



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 445 of 05th November 2017

To:	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
IMO Promotes Fishing Vessel Safety	
Reference:	Cape Town Agreement

IMO Promotes Fishing Vessel Safety

The IMO is campaigning for support for the Cape Town Agreement to enhance fishing vessel safety.

This agreement, once fully ratified, in force and implemented, will be an internationally binding agreement which will facilitate better control of fishing vessel safety by flag, port and coastal States. It will also contribute to the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The Cape Town Agreement was adopted at an international conference held in South Africa in 2012, as a means to bring into effect the provisions of the 1977 Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, which was later modified by the 1993 Torremolinos Protocol. In ratifying the 2012 Agreement, Parties agree to amendments to the provisions of the 1993 Protocol, so that they can come into force as soon as possible thereafter.

The treaty will enter into force 12 months after at least 22 States, with an aggregate 3,600 fishing vessels of 24 meters (79 feet) in length and over operating on the high seas have expressed their consent to be bound by it. To date, seven countries have ratified the Cape Town Agreement: Congo, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway and South Africa. Between them, they have an aggregate of 884 relevant vessels.

*Customer Service Center
5201 Blue Lagoon Drive, 9th. Floor,
Miami, Fl., 33126
Tel: 1 (305) 716 4116,
Fax: 1 (305) 716 4117,
E-Mail:*

joel@conarinagroup.com

*Technical Head Office
7111 Dekadine Ct.
Spring, Tx., 77379
Tel: 1 (832) 451 0185,
1 (713) 204 6380*

E-Mail: cbozenovici@vcmaritime.com

International treaties such as the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) have been in force for decades for commercial shipping industry, including cargo and passenger ships. However, the key instrument applicable to fishing vessels is still not in force. This means there are no mandatory international requirements for stability and associated seaworthiness, life-saving appliances, communications equipment or fire protection.

The push to promote the Cape Town Agreement has been given extra momentum by the entry into force of related treaties under the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the FAO – organizations with which IMO works closely in the context of safety of fishing vessels and (IUU) fishing.

ILO's Work in Fishing Convention 2007 (Convention No. 188) enters into force on November 16, 2017. It sets minimum requirements for work on board including hours of rest, food, minimum age and repatriation.

FAO's Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA), 2009, entered into force in 2016 and now has 50 Parties. It seeks to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing through the adoption and implementation of effective port State measures.

IMO's Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III), meeting in September 2017, agreed a number of proposals to address IUU fishing, focusing on key areas of vessel identification; flag and port state performance; training and vessels of 100 gross tonnage and above of non-steel construction and all motorized inboard fishing vessels of less than 100 gross tonnage down to a size limit of 12 meters in length overall (LOA) authorized to operate outside waters under national jurisdiction of the flag State. This move is expected to contribute to the fight against IUU fishing and to the implementation of the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels.

IMO is also undertaking a comprehensive review of its treaty on training of fishing vessel personnel, the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F), 1995, which entered into force.

*Customer Service Center
5201 Blue Lagoon Drive, 9TH. Floor,
Miami, Fl., 33126
Tel: 1 (305) 716 4116,
Fax: 1 (305) 716 4117,
E-Mail:*

joel@conarinagroup.com

*Technical Head Office
7111 Dekadine Ct.
Spring, Tx., 77379
Tel: 1 (832) 451 0185,
1 (713) 204 6380*

E-Mail: cbozenovici@vcmaritime.com

REFERENCES:

- Cape Town Agreement to enhance fishing vessel safety.

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,
Cosmin Bozenovici
Naval Architect – Conarina Technical Head Office

*Customer Service Center
5201 Blue Lagoon Drive, 9TH. Floor,
Miami, Fl., 33126
Tel: 1 (305) 716 4116,
Fax: 1 (305) 716 4117,
E-Mail:*

joel@conarinagroup.com

*Technical Head Office
7111 Dekadine Ct.
Spring, Tx., 77379
Tel: 1 (832) 451 0185,
1 (713) 204 6380*

E-Mail: cbozenovici@vcmaritime.com