OBSERVER PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT and OBSERVER LOGISTICAL COORDINATION WORKSHOP

Emergency Action Plan

IOTC ROS OLC TR11.02

Category: Safety at sea

[IOTC ROS OLC TR11]

INTRODUCTION

- Fishing industry is most hazardous industry internationally with Observers being exposed to the same risks as fishermen.

- Observers can face additional safety issues including:

  - Intimidation

  - Harassment

  - Interference

  - Bribery

  - Violence

HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

INDEPENDENT REPORT

FISHERIES OBSERVER DEATHS AT SEA, HUMAN RIGHTS & THE ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES OF FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS

1ST JULY 2020
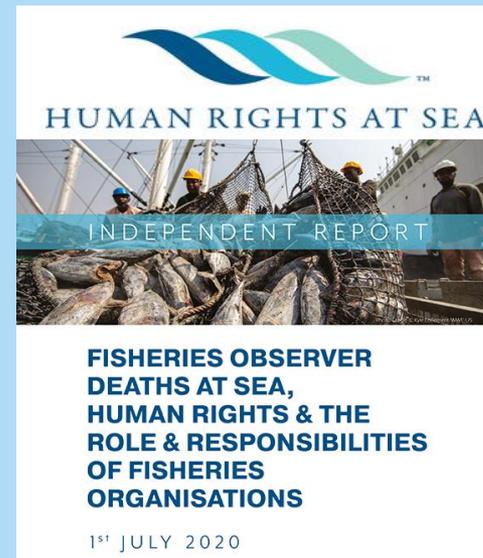
On occasion this safety issues have led to observer casualties. The need to protect observers whilst at sea is recognized by multiple RFMOs, including the IOTC.

IOTC ROS Standard on EAP

- *An Emergency Action Plan (EAP) is a written procedure detailing the appropriate response to observer emergency situations at sea, and outlining required responses for Observers, Observer Coordinators, vessel Master/Captain, vessel Operators/Owners, and Coastal States and Flag States.*

- According to IOTC ROS Safety-at-sea standards, **CPCs are responsible to ensure that an "Emergency Action Plan" (EAP) is in place to accommodate any reported observer emergency and that it is included in any MoU established for the deployment of international observers in the context of the IOTC ROS .**

IOTC ROS expectations on EAP

- An EAP is in place to accommodate any reported observer emergency and it's explained to observers and fully understood before observers depart on their trip.

- The **EAP includes, as a minimum**, the following agreed safety-at-sea standard procedures, detailed under Guidelines for IOTC ROS.

  - **Pre-boarding measures**

  - **Communications protocol and appropriate contact information**

  - **Follow up responses**

  - **Remedial action**

  - **Completing the EAP protocols**

  - **Reporting to the IOTC**

IOTC ROS expectations on EAP

CPCs must establish appropriated procedures for addressing issues related to the safety of observers including violations against observers.

These measures must include clear actions and SOPs to be followed in the event of various emergencies including:

a) Observer illness, injury and death

b) Observer missing at-sea or presumed fallen overboard

c) Assault, intimidation, threatening and/or harassing of an observer

Key follow up responses

The observer programme must establish a procedure to initiate contact with the observer, the vessel, and, if necessary, the appropriate enforcement authority of Flag CCMs and relevant Coastal CCMs.

Key follow up response that are likely to the same for all situations must include a **Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) to initiate contact with**

1. the observer

2. the vessel Master/Captain

3. the vessel Operators/Owners

4. the appropriate enforcement authority of Flag CPC and relevant Coastal CPCs

CapMarine
Capricorn Marine Environmental

Completing the EAP protocols and reporting to IOTC

- CPCs must establish appropriate measures for addressing violations made against observers.

- Incidents involving observer reporting of interference, harassment or intimidation must be resolved through a legal or nationally recognized procedure.

- CPCs must have an established procedure to report incidents involving observers to the Secretariat.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION