Advancing Decent Work in Fisheries
UNECE ToS on Sustainable Fisheries

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4 February 2020
Pillars of sustainability

Economic

Social

Environmental
• Labour intensive
• Hazardous occupations
• Isolation, long periods at sea
• Living and working on board
• Share system, lack of written work agreements
• Long working hours, fatigue
• Need for inter-ministerial cooperation
Child labour
Forced labour
Migrant labour
• Declining resources, IUU fishing, fisheries crime, transnational crime
• Piracy
• Abandonment
Diversity of the sector

Percentage of world fleet by length of fishing vessel in metres:
- < 12 m: 80%
- 12-23.9 m: 10%
- ≥ 24 m: 10%

Note: The chart shows the percentage distribution of the world fleet by vessel length.
Need for inter-ministerial cooperation
Fundamental principles and rights at work (FPRW)

- Forced labour
- Child labour
- Discrimination
- Freedom of association and collective bargaining

- 8 Conventions
- Protocol of 2014 to Forced Labour Convention
Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188)
Objective of C.188:

Decent conditions of work on board fishing vessels:

• minimum requirements for work
• conditions of service
• accommodation and food
• occupational safety and health protection, medical care and social security
• Minimum age
• Medical fitness
• Manning and hours of rest
• Crew list
• Fisher’s work agreement
• Repatriation
• Recruitment and placement
• Payment of fishers
• Accommodation and food
• Medical care
• Occupational safety and health and accident protection
• Social security
• Protection in the case of work-related sickness, injury or death
Flag State control

- *Exercise its jurisdiction and control over vessels that fly its flag*
- Effective system for inspection
- Investigate complaints about conditions

Port State Control

- Inspect foreign vessels
1st detention of a foreign vessel by South Africa - 2018
Combatting Unacceptable Forms of Work in the Thai Fishing and Seafood Industry

Strengthen policy
Enhance government
Improve compliance
Support workers

Protocol of 2014 and C.188 ratified
Strengthened Coordination to Combat Labour Exploitation and Trafficking in Fisheries in Southeast Asia – Sea Fisheries Project

- Multi-stakeholder regional coordination body
- Coordinate national and regional strategies and action plans
- Independent research

US funded
FAO/IMO Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on IUU fishing and related matters