

**IMO STATEMENT TO THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION  
OF THE FAO COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES (COFI 34)  
(1 to 5 February 2021)**

**ITEM 9 - COMBATting ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING**

In relation to combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, IMO is pleased to report briefly on the actions taken with regard to the recommendations of the Joint ILO/FAO/IMO Working Group (JWG 4), as follows:

- With regard to the recommendation "to develop guidance to assist competent authorities in the implementation of the Cape Town Agreement of 2012" MSC 103 will be presented with a first draft version of the guidance for information only.
- Regarding the recommendation for further exchange between the Indian Ocean MoU and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), it is being followed through the development of a letter of understanding for signature by both organizations for mutual awareness.
- Concerning the recommendation that the work of ILO and IMO, with respect to the issues of abandonment and fair treatment of seafarers, be extended to include fishers, the IMO Seafarer Crisis Action Team (SCAT) has been cooperating with ILO for solving abandonments of fishers in December 2020.
- With regard to the recommendation related to potential integrated capacity-building and technical cooperation programme on IUU fishing and promotion of international instruments relevant to fishing, WMU is implementing the IUU fishing capacity building and training project ICAPFISH, funded by the Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans, Republic of Korea, the IMO Secretariat, with the involvement of the FAO Secretariat, is working to ensure the widest possible involvement of all relevant stakeholders, in particular, from the fishery management and maritime law sectors.
- As per the recommendation that IMO carries out a review of the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme, as may be necessary in cooperation with FAO and ILO, the IMO Secretariat is monitoring the work of IHS Market, the managers of the IMO number schemes, regarding the availability of IMO numbers for fishing vessels of 12 metres in length and above, taking also account additional potential needs for smaller fishing vessels, in particular, in the context of BREXIT. Furthermore, the IMO company and registered owner number scheme has now been extended to the fishing sector, thereby allowing to identify more accurately the companies involved in fishing activities.

Finally, relevant FAO, ILO and IMO bodies will review the terms of reference of the JWG with a view to providing directions to the FAO/ILO/IMO Secretariats for the development of draft rules of procedure and revised terms of reference to be considered at, and adopted, as appropriate, by JWG 5.

IMO remains committed to enhancing the cooperation among FAO and ILO for combatting IUU fishing and to contributing to the work of the Joint ILO/FAO/IMO Working Group.

