

REVISED ROP EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP)
(Submitted by the European Union)

The following ROP Emergency Action Plan (EAP) shall apply to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of observers deployed in the EU pursuant to ICCAT ROPs established in the Recommendation by ICCAT on a Program for Transshipment (Rec. 16-15) and the Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 19-04).

The designated services responsible for applying the following ROP Emergency Action Plan (EAP) are detailed in the Annex.

The following emergency reporting and evacuation procedures shall be followed by the EU operators and authorities where appropriate in the event an observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, suffers from a serious illness or injury that threatens his or her health, safety, or welfare, or has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened or harassed:

1. In the event that an ROP observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, the EU Member states to which the fishing vessel is flagged shall take necessary measures to require that the fishing vessel:
 - a) immediately ceases all fishing operations;
 - b) immediately notifies the appropriate Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC), the EU flag Member state, and the observer provider;
 - c) immediately commences search and rescue if the observer is missing or presumed fallen overboard, and searches for at least 72 hours, unless the observer is found sooner, or unless instructed by the EU flag Member state to continue searching¹;
 - d) immediately alerts other vessels in the vicinity by using all available means of communication;
 - e) cooperates fully in any search and rescue operation;
 - f) whether or not the search is successful, promptly returns to the nearest port for further investigation, as agreed by the EU flag Member state and the observer provider;
 - g) promptly provides a report on the incident to the observer provider and appropriate flag State authorities; and
 - h) cooperates fully in all official investigations, and preserves any potential evidence and the personal effects and quarters of the deceased or missing observer.
2. In addition, in the event that a ROP observer dies while deployed, the EU flag Member state shall require that the fishing vessel ensure that the body is well-preserved for the purposes of an autopsy and investigation.
3. In the event that an ROP observer suffers from a serious illness or injury that threatens his or her health or safety, the EU Member state to which the fishing vessel is flagged shall take necessary measures to require that the fishing vessel:
 - a) immediately ceases fishing operations;
 - b) immediately notifies the EU flag Member state, observer provider, and relevant MRCC to advise if a medical evacuation is warranted;
 - c) takes all reasonable actions to care for the observer and provide any medical treatment available and possible on board the vessel;
 - d) where necessary and appropriate, including as directed by the observer provider, if not already directed by the EU flag Member state, facilitates the disembarkation and transport of the observer to a medical facility equipped to provide the required care, as soon as practicable; and
 - e) cooperates fully in any and all official investigations into the cause of the illness or injury.

¹ In the event of force majeure, CPCs and non-CPCs may allow their vessels to cease search and rescue operations before 72 hours have elapsed.

4. For the purposes of paragraphs 1 through 3, the EU and the EU flag Member state shall ensure that the appropriate MRCC, observer provider, and the Secretariat are immediately notified of the incident, actions taken or underway to address the situation, and any assistance that may be required.
5. In the event that there are reasonable grounds to believe an ROP observer has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened, or harassed such that their health or safety is endangered and the observer or the observer provider indicates to the EU that they wish for the observer to be removed from the fishing vessel, the EU flag Member state shall take necessary measures to require that the fishing vessel:
 - a) immediately takes action to preserve the safety of the observer and mitigate and resolve the situation on board;
 - b) notifies the EU flag Member State and the observer provider of the situation, including the status and location of the observer, as soon as possible;
 - c) facilitates the safe disembarkation of the observer in a manner and place, as agreed by the EU flag Member state and the observer provider, that facilitates access to any needed medical treatment; and
 - d) cooperates fully in any and all official investigations into the incident.
6. In the event that there are reasonable grounds to believe that an ROP observer has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened, or harassed but neither the observer nor the observer provider wishes that the observer be removed from the fishing vessel, EU Member state shall take necessary measures to require that the fishing vessel:
 - a) takes action to preserve the safety of the observer and mitigate and resolve the situation on board as soon as possible;
 - b) notifies the EU flag Member state and the observer provider of the situation as soon as possible; and
 - c) cooperates fully in all official investigations into the incident.
7. If any of the events in paragraphs 1 through 5 occur, port EU Member states CPCs or non-CPCs shall facilitate entry of the fishing vessel to allow disembarkation of the ROP observer and, to the extent possible, assist in any investigations if so requested by the EU flag Member state.
8. In the event that, after disembarkation from a fishing vessel of an ROP observer, an observer provider identifies, such as during the course of debriefing the observer, a possible situation involving assault or harassment of the observer while on board the fishing vessel, the observer provider shall notify, in writing, the EU and the Secretariat.
9. If notified, under paragraph 5b, 6b, or 8, that an observer has been assaulted or harassed, the EU and the EU flag Member state shall
 - a) investigate the event based on the information provided by the observer provider and take any appropriate action in response to the results of the investigation;
 - b) cooperate fully in any investigation conducted by the observer provider, including providing the report to the observer provider and appropriate authorities of the incident; and
 - c) promptly notify the observer provider and the Secretariat of the results of its investigation and any actions taken.
10. EU Member states shall also encourage vessels flying their flag to participate, to the greatest extent possible, in any search and rescue operations involving an ROP observer.
11. Where requested, relevant observer providers, the European Commission and the EU Member states shall cooperate in each other's investigations, including providing their incident reports for any incidents indicated in paragraphs 1 through 6 to facilitate any investigations as appropriate.

1. CROATIA

The Republic of Croatia has established a National plan for search and rescue of human lives at sea² in line with all international conventions and international Sea Law.

2. CYPRUS

The relevant **MRCC Center** for Cyprus is:

2.1 *The Joint Rescue and Coordination Center (JRCC)*

Relevant information on Cyprus Search and Rescue Region on the link below:

http://www.mod.gov.cy/mod/cjrcc.nsf/cjrcc13_en/cjrcc13_en?opendocument#

Contact Numbers: (+357) 24643005, (+357) 24304723, (+357) 24304737

Email: info@jrcc.org.cy (Not to be used to report an emergency)

2.2 *The contact information for the Flag CPC/Cyprus in case of emergency is:*

The Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC): (+357) 99 834357

3. FRANCE

3.1 *In the event that a ROP observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard*

Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCC) via VHF 16

3.2 *In the event that a ROP observer suffers from a serious illness or injury that threatens his or her health or safety*

The concerned MRCC liaise with the **CCMM** (*Centre de consultation médicale maritime*).

If the vessel is outside the French waters, the master of the vessel shall contact the **MRCC Griz-Nez** that will contact the CCMM.

4. ITALY

Type: MRCC

SRR: ITALIAN SRR

Telephone: +39 06 59084409

Alternate phone: +39 065923569; +39 065924145; +39 0659084527.

Email: itmrcc@mit.gov.it

Fax: +39 065922737 +390659084793

INMARSAT: Sat-C 424 744 220

Notes: AFTN: LIJIYFYX & IMCC@SATC.IMRCC.IT (for emergencies only)

² https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/1998_12_164_2025.html

5. MALTA

Rescue Coordination Centres

RCC Malta (Malta Radio) (Cospas-Sarsat SPOC) Type: MRCC Country: Malta SRR: SRR MALTA Telephone: +356 21257267 Alternate phone: +356 22494202 Email: rccmalta@gov.mt Fax: +356 21809860 INMARSAT: Sat-C 421 599 999 Notes: AFTN: LMMCYCYX & LMMLYCYC (for emergencies only) - - ANM 48/12

SRR MALTA:

- 5.1 Malta Air Traffic Services Ltd Type: Other Country: Malta SRR: SRR MALTA Telephone: +356 23696520 Alternate phone: +356 23695339 Fax: +356 23695411 Alternate fax: +356 23695432 Notes: AFTN: LMMMZQZX - ANM 29/08
- 5.2 Malta Maritime Authority Type: Other Country: Malta SRR: SRR MALTA Telephone: +356 22914650 Alternate phone: +356 22914651 / +356 22914652 / +356 21250360 Fax: +356 21222208 Alternate fax: +356 21241460 / +356 22914419 Notes: ANM 29/08
- 5.3 Armed Forces Of Malta Type: NSA Country: Malta SRR: SRR MALTA Telephone: +356 21809279 Email: hq.afm@gov.mt Fax: +356 21809860

6. PORTUGAL

Fisheries Surveillance Control Center - CCVP / FMC is available 24/7 through contacts 213 025 185/918 800 915, that can receive calls in the area and forward them, if applicable, to the appropriate rescue and emergency entities (MRCC) and/or to the entities competent to take care of the occurrence (offense or crime situations);

7. SPAIN

Marine Safety/Rescue Services:

- from land +34 900 202 202 and 112
- from the sea: CANAL 16 VHF

8. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES
International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries
Regional Fisheries Management Organisations
Cc: MARE-ICCAT-B2@ec.europa.eu