

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102nd MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024

PROPOSAL IATTC-102 L-1

SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES

RESOLUTION ON CREW LABOR STANDARDS ON FISHING VESSELS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) gathered in Panama City, Panama, on the occasion of its 102nd Annual Meeting:

Committed to the responsible conduct of fishing operations in the Antigua Convention area;

Noting with concern the increasing global attention to ongoing instances of poor labor conditions and mistreatment of crew, including instances of human trafficking, servitude, bonded labor, forced labor and child labor that is hazardous and harmful to children's health on board fishing vessels;

Recognizing that Article 6.17 of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO's) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries provides that "States should ensure that fishing facilities and equipment as well as all fisheries activities allow for safe, healthy and fair working and living conditions and meet internationally agreed standards adopted by relevant international organizations";

Noting the International Labor Organization (ILO) Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work including "the freedom of association and the right of collective bargaining, elimination of forced or compulsory labor, abolition of child labor, elimination of discrimination at work, and a safe and healthy working environment," and the ILO C188 Work in Fishing Convention and its objective to ensure that fishers have decent conditions of work on board fishing vessels with regard to minimum requirements for work on board, conditions of service, accommodation and food, occupational safety and health protection, medical care and social security;

Recalling, where applicable, the 2012 Cape Town Agreement (CTA), adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), that outlines fishing vessel standards and includes other regulations designed to protect the safety of crews and observers and to provide a level playing field for industry;

Further noting the important role played by crew members in assisting the conduct of fishing vessel operations in compliance with IATTC resolutions, and the essential role that crew members play in contributing to effective fishing operations;

Acknowledging that exploitative labor practices and unsafe working conditions are serious problems in international fisheries that harm fishing operations and must be condemned and eliminated through effective CPC actions, both collectively and individually;

Recalling efforts that CPCs have made in recent years in improving the conditions and welfare of observers

on board fishing vessels, including the adoption of C-18-07, “Resolution on Improving Observer Safety at Sea,” and acknowledging the importance of the welfare of crew members;

Further Acknowledging that the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) have all taken action to address labor abuses in fisheries under their jurisdiction;

Resolve as follows:

1. CPCs are encouraged to make every effort to ensure that workplace safety and health requirements fully extend to all crew, including migrant workers, working on vessels flying their flag and operating in fisheries in the Antigua Convention Area.
2. CPCs are encouraged to adopt and maintain measures to ensure fair and decent working conditions on board for all crew working on vessels flying their flag and operating in fisheries in the Antigua Convention Area, including, *inter alia*:
 - a. The absence of forced, trafficked, or any other form of involuntary or compulsory labor;
 - b. A safe working environment with minimum risk to health and well-being;
 - c. Fair terms of employment that are enshrined in a written contract made available to the crew member in a form and language that facilitates the crew member’s understanding of the terms and is agreed to by the crew member,
 - d. Fair recruitment, including the prohibition of recruitment fees and related costs being charged to fishing crew members;
 - e. Decent working and living conditions on board vessels provided by the fishing operator or the owner of the fishing vessel, including access to sufficient potable fresh water and food, occupational safety and health protection, medical care, adequate periods of rest, and acceptable standards of sanitary hygiene;
 - f. Access to appropriate safety equipment onboard vessels and safety training before first deployment on a vessel and at appropriate intervals thereafter; such training should be in line with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) safety training standards;
 - g. Access to a communication device at no cost or at a reasonable cost, and a designated point of contact in case of concerns related to safety or labor abuses;
 - h. Decent and regular remuneration no less favorable than the flag CPCs domestic laws and regulations;
 - i. Appropriate insurance covering work-related sickness, injury or death no less favorable than the flag CPC’s domestic laws and regulations;
 - j. Reasonable opportunities to: disembark, access their identity documents, terminate the contract of employment, communicate with an organization that can render assistance to

the crew, and seek repatriation.

3. CPCs are further encouraged to ensure the adequate enforcement of all relevant laws and regulations, including by identifying and prosecuting violations of relevant national laws relating to the treatment of crew by vessels flying their flag, vessel operators landing fish in their ports, and vessels operating in their waters.
4. CPCs are encouraged to work with any entities involved in recruitment of crew to implement the provisions of this Resolution.
5. CPCs are encouraged to apply and, where appropriate, strengthen effective jurisdiction and control over vessels flying their flag.
6. This Resolution shall be reviewed three years after its adoption, taking into account, *inter alia*, any guidance from FAO on standards related to fisheries observer safety as requested by the Joint FAO/IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters and/or any other relevant advancements with regard to labor standards, including guidance from relevant international organizations.
7. CPCs should consider ratifying relevant international instruments and discussing how to improve labor standards in the fisheries sector in the relevant international organizations and fora, such as the ILO.
8. CPCs shall share their progress on provisions in this Resolution to the Commission annually by September 1.
9. This Resolution shall become effective on January 1, 2025.