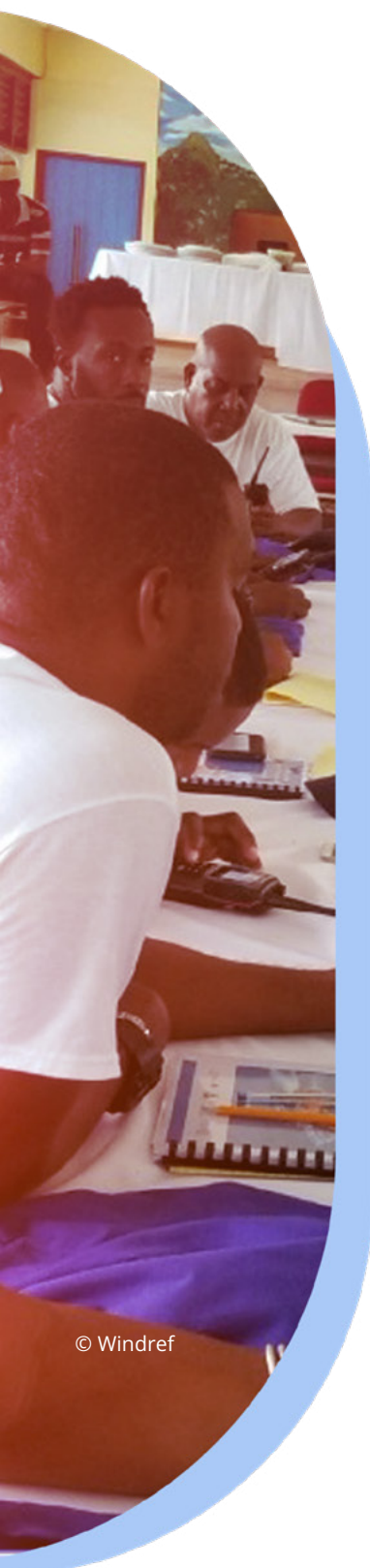
2.1.2 Social protection

FAO defines social protection as a “set of policies and programmes that addresses economic, environmental and social vulnerabilities to food insecurity and poverty by protecting and promoting livelihoods”.

³ For more information see www.iims.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Allianz-Safety-Shipping-Review-2021.pdf

⁴ For more information see <https://commercial.allianz.com/news-and-insights/news/safety-shipping-review-2022.html>

⁵ For more information see <https://commercial.allianz.com/news-and-insights/news/safety-shipping-review-2023.html>



© Windref

- Social protection includes three broad components:
 - ✓ Social assistance – these are public support programmes to the most vulnerable, in the form of conditional or non-conditional in-kind or cash transfers.
 - ✓ Social insurance – these are contributory programmes aiming at covering the contingencies of households or individuals.
 - ✓ Labour market programmes – that include unemployment benefits, and programmes to increase employability and skills.

2.1.3 Decent work

International Labour Organization (ILO) defines decent work as “productive work for women and men in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity” (International Labour Organization, 2012).

- Work is considered as decent when:
 - ✓ There are opportunities for everyone to obtain work that is productive and delivers a fair income.
 - ✓ There is security in the workplace and social protection for families.
 - ✓ There exists better prospects for personal development and social integration.

3 Why a plan of action for enhanced safety, decent work, and social protection in the fisheries sector in the WECAFC region is required

WECAFC has shown particular interest in the issues of safety of fishing vessels and decent working conditions. Within the WECAFC region, small-scale fisheries dominate the sector, within which there is a high propensity for accidents and injuries. Several types of routine accidents that occur in fishing operations resulting in injuries and fatalities include capsizing of vessels, fire on-board, man overboard, entanglement in machinery or gears, tripping or falling, injuries from gear handling or fish caught, leakages, engine or steering system failures, collisions, and exposure to toxic gasses in enclosed spaces on-board. Accidents are often as a consequence of captains and crew not being trained in handling their vessels safely, not possessing or carrying safety gears, lacking adequate navigation and communication equipment, not being sufficiently prepared for emergency situations at sea, and having generally limited knowledge of outboard engine repair, safety risk management, basic marine traffic rules and emergency first aid.

The nature of work in fisheries is hindered by several factors. These include unstable revenues due to fluctuating catches, overfishing, poor working conditions, unsafe work environments, informal job contracts, and external shocks formed by a volcanic eruption or by sargassum inundations. Other contributing factors are extreme weather events, poverty, and a lack of social protection services. Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing also threatens safety in fisheries. Climate change, local conflicts, and illegal labour may increase fishing fatalities, further jeopardizing safety. Fishing remains one of the world's deadliest occupations. New research shows that the number of fatalities in fisheries is at least 100 000 annually (Belja, van Anrooy, and Kalikoski, 2022). According to the Allianz Safety and Shipping Review, which records the number of vessels lost globally by type, fishing vessels recorded the second highest number of losses in the 2012–2021 period (124 losses out of a total of 892).⁶

Structural challenges such as under-developed fisheries management systems, the policy environment, and the legal, financial and institutional frameworks which govern the sector all need to be addressed to ensure safety and decent working conditions. Moreover, coordination issues between the government ministries/departments concerned can further complicate the provision of safety assurances and decent working condition.

WECAFC countries are highly vulnerable to hazards, stresses and shocks, particularly those arising from impacts of climate change. In this context, social protection is connected with an early warning system which relies on anticipatory action, thus establishing *ex ante* plans and partnerships to increase adaptive capacity of fisherfolk households to shocks.

Therefore, a holistic approach is required to integrate safety and decent working conditions with the broader, governance and fisheries management issues, to achieve a balanced solution. This action plan is expected to contribute to these issues and set the fisheries sector on a better path, both socioeconomically and ecologically.

4 The role of WECAFC in promoting safety and decent work in the region's fisheries

Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) play a role in the promotion of safety and decent working conditions within the fleets under their management regimes as their mandates have an impact on fishing vessel safety, the safety of fishing operations and the working conditions of fishing personnel. There is an increasing understanding, within some RFBs, of the importance of ensuring that vessels and personnel are safe and offer decent working conditions. However, in many regions, the protection of human rights in the fishing sector is not obvious, and while some RFB members consider these subjects important, they receive limited attention from others.



© Windref

⁶ For more information see <https://commercial.allianz.com/news-and-insights/news/safety-shipping-review-2022.html>

The commission has shown particular interest in the issues of safety of fishing vessels, social protection, and decent working conditions. Although these matters were initially not reflected in WECAFC's Strategic plan for 2014–2020, safety at sea, in particular, was already being addressed in projects hosted and implemented by the WECAFC Secretariat. Decent working conditions started to draw more attention, especially on dive fisheries for species such as queen conch, spiny lobster and sea cucumber.⁷

The report of the 17th session makes reference to safety and health in Output 3.10 titled 'Strengthened research and management capacity for Queen Conch in the Caribbean' which makes recommendations on 'Social dimensions (occupational, safety, health, life insurance, etc.) addressed within the priority actions of the WG Implementation of CLME+ SAP Sub-Strategy 4B'.

The document titled State of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the WECAFC Area⁸ highlights in its paragraph 110 the importance of gender equality and recalls "[...] The most recent one is the Declaration of the 8th Special Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the CRFM, Barbados, October 2018, in which it is spelt out that 'the Council accepted that international and national norms regarding issues pertaining to gender, youth, and decent work be adhered to, and be incorporated into all CRFM policies, protocols, programmes, and plans'."

Further, during its 15th session,⁹ the commission acknowledged the "...good efforts of various WECAFC and CRFM members to license Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) fishers, prepare legislation for FAD fishery, ensure disaggregated data collection and analysis in terms of FAD fishery, encourage best-practice design and training in FAD construction and use, promote safety-at-sea when fishing with FADs..."

It is very important to note that safety at sea, social protection and decent working conditions in fisheries are already addressed in the new strategic plan 2022–2027.¹⁰

A list of priority activities was endorsed by the Commission in 2022 at its 18th Plenary as reflected in the Strategic plan, based on the outcomes from an extensive consultation process and three technical focus areas, namely a technical focus area which includes: 1) improving regional fisheries governance; 2) increasing regional information and collaboration in fisheries; and 3) strengthening regional fisheries management and best-practice approaches for fisheries and aquaculture; and a management focus area which includes fostering a conducive environment within the WECAFC secretariat to support the achievement of the goals and objectives of the commission.

⁷ For more information see
11th Session of the Scientific Advisory Group: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/c0da690a-6874-46f5-8833-98b3206e6a13/content>

⁸ For more information see
<https://www.fao.org/fi/static-media/MeetingDocuments/WECAFC/WECAFC2019/17/2e.pdf>

⁹ For more information see
<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/cedfda93-0fb0-483c-9352-c4af984bb96d/content>

¹⁰ For more information see
<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/3ee6cba1-77fe-4114-af87-9de12455edfc/content>



Focus area 1 has, as a goal, to improve *regional governance of the marine fisheries and aquaculture sector for more effective conservation, management and development and sustainable use of the living marine resources in the area of competence of WECAFC*. Its purpose is strengthened policy, legal and institutional frameworks to promote and support fisheries and aquaculture in line with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and other related and applicable regional and international fisheries instruments in the WECAFC region.

The commission undertakes to assist its members to promote the attainment of safe, healthy and decent working conditions for all in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, and support efforts to prevent and halt forced labour, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, including the ILO and the IMO. The commission will also facilitate access to social protection programmes for fishers and aquaculture producers and their communities, support measures to improve safety at sea, and work towards enhancing the standards of living for all in the sector, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, including the ILO and the IMO.

Focus area 3 has, as a goal, to ensure *the increased capacity of fishers, fishworkers and aquaculturists to apply modern, environmentally friendly and resilient production technologies, to implement better conservation and management practices, and to produce high-quality and safe fish and fishery products for human consumption*. Its purpose is to achieve responsible development and management of fisheries and aquaculture, providing a sustainable contribution of the fisheries and aquaculture sector to food security, employment and coastal livelihoods.

Pursuant to this, the commission undertakes to assist its members to strengthen climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors at the national and regional levels, including improvement of vessel and infrastructure safety and climate resilience; incorporate gender mainstreaming, youth empowerment and safe and decent work strategies in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors at the national and regional levels; and consider further use of the recently applied pilot testing of the Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) matrix as an instrument to better inform WECAFC SSF relation to data collection/management distinctions necessary for small-scale versus industrial fisheries.

5 Actions needed by WECAFC Member States

In line with the new Strategic plan, the commission will also support communication and collaboration among members and other stakeholders through effective dissemination of information, education, outreach and capacity building.

In the light of the above, actions are suggested in the following key areas to enhance safety, social protection and decent working conditions in fisheries in the WECAFC region.

5.1 Data and information collection, sharing, analysis and results dissemination

In an effort to improve safety and decent working conditions on fishing vessels, WECAFC has already undertaken initial data collection and conducted background assessments and related studies, in accordance with the Data Collection Reference Framework. In this regard, WECAFC Members, in accordance with the convention, must continue collecting and sharing in a timely manner complete and accurate data concerning fisheries activities. Fatality reporting is also crucial as it assists in understanding the reasons for such fatalities and the means to assist in their deterrence. Data collection and reporting on the key indicators in the WECAFC region will be led by the commission. The key indicators will be reported on and reviewed at annual meetings of the Secretariat to monitor progress in implementing the action plan.

These annual meetings may also adjust specific objectives for achieving the overall objectives in the light of new, revised or additional information that may be collected.

- Specific actions for this purpose shall include:



Accident and fatality reporting: Member States shall enhance their casualty investigations in order to collate accurate data on accidents and fatalities involving fishing vessels, especially small-scale vessels, flying their flag or operating under their authority. In doing so, they may make use of accident reporting guidelines for competent authorities (Holliday, and van Anrooy, 2021) presented and discussed at a Train - the - Trainer workshop on safety at sea for small-scale fishers in the Caribbean, in Saint Lucia in January 2020. Such information shall be made available to WECAFC for distribution to other members. In addition to national databases, a regional database of fishing-related accidents and fatalities may be created in which designated officials of Member States shall have access.



Data analysis and communication: appropriately equipped offices in terms of communication and data processing technologies are needed. The national specialists should have access to digitized information and be updated periodically on information technologies, foreign languages and technical issues concerning their specialties. Furthermore, clear channels of communication must be established so as to better understand the causes of accidents and fatalities.



Data collection in relation to working conditions and social protection of fishers: Member States should consider collecting information on fisher working conditions. The study may also explore whether there is bias, fair pay, and humane amenities for the crew on board. Such a study would also consider the limitations of the traditional sector and set benchmarks for decent working conditions accordingly, in consultation with stakeholders. Information on the working conditions onboard could assist WECAFC in expanding social protection's coverage throughout the fisheries and aquaculture sector. To this end, it is important to review the availability of social protection for fishers (targeted and general purpose; public and

private services) and to map the gaps and overlaps in service provision by different governmental agencies. Studies need to investigate the risks of exclusion for women and the misappropriation of benefits accrued by women. Appropriate measures should be developed based on study findings to secure women's share of the development process.

5.2 Vessels and equipment

Code of Practice for safety on small-scale fishing vessels: maintaining a safe living and working environment on a vessel is vital. Several hazards are common to all areas of vessels and may be encountered by anyone onboard. Considering that most of the fishing vessels in the region are of a small size, WECAFC will prepare a Code of Practice for safety on small-scale fishing vessels. The WECAFC will collate information on the implementation of the Code in Member States.

WECAFC may look into the Code of Safety for Small Commercial Vessels which prescribes standards for safety and seafarer certification for small commercial vessels operating in the Caribbean Trading Area. This Code can be adapted for small fishing vessels, taking into account the IMO/FAO/ILO Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels, 2005¹¹ and the IMO/FAO/ILO Voluntary Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Equipment of Small Fishing Vessels, 2005.

The following paragraphs provide detailed recommendations on vessel safety and working conditions.

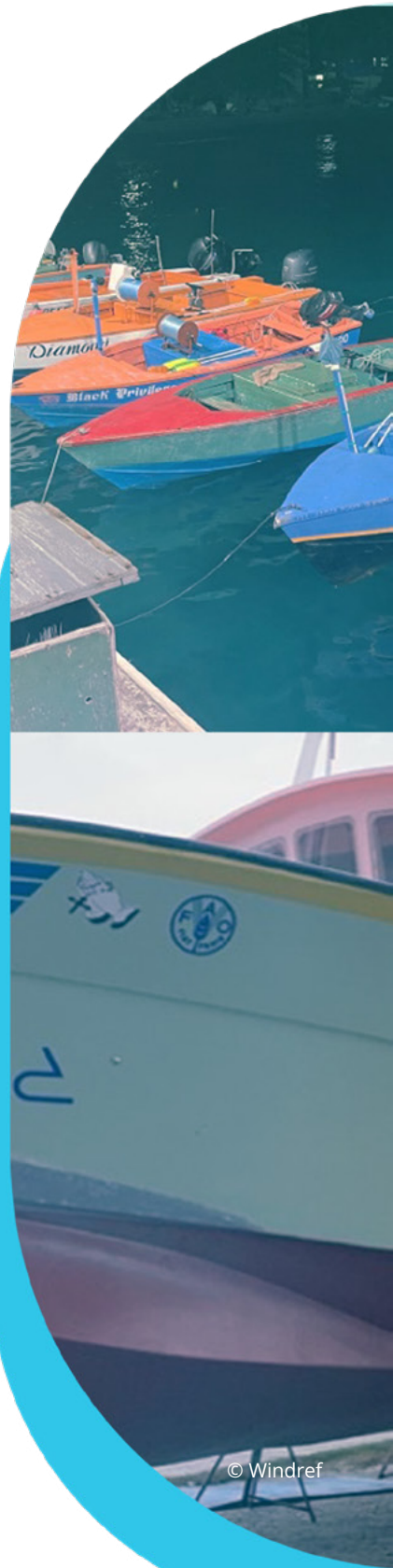
- **✓ Vessel safety:**

The space available onboard a small-scale fishing vessel is very limited. For that reason, regular checking of the steering and fuel systems, navigational equipment, the hull and engine operations, as well as safety **✓** equipment will be essential.

Vessels must be loaded as per the recommendations in the stability booklet provided by the boat builder and cannot be overloaded with fuel, ice, and other provisions that are required for staying out at sea for a **✓** longer period.

Small-scale fishing vessels are not subject to statutory surveys, but provisions will be incorporated to inspect them at intervals determined by the relevant authority in the member State. National standards shall be formulated for the design and construction of small-scale fishing boats taking into consideration the unique environmental and socioeconomic **✓** conditions of each country and region.

Safety regulations of small-scale fishing boats can be formulated based on the design and construction parameters identified. The seaworthiness of the vessel shall be made a condition for the issuing of any licence to fish.



¹¹ For more information see <https://www.fao.org/fishing-safety/capacity-building/guidelines-and-codes/en/>

- ✓fisher safety and working conditions:

Sufficient working and living space is important for safety of the crew. The best conditions of safety and health must be provided for the fishers to perform their work. It is the duty of the owner/manager and master to

- ✓ ensure the health and safety of seafarers onboard.

Furthermore, the employment, engagement or work of seafarers under the age of 18 shall be prohibited where the work is likely to jeopardize

- ✓ their health or safety.

Crew shall be adequately trained in issues of safety, survival, and accident prevention and be familiar with safety of navigation principles. Easy to use maps can be developed (electronic, waterproof, pocket-sized, etc.) that

- ✓ show dangerous spots and safe routes.

Communications equipment: the requirements established by the IMO/FAO/ILO Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels, 2005¹² and the IMO/FAO/ILO Voluntary Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Equipment of Small Fishing Vessels, 2005 will be incorporated. In that sense, any vessel will carry on board suitable life-saving equipment, including a life jacket for every person, an immersion suit for vessels operating in areas where low water or air temperature is expected, and

- ✓ lifebuoys.

Furthermore, every vessel must be provided with means of making effective distress signals by day and by night, including at least four rocket parachute flares. All lifesaving appliances must be fitted with retro-reflective material and be ready for immediate use.

- ✓Implementation of the Cape Town Agreement:

Large fishing vessels (24 m and above) shall comply with the Cape Town Agreement (CTA) of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977.¹³ Pursuant to this Agreement, vessel's lifesaving appliances, radio installations, structure, machinery, and equipment shall be inspected before the vessel is put into service and at intervals not exceeding five years. The International Fishing Vessel Safety Certificate will be issued after completion of surveys and inspections. Vessels shall remain watertight, weathertight, strong and stable, even under adverse conditions, such as ice and extreme weather. Safe spaces have to be provided for the crew; fire-fighting equipment must be sufficient and in good working condition, and adequate emergency procedures shall be in place. Vessels shall have regular emergency drills that include all crew and observers on board, if any. In addition, vessels shall be fitted with radiocommunications equipment capable of transmitting and receiving search and rescue information, distress signals, and all other relevant communications. Vessels also shall be able to safely navigate and signal.

¹² For more information see <https://www.fao.org/fishing-safety/capacity-building/guidelines-and-codes/en>

¹³ For more information see <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100318355.pdf>



Regarding equipment, every vessel must have at least two survival craft and buoys (eight for vessels of 75 m in length and over and six for vessels of less than 75 m). Every person on board is required to have a lifejacket and persons assigned to crew rescue boats must have approved immersion suits of appropriate sizes. All vessels are required to have an approved line-throwing appliance, approved means of making effective distress signals, at least three two-way VHF radiotelephone apparatus and at least one radar transponder on each side of the vessel. All lifesaving equipment are to be operationally ready.

To date, only France, the Netherlands, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Spain have adhered to the Agreement which is yet to come to force. Given its importance, Member States shall be encouraged to accede to the Agreement and implement its provisions in national legislation. The WECAFC will collate information on the implementation of the Convention in Member States.

5.3. Decent work

- Implementation of Work in Fishing Convention:

With regard to safety and working conditions, the 2007 ILO Work in Fishing Convention (C188)¹⁴ establishes fisher safety and working conditions. In this regard, vessels must be sufficiently and safely manned for the safe navigation and operation of the vessel and under the control of a competent skipper; and fishers must be given regular periods of rest of sufficient length to ensure safety and health. An adequate standard of accommodation must be provided to ensure the comfort, recreation, health and safety of all persons on board. A primary concern should be directed towards ensuring the health and safety aspects of persons, including the ventilation, lighting, water services, galley services and the access/escape arrangements.

Fishing has special peculiarities in the WECAFC region which is dominated by small-scale fisheries. This sector is characterized by the informality of operation and the nature of contractual arrangements where wages are mainly determined by the individual or collective skill and productivity of the crew as opposed to employment in the industrial fleet, other forms of seafarers or shore-based. For this reason, there is a need for development of policies, legislation and institutional framework, whether in fisheries legislation or labour laws at the national level to promote decent employment (health and safety, hours of work, minimum wage, terms and condition of employment) and social protection for fishers within the region. In fact, the terms and conditions of work which are based on verbal agreements are restricted to remuneration that is defined by a share system according to the size of the vessel.

To date, only four Member States have ratified the Convention, namely Antigua and Barbuda, France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. The poor acceptance of the Convention reduces its effectiveness, and it is therefore necessary that such instrument is ratified with urgency by all Member States.

¹⁴ For more information see https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C188

5.4 Insurance and social protection

The fishing industry encounters risks arising from the environment, as well as the social and economic contexts in which they operate. Environmental risks, including climate change impacts, which can cause damage to, and the loss of, fishing vessels, while operational risks such as on-board accidents can result in injuries and fatalities. For fishers, who work under harsh conditions and usually lack access to social security schemes, these risks pose serious threats to their livelihoods (van Anrooy, *et al*, 2022). In this context, the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO, 1995) and the C188¹⁵ recognize insurance as an important tool to protect the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. Through insurance, the cost of unexpected losses or damages is shared between the insurer and the person or company who buys the insurance.

By providing reliable and timely compensation after an incident or natural disaster, insurance can contribute to safeguarding incomes and livelihoods, reduce the financial impact on the subscriber, facilitate restarting production, and stabilize the contribution of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to the national economy.

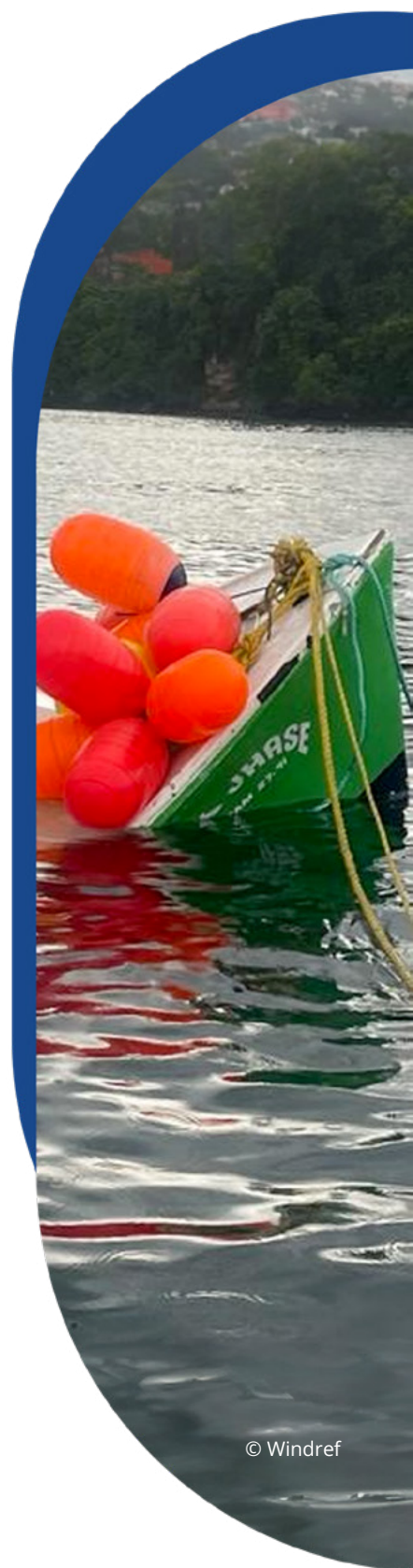
- Vessel insurance

“Compulsory Third-Party Liability Insurance for Fishing Vessels Regulations 2020” in the Caribbean.

WECAFC shall support the introduction of third-party liability insurance and the implementation of these model Regulations which were based on the requirements imposed by several international maritime conventions, adapted to apply to the fisheries sector. By introducing the topic of the third-party compulsory insurance for fishing vessels, FAO recognized that such insurance would institute a culture of safety in the sector, as vessel owners would like to see low insurance premiums, reducing risks for the crew, and will generate more attention for the aquatic environment ✓ (Martinez, and van Anrooy. 2020).

Moreover, the imposition of compulsory insurance can also contribute to higher standards on board. This is due to the fact that the inherent risks of a particular ship will be reflected in the insurance premiums (the greater expected loss in the view of the insurer, the higher will be the insurance premiums). In fact, ill-maintained vessels may not only face increased premiums, but may also become commercially uninsurable (Martinez, ✓ and van Anrooy, 2020).

Lastly, the introduction of compulsory (third-party liability) insurance also protects the members of the crew who may obtain prompt and effective compensation for claims against the owner of the fishing vessel (even in cases where the claims exceed the value of the possessed assets) and thus lead to better working condition on board fishing vessels and reduce the social security claims by injured fishers.



© Windref

¹⁵ For more information see https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C188

- Fisher insurance

Less than 20 percent of the fishers in the Caribbean region have life and/or health insurance cover. There are occupational risks inherent in the activity and the level of access to healthcare services is low. One of the main reasons for not being insured is the low awareness of insurance needs and advantages. Currently, available insurance policy premiums are considered too high, and coverage is regarded as inadequate. Moreover, in many cases income from fishing varies according to fishing seasons and schedules of payment of premiums are not flexible (Tietze, and van Anrooy, 2019). Deaths, accidents and injuries are frequent in the fishing industry. Fishers often work long hours under harsh weather conditions, increasing the likelihood of accidents or injury. Climate change has only increased the hazardous conditions under which fishers work, as natural disasters become ever more prevalent and destructive.

Insurance programmes that suit the needs of the crew of fishing vessels, including the small-scale fishing communities, are needed as an instrument to mitigate risks:



This may call for more insurance companies/providers to enter the fishing vessel insurance market for competitive offerings.



Innovative products such as group insurance (microinsurance) need to be explored.



Insurance schemes for unnamed crew may be developed as most vessels operate without a proper crew list, *ex ante*.



In addition, communication with fisher collectives must be improved to increase the adoption of insurance and enhance financial literacy among fishers.



Social protection

5.5 Social security schemes

The low coverage of pension systems for fishers in the WECAFC region is mainly due to structural factors such as the informality of work as well as the absence or weakness of key labour institutions for social protection (FAO, 2019).

Fishing communities must be included in social security schemes, which in most cases would need to be subsidized, in order to provide fishers with a comprehensive safety net. Where social security schemes exist, they should be adapted to include fishers in their programmes.

5.6 Search and rescue

- Implementation of Search and Rescue Convention:



Search and rescue operations are undertaken to render assistance to any vessel or person in distress at sea. IMO adopted in 1979 the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue.¹⁶ The Convention provides for the rescue of persons in distress to be coordinated by a search and rescue organization and, where necessary, through cooperation between neighbouring search and rescue organizations. Any search and rescue facility should respond to distress situations whenever and wherever possible, and in this respect, there should be close cooperation between states carrying out search and rescue operations in the appointed search and rescue region.



A review of the Global Search and Rescue Plan highlights that many states in the WECAFC area designate the coast guard as the authority responsible for search and rescue activities. However, their intervention may be too late when it comes to accidents involving fishing vessels. In addition, information on search and rescue centres is missing in a number of states, and this makes the rendering of services challenging. In addition, given the small size of vessels which operate in the WECAFC area, many of them are not duly equipped with radio communication devices which would ensure early communication in case of distress.



In the light of the proximity of the Caribbean States and given the fact that certain agreements exist between states for assistance in search and rescue operations (see for example the ad hoc arrangement between Antigua and Barbuda and Martinique in accordance with which the Coast Guard of Antigua and Barbuda assumes the responsibility of search and rescue services in conjunction with Maritime Rescue Coordinating Centre Fort de France, Martinique), these types of collaboration should be expanded to render search and rescue services in the region. For this purpose, Member States should accede to the Search and Rescue Convention and establish agreements with other states in the determined area for providing search and rescue services for a specified sub-area.



Adequate radio equipment for small-size fishing vessels: small-size fishing vessels should have on board the adequate radio equipment which should be capable of fulfilling the following functional requirements with respect to distress and safety communications when the vessel is at sea:

- Performing ship-to-shore distress alerting.
- Transmitting ship-to-shore distress alerting.
- Transmitting and receiving on-scene communications, including appropriate search and rescue co-ordinating communications.
- Transmitting locating signal.

¹⁶ For more information see

<https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/unts/volume%201405/volume-1405-i-23489-english.pdf>

5.7 Governance in fishing safety and decent work

Governance in fishing safety and decent work aims at creating a conducive and enabling environment for the fish sector which enables an equitable, social and economic development in the WECAFC area. The application of good governance principles considered as best practices and the formulation of the necessary governance instruments will promote coherence and strengthen capacity in relation to safety, social protection and decent working conditions.



International and regional fishing safety/decent work instruments

Implementation of binding and non-binding international instruments.

Some of the major relevant instruments are the C188,¹⁷ the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F),¹⁸ the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO, 1995) and its related instruments, and the ILO's 2012 Social Protection Floors Recommendation (No. 202).¹⁹ These instruments provide opportunities for countries to achieve the goal of safety of life at sea, social protection, and decent work in fisheries. These binding and non-binding instruments must be promoted in order to create awareness on the potential and importance of these matters to the sector, challenges and needs as well as enhancing the capacity of governments and institutions to ensure the effective implementation.

All Member Countries should adhere to the provisions in these instruments:



The CTA adds to this legal basis; its adoption is the result of continued concerns for safety of life at sea and the lack of an international regulatory regime which will set minimum standards in relation to the design, construction and equipment of fishing vessels engaged in industrial fishing.



The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F), 1995²⁰ enhances safety at sea by setting minimum standards on training, certification and watchkeeping of fishing vessels personnel. The convention is a key building block in the promotion of safety of life at sea by setting the necessary framework to ensure the provision of duly skilled personnel in the fisheries sector. Better skilled and trained personnel will decrease the likelihood of fatal accidents and will therefore decrease the loss of lives at sea and improve general safety of fishing operations.



The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO. 1995) and its related instruments call on states to protect the rights of fishers and fishworkers, particularly those engaged in subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries, to a secure and just livelihood, as well as preferential access, where appropriate, to traditional fishing grounds and resources in the waters under their national jurisdiction.

¹⁷ For more information see

https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C188

¹⁸ For more information see <https://www.imo.org/en/ourwork/humanelement/pages/stcw-f-convention.aspx#:~:text=The%20STCW%2DF%20Convention%20consists,obliged%20to%20meet%20or%20exceed>.

¹⁹ For more information see

https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:3065524

²⁰ For more information see <https://www.imo.org/en/ourwork/humanelement/pages/stcw-f-convention.aspx#:~:text=The%20STCW%2DF%20Convention%20consists,obliged%20to%20meet%20or%20exceed>



The ILO's 2012 Social Protection Floors Recommendation (No. 202)²¹ sets out guidelines for states to provide basic income security and health care for all and highlights the need to extend provision to those working informally.



Furthermore, international human rights law has informed and been incorporated in the SSF Guidelines which have, as one of their guiding principles, human rights and dignity as stipulated by international human rights standards. The guidelines also offer specific guidance on states' obligations in respect to the rights of women, indigenous peoples, migrants and children (FAO 2015).

- Legal framework

Updating the legal framework – the work of the commission:



The legal framework governing safety and decent working condition in fisheries is vast. Multiple actors (ranging from international organizations to national authorities) are involved in the drafting of conventions, guidelines, recommendations and implementing national legislation. Legally binding and non-mandatory instruments coexist, making the management of fisheries a complex task. International instruments (e.g. FAO, IMO, ILO) have to be harmonized with regional regulations applying in the WECAFC area and national rules and standards.



Therefore, since the administrative roles and responsibilities in fisheries are performed by multiple actors, a coordinated approach is fundamental to incorporate safety, social protection and decent work into current standards.



For this reason, the relevant ministry/department of labour should review and revise the reach and implication of existing labour laws, particularly laws regarding occupational safety in the marine fisheries sector in association with ministry of shipping and ministry of fisheries.



The commission will review and consider updating its basic texts or adopt resolutions that mainstream social aspects of fisheries, including safety, social protection, and decent working conditions, with the fisheries management aspects covered already by it. Furthermore, WECAFC will prepare the mentioned Code of Practice, developing and agreeing on minimum terms and conditions of fisheries safety and labour conditions.



The commission shall continue to promote its work as essential to the harmonization and implementation of international fisheries laws for the realization of FAO's objectives, through its close cooperation with FAO and its technical cooperation programmes.

- Fisheries management and safety

Integrating safety policies into fisheries management: safety policies need to be integrated into fisheries management, with improved occupational safety established as a primary objective.

²¹ For more information see

https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:3065524



Fisheries management and safety management are not dealt with in the same regulatory context. Administrative responsibility is often compartmentalized and improved occupational health and safety has not been included in the design of fishing regulatory regimes. (Thorvaldsen, Sønvisen, and Holmen, 2022) Management is one of the most important potential threats to fishers' safety at sea: regulations aimed at reducing pressure on fish stocks may, for instance, increase pressure on fishers and thereby affect their safety (Kaplan, and Kite-Powell, 2000). Therefore, fisheries management has indirect effects on safety that cannot be ignored (FAO, 2016).



Improved fisheries management may lead to improved safety at sea by influencing fishers' options, preferences, the number of fishers and the number and design of vessels. In turn, these influences may change the probability and nature of fishers' unsafe behavior. Compared to competitive fisheries management, fishing quotas may reduce the incentive to take risks. If the type of management does not adequately protect fish resources or limit the number of fishers and fishing efforts, fishers may need to take greater risks to secure their income (FAO, 2016).

- Institutional collaboration in enforcement.

Institutional capacity is a basic element to maintain a good governance as reforms have to be undertaken by the appropriate institutions. The national institutional frameworks are not crafted to suit the unique features of fish workers safety and labour conditions. This has resulted in mismatches and overlaps. Furthermore, the lack of interagency cooperation (or willingness to cooperate) hinders the enforcement mission. On this basis, all actors involved, including but not limited to coast guard, fisheries divisions, maritime authorities, port authorities, must cooperate for enforcement purposes.

5.8 Capacity building and training

Capacity building is a key building block for creating knowledge, empowerment and enablement for effective participation in decision-making and for improved governance of the fisheries sector. However, capacity is limited in several areas in many countries of the WECAFC region.

While rules and regulations are essential to improve the working condition in the fisheries sector, an equally important factor is the capacity to implement such rules and regulations. Well-defined strategies need to be formulated to build and support processes that improve both individual) and organizational capacity primarily through (re)training in the Member States.

In order to promote safety and enhance fisher's welfare within the fisheries sector, WECAFC has to play an active role in building sustainable capacity and developing training activities. The commission, in all aspects of its work, must take into account the needs and well-being of the regional community and, in doing so, it will constantly attach the utmost importance to capacity building.

- Human capacity

International organizations have recognized that safety, social protection, and decent working conditions depend on the competence and professionalism of the personnel employed or engaged in the fisheries sector.

Insufficient human capacity to cover safety and decent working conditions in fisheries as well as weak information-collection, exchange and analysis systems hampers sound decision-making processes. With this in mind:



The commission must offer the necessary training that enables Member States to ensure that international instruments regulating such matters are adopted and effectively implemented, as well as creating and strengthening the financial capacity.



The commission will also promote the participation of staff in international fora for keeping their knowledge up to date on international progress made in safety, social protection and decent working conditions.

- Supporting capacity-building

Strengthening and building capacity for fisheries also involves improvements in the organizational structure.



The commission shall promote investments in appropriate technology and infrastructures and capacity building programmes that enable small-scale fishers, with specific emphasis on women, to work in a safe and decent environment.



The commission will also promote the Rules of the Road for small-scale fishers in order to enhance safety of navigation, vessels, crew and marine environment. The FAO elearning Academy has developed an online course²² which introduces participants to the maritime traffic rules that small-scale fishers in coastal and inland waters. Participating in the Course may be a first step in understanding the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (COLREGs).²³ This Course will also raise awareness on its adequate implementation in domestic legislation of Member States.

- Cooperation

The commission must maintain and, where relevant, strengthen its cooperation with other RFBs which have common socio-economic, cultural, and legal backgrounds as they share similar realities and face related challenges. Hence, they can learn from each other's experiences in making transformative changes on safety and decent working conditions in the fleets operating under their mandates.



The WECAFC must also maintain, and, where relevant, strengthen, its collaboration with multiple international organizations (e.g. FAO, ILO, IMO, PEW Charitable Trust, Apostleship of the Sea), and national line ministries (e.g. fisheries, labour, maritime safety) to address the common goal of a sustainable fisheries, which is also safe and provides decent working

²² For more information see <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=704>

²³ For more information see <https://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/Pages/COLREG.aspx>

conditions for all working on board of fishing vessels.

However, developing a capacity building plan for individuals and organizations involves a structured and systematic process. Below are the steps that can be followed to develop a comprehensive capacity building plan:



Assess the needs: conduct a needs assessment to identify the gaps in knowledge, skills, and resources of individuals and organizations. This can be done through surveys, interviews, or focus group discussions.



Set goals and objectives: based on the results of the needs assessment, set clear and specific goals and objectives for the capacity building plan. These goals and objectives should be aligned with the actions suggested above.



Develop a plan of action: develop a plan of action that outlines the strategies and activities that will be used to achieve the goals and objectives. This plan should include details such as timelines, resources required, and the responsibilities of the stakeholders involved.



Monitor and evaluate: monitor and evaluate the progress of the capacity building plan. This can be done through regular assessments, surveys, or feedback sessions. The evaluation results can be used to make adjustments to the plan as needed.

6 Actions

This document has been prepared to help build a more resilient fisheries sector in the WECAFC Member States over the 2023–2032 period. The measures proposed hereunder pertain to: SDG 1.3 (Implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all); SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth); SDG 5 (Gender equality); and SDG 14 (Life below water; scientific management plans for fish stocks such as elimination of IUU fishing).

The purpose of the implementation plan is to assess and implement concrete actions to ensure safety, social protection and decent working conditions on fishing fleets operating under the authority of WECAFC Member States. The plan would assist the fisheries sector to promote international fisheries instruments and improve safety and decent work in the WECAFC region's fisheries. Furthermore, it would support members to conduct relevant training and capacity building activities with respect to labour laws and the safety of fishers.



© Windref

Expected results	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Outcome 1: Better knowledge of the current situation with respect to safety at sea, working conditions and social protection in fisheries				
Output 1.1. Accurate information on accidents and fatalities is received	Developing an incident and accident reporting format based on international best practice; publishing regular reports on accidents and fatalities on fishing vessels; improving investigation capabilities pertaining to fatalities and accidents at sea involving fishers; reviewing the availability of social protection programmes for fishers and mapping the gaps and overlaps in service provision by different government agencies; designing data collection protocols to measure working conditions at the micro, meso, and macro levels in fisheries based on national and international conventions; and developing data collection protocols to measure social protection coverage among fishers, by gender.	number of accidents and fatalities reported using the prescribed format; a report on the availability of social protection measures for fishers and their coverage; and number of data collection protocols developed.	annual country reports; bi-annual WECAFC reports; and website review.	better availability and flow of data; and improved safety, working conditions and social protection.
Output 1.2. Corrective actions at a regional level are suggested	Promoting the designation of focal points at the agencies involved in Member States for the timely communication of information.	number of corrective actions taken by the Member States.	countrywide assessment reports.	

Expected results	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Output 1.3. Data collation and exchange of information is based on reliable technology and trained specialists	Collating information provided on accidents and fatalities on fishing vessels, which is incorporated into a comprehensive database; distributing reports received to other Member States for an improved understanding of the causes of accidents and fatalities, thereby developing an integrated regional database; supporting the development of information technology infrastructure; and training the officials to collect, process and communicate data/information in a timely manner.	number of databases created and/or shared; and number of trainings conducted.	annual country reports; and annual WECAFC reports.	

Outcome 2: Enhanced safety of fishing vessels and fishing equipment

Output 2.1. Model national legislation is developed	Reviewing current practices and operational guidelines for small-scale (< 20 m length overall (LOA) fishing vessels; developing the Code of Practice for small-scale fishing vessels; and developing the model regulations for the implementation of Code of Practice for small-scale fishing vessels.	number of Member States with national legislation which implements Code of Practice for Small-scale fishing vessels; number of Member States parties to the Cape Town Agreement; number of Member States with national legislation which implements the Cape Town Agreement; and number of vessels in the region complying with regional and international standards.	countrywide monitoring and evaluation reports in relation to the implementation of the instruments.	improved safety at sea is essential for building a resilient fishery sector; safety of fishing vessels and equipment will be given priority by all Member States; and creating proper regulatory and other guidelines helps in improving safety at sea in fisheries.
Output 2.2. Regional code is developed	WECAFC supports Member States in the preparation of national legislation, which adopts model regulations for the implementation of Code of Practice for small-scale fishing vessels.			

Expected results	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Output 2.3. Member States adhere to international regulations on safety of fishing vessels	Promoting adherence by Member States to the Cape Town Agreement.			
Output 2.4. Member States adopt national legislation for the implementation of international and regional instruments				

Outcome 3: Achieving decent working conditions in fisheries

Output 3.1. Model national legislation is developed in the Member States	Reviewing legal provisions on labour in fisheries to assess if they are sufficient to ensure decent working conditions, and their compliance with the ILO Work in Fishing Convention 2007 (No. 188); promoting adherence by Member States to Work in Fishing Convention 2007 (No. 188); and improving coordination among various governmental ministries and departments (such as fisheries, social welfare, labour etc. at the local and federal levels) to achieve better working conditions.	number of Member States with national legislation which implements Code of Practice for Small-scale fishing vessels; number of Member States parties to the Work in Fishing Convention; and number of Member States with national legislation which implements the Work in Fishing Convention.	countrywide monitoring and evaluation reports; and periodic review meetings and progress reports.	achieving decent work is essential to building a resilient fisheries sector; and labour and the gendered nature of work in fisheries will receive the due attention by all Member States.
Output 3.2. Member States adhere to international regulations on the safety of fishing vessels				
Output 3.3. Member States adopt national legislation for the implementation of international and regional instrument				
Output 3.4. Regional legislation is developed				

Expected results	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Output 3.5. Improved decent work for fishers in the region	Promoting gender equality, equal opportunity, human rights, and equitable remuneration in fisheries; and cataloguing household-level information on the gendered division of labour in fisheries and outside, working conditions, earnings, and control over resources; encouraging the formation of trade unions and collectives to represent fishers in discussions related to public policy and regulations; and exploring the potential of voluntary certifications, in collaboration with governmental efforts, to ensure decent working conditions.	number of trade unions in fisheries; and number of vessels in the region complying with regional and international standards for decent work.		

Expected results	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Outcome 4: Improved access to, and adoption of, insurance and social protection measures among fishers				
Output 4.1. Member States adopt “Compulsory Third-party Liability Insurance for Fishing Vessels Regulations 2020” in the BOB region	Making life insurance mandatory for fishers; making vessel insurance mandatory wherever possible; promoting Third-party liability insurance for fishing vessels;	number of Member States with national legislation on compulsory third-party liability insurance for fishing vessels; number of private and public insurance companies and products offering insurance to fishers;	countrywide monitoring and evaluation reports; periodic review meetings and progress reports.	a resilient fisheries sector requires adequate coverage of social protection measures for fishers; climate change disproportionately increases the stakes for small-scale fishers;
Output 4.2. Member States provide better access to small-scale fishers to insurance services	creating awareness about importance of insurance among fishers; and promoting social protection schemes, such as social security schemes and financial institution programmes, to improve fisher participation;	number of fishers availing themselves of insurance services; and		achieving better social protection measures is essential to building a resilient fisheries sector;
Output 4.3. Member States include more fishers in social protection schemes	preparing guidelines for increasing access of small-scale fisheries to insurance services, with an emphasis on women-led enterprises; and	number of fishers availing themselves of social protection benefits.		social protection in fisheries, including insurance support, will receive the due attention by all Member States; and
Output 4.4. Improved social security protection for fishers	promoting microinsurance programmes in fisheries, with an emphasis on women-led enterprises.			the economic situation in Member States improves, enabling increased spending on fisheries

Outcome 5: Improved search and rescue of fishing vessels

Output 5.1. Member States adhere to the Convention on Search and Rescue	promoting the International Convention on Search and Rescue; enhancing collaboration in the region on search and rescue; raising awareness of the equipment that is mandatory on board vessels for search and rescue operations; and	number of states parties to the Convention; designated agencies responsible for conducting and coordinating search and rescue operations;	countrywide monitoring and evaluation reports; and periodic review meetings and progress reports.	safety of fishing vessels and equipment will be given priority by all Member States.
Output 5.2. Member States institutionalize the agencies responsible for the conduct and coordination of search and rescue operations	providing training on search and rescue operations and coordination.	number of agreements entered into by Member States; and type of equipment made available to vessels for transmitting distress signals.		

Expected results	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Output 5.3. Member States enter into agreements for the purpose of search and rescue operations				
Output 5.4. Vessels are equipped with devices necessary to transmit distress signals and communicate with search and rescue services				

Outcome 6: Governance in fisheries is geared to achieving improved safety at sea and decent working conditions

Output 6.1. Member States adhere to international instruments	Promoting the IPromoting legally binding and non-binding international instruments for safety and decent working conditions in fisheries;	number of Member States adopting international instruments; and number of WECAFC resolutions on safety, social protection and decent work.	countrywide countrywide monitoring and evaluation reports; and periodic review meetings and progress reports.	integration of fisheries governance with safety at sea and decent work principles can lead to a more resilient fisheries sector.
Output 6.2. WECAFC's mandate is expanded to issues of safety, social protection, and decent work	adopting resolutions that mainstream social aspects of fisheries, including safety, social protection and decent working conditions, with the fisheries management; and			
Output 6.3. Safety, decent work and social security policies are integrated into fisheries management	promoting interagency cooperation to monitor safety and decent work standards.			
Output 6.4. Interagency cooperation is established to ensure enforcement of safety and decent work standards				

Expected results	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Outcome 7. Strengthened capacity to achieve improved safety, decent working conditions and social protection in fisheries				
Output 7.1. Capacity in the region is enhanced, reflecting improved safety, decent work and social protection	Developing training modules and materials on safety at sea in all major languages for implementation at local levels; setting up a dedicated central Fishing Vessel Safety programme/ division, such as the one operationalized by the United States Coast Guarda;	number of training activities; number of regional centres established by the division (either new centres or updated existing centres) to conduct capacity building programmes;	countrywide monitoring and evaluation reports; and periodic review meetings and progress reports.	capacity building is essential at the governmental level and among the stakeholders to contribute to achieving improved safety at sea, decent work and better social protection coverage
Output 7.2. A centralized system that provides continuous support (e.g. training programmes and testing facilities) for fishing vessels safety programmes is launched	establishing training standards for trainers in safety at sea; developing squads of voluntary search and rescue groups, SCUBA divers, paramedics for first-aid services, boatbuilding instructors, and vessel mechanics instructors;	number of safety and trainers who are experienced skippers or captains and are proficient in safety techniques (survival at sea, safety equipment, emergency protocols);		
Output 7.3. Search and rescue operations are enhanced	promoting training of fishers on symptoms of common ailments at sea such as fishing-related injuries, seasickness, decompression sickness, hypothermia etc.;	format of curricula which contain the Rules of the Road; number of women joining the fisheries sector; and		
Output 7.4. Collision, beaching and fire incidents are reduced	developing training modules on prevention and management of collisions, beaching accidents and fire incidents;	number of officers trained in safety and labour standards.		
Output 7.5. More participation of women and improved working condition in the fisheries sector	improving communication with fishers by developing online, electronic, and other appropriate means of communicating the guidelines, best practices and the lessons learned; promoting training activities on the importance of instruments, codes, guidelines and recommendations to ensure safety, social protection and decent work in fisheries;			

Expected results	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Output 7.6. Improved labour standards	Enhancing capacity of labour officers in enforcing labour standards in fisheries; promoting participation of Member States' officers in training activities so that they keep their knowledge up to date on international developments in safety, social protection and decent working conditions; and constitute a working group at the WECAFC to coordinate activities among constituent national agencies tasked with the safety and welfare of fishers.			
Output 7.7. Officers of Member States remain up to date with the developments in international fora on issues of safety, social protection and decent work				

Note: ^a As per its Fishing Vessel Safety Division (United States Coast Guard, 2022)

References

Belja, van Anrooy, and Kalikoski. 2022. *Regional fisheries bodies and their role in improving safety and decent work on fishing vessels*. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1260. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc1145en>.

FAO. 1995. Code of conduct for responsible fisheries. Rome, FAO. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/4a456053-db08-4362-875a-2fdc723c1346/content>.

FAO. 2015. *Voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication*. FAO, Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/edfffbfc-81e5-4208-a36f-334ff81ac10f/content>.

FAO. 2016. *International commercial fishing management regime safety study: synthesis of case reports*. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1073. Rome, Italy. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/13bc1a23-7389-48b0-9819-c3c3acfe9ce7/content>.

FAO. 2019. *Social protection in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Santiago de Chile. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/81ecba62-776c-4f66-83a9-020fa18fc826/content>.

FAO. 2022. Safety at sea, social protection and decent work in fisheries and aquaculture. Committee on Fisheries. Thirty-fifth Session, 5-9 September 2022. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/nj641en>.

Holliday, and van Anrooy. 2021. The fisheries accident management process: guidelines for competent authorities. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1226. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4726en>.

International Labour Organization. 2012. *Gender equality and decent work: Selected ILO Conventions and Recommendations that promote gender equality as of 2012*. International Labour Office, Bureau for Gender Equality, International Labour Standards Department, Geneva. https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_norm/@normes/documents/publication/wcms_088023.pdf

Kaplan, and Kite-Powell. 2000. Safety at sea and fisheries management: fishermen's attitudes and the need for co-management. *Marine Policy*, 24(6):493-497. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0308-597X\(00\)00026-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0308-597X(00)00026-9).

Lozano, Sparks, Durgana, Farthing, Fitzpatrick, Krough-Poulsen, McDonald, et al. 2022. Decent work in fisheries: current trends and key considerations for future research and policy. *Marine Policy*, 136:104922.

Martinez, and van Anrooy. 2020. Compulsory insurance (third party liability) requirements for fishing vessels: a case for the introduction of compulsory fishing vessel insurance in the Caribbean. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1199. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca7732en>.

Ridings. 2021. Labour standards on fishing vessels: a problem in search of a home? *Melbourne Journal of International Law*, 22: 308.

Shrestha, Shrestha, Bygvraa, and Jensen. 2022. Risk assessment in artisanal fisheries in developing countries: a systematic review. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 62(4): 255–264. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2021.08.031>.

Tietze and van Anrooy. 2019. *Guidelines for increasing access of small-scale fisheries to insurance services in Asia. A handbook for insurance and fisheries stakeholders. In support of the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.* Rome, FAO. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b5e95c68-7a11-4885-a86e-f1b079c00b10/content>.

Thorvaldsen, Sønvisen, Holmen. 2022. The impact of fisheries management on fishers' health and safety: A case study from Norway. *Marine Policy*, 140:105066. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2022.105066>.

Van Anrooy, Espinoza Córdova, Japp, Valderrama, Gopal Karmakar, Lengyel, Parappurathu, Upare, Tietze, Costelloe and Zhang. 2022. *World review of capture fisheries and aquaculture insurance 2022.* FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 682. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9491en>.



© Windref



Fisheries and Aquaculture Division - Natural Resources and Sustainable Production
NFI-Inquiries@fao.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Rome, Italy

ISBN 978-92-5-139441-0



9 789251 394410

CD3641EN/1/12.24