

This, is an embarrassing story

35,000,000 fishers

1,500,000 seafarers

24 in every 25 persons
working on a ship or vessel
are fishers

Fishers provide an indispensable
service to society

They deliver healthy, natural food
and do that under often
difficult circumstances

The International Labour Organization considers fishing as a hazardous occupation when compared to other occupations

And yet, in terms of decent work,
fishers
are protected less favourable than
seafarers

Under international law
every flag state has the duty
to ensure safety of life at sea
through its internal law

In respect of technical and social matters concerning each ship/fishing vessel flying its flag and its master, officers and crew, in order to ensure safety of life at sea, a flag state shall take measures concerning

safe construction and seaworthiness
of ships and fishing vessels
and their equipment

safe manning of ships and fishing vessels

training and certification of seafarers and fishers

working and living conditions aboard ships and fishing vessels

These measures shall take into account the applicable international instruments

The international flag state duties
require from flag states that they

ratify the international instruments available,
implement them in their national laws,
and **enforce** these laws

International instruments for shipping

International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974

In force, widely ratified and applied,
and kept up-to-date

International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1995

In force, widely ratified and applied,
and kept up-to-date

Maritime Labour Convention, 2006

In force, widely ratified and applied,
and kept up-to-date

19 May 2008

European Social Partners Agreement on
the Maritime Labour Convention, 2007

Implemented in European Union law
through Council Directive 2009/13/EC
of 16 February 2009

International instruments for fishing

Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977

Not in force; not kept up-to-date,
but applied in the European Union
through Directive 97/70/EC

International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995

In force, low ratification rate and application, and not kept up-to-date

Work in Fishing Convention, 2007

Not in force, very low ratification rate,
and not kept up-to-date

22 May 2012

European Social Partners Agreement on the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007

To date not implemented in
European Union law

Decent work in fishing?

What can be expected from the sector if flag states do not fulfil their obligations, if legislation and enforcement are lacking?

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