

**DRAFT RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON  
HARMONISATION AND IMPROVED OBSERVER SAFETY**

*Proposal presented by Norway*

*NOTING* the regional observer programme (ROP) established by ICCAT;

*RECALLING* that the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watch keeping for Fishing Vessel Certification (STCW- F), adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 1995, sets forth safety training standards for personnel serving on board seagoing fishing vessels;

*ALSO RECALLING* 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 and acknowledging that ratification of this agreement will address and increase observer safety through appropriate safety standards for vessels, safety equipment and communication equipment;

*NOTING* the challenges faced by observers in relation to health, safety and welfare;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the fourth meeting of the JOINT FAO/IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters (JWG 4), which recommended that FAO consider how to promote fisheries observer safety globally through the most appropriate process and that this process should review available information and existing national and regional measures on the safety, security and working and living conditions of fisheries observers under existing observer programmes and be informed by IMO, ILO, other relevant Organizations and stakeholders, taking into account the views expressed by the participants of JWG 4.

[...]

[...]

*RECOGNISING* that challenges relating to health and safety for observers are global and should be harmonised in order to ensure level playing field and facilitate implementation at national level;

*EMPHASISING* that improved dialogue at the national level between the competent authorities and their fishing vessel operators is warranted;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:

1. The Commission will evaluate the outcome of the fourth meeting of the JOINT FAO/IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters at its meeting in Torremolinos, Spain, 23-25 October 2019, and consider appropriate follow-up.
2. CPCs will commit themselves to strengthen the dialogue with their fishing vessel operators with a view of raising awareness of the health and security challenges confronting observers, thus enhancing cooperation between crew members and observers.