



**MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE**
TORREMOLINOS, SPAIN
21-23 OCTOBER 2019

SAFE FISHING LEGAL FISHING

KEY INFORMATION

This conference brings together ministers and high-level officials from more than 100 countries to promote ratification of the Cape Town Agreement, a key international treaty for safety of fishing vessels. Entry into force of the treaty will bring about much-needed minimum safety measures for fishing vessels on a global basis.

Ensuring safe and sustainable fishing is linked with the achievement of the targets of UN SDG 14 on the oceans. There are also links with other UN SDGs, including those relating to poverty, hunger, education and training, infrastructure and partnerships.

Who?

The Conference is co-hosted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Government of Spain. IMO is the United Nations specialized agency which develops and adopts global standards for shipping safety, maritime security, efficiency of shipping and environmental protection.

The Conference is supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and The Pew Charitable Trusts.

When?

Torremolinos, Málaga, Spain, 21-23 October 2019

Why Torremolinos?

In 1977, an international diplomatic Conference in Torremolinos, convened by IMO, adopted the first international treaty for fishing vessel safety. It didn't enter into force, so a protocol was adopted in Torremolinos in 1993. To address technical issues which were inhibiting its entry into force, a further treaty, the Cape Town Agreement, was adopted in 2012 – effectively updating the Torremolinos Protocol. In 2019, IMO Member States are returning to Torremolinos to harness a real momentum towards bringing into force a binding regulatory framework to provide minimum safety measures for fishing vessels.

Participation

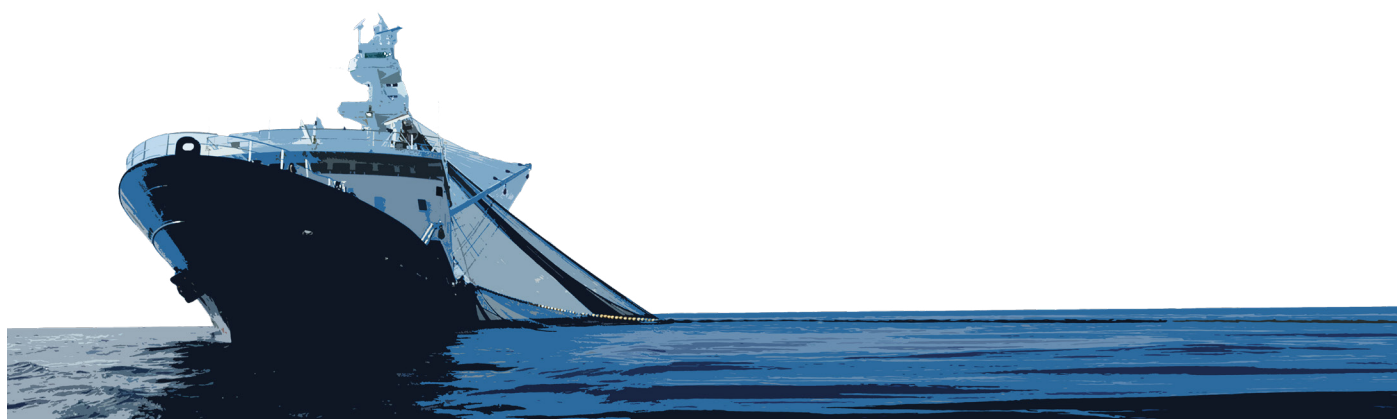
Nearly 200 delegates are expected to attend from more than 100 countries, including China, Cook Islands, Iceland, Republic of Korea, Spain, South Africa, among others.
More than 30 Ministers will attend.

Key people:

IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim; UN Special Envoy for the Ocean Peter Thomson; Mr. José Luis Ábalos Meco, Minister for Public Works and Transport, Spain; Ministers from other countries.

Key organizations include:

IMO, FAO, ILO, UNCTAD, Pew Charitable Trusts; Arctic Council, IMSO, ITF, IUMI, WWF,



PROGRAMME AND KEY EVENTS

Monday 21 October:

- 09:30 Opening session: Welcome from Mayor of Torremolinos / Opening address by IMO Secretary-General / Keynote Address by Spanish Minister of Development / Appointment of Conference President
- 10:00 onwards: Ministerial segment: Conference President opens Segment / Keynote address by UN Special Envoy for the Ocean Peter Thomson / Statements by Ministers / Closing remarks
- 17:40: Torremolinos Declaration signing ceremony – a number of States will sign a non-legally binding political declaration to publicly indicate their Government's determination to ratify and promote the Cape Town Agreement by the tenth anniversary of its adoption (11 October 2022)

Tuesday 22 October:

- 09:30-17:30 Panel discussions on fishing vessel safety / fishing in Polar regions / Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing / search and rescue
- 17:40: Special event on women in fisheries – the role and visibility of women in fisheries.

Wednesday 23 October:

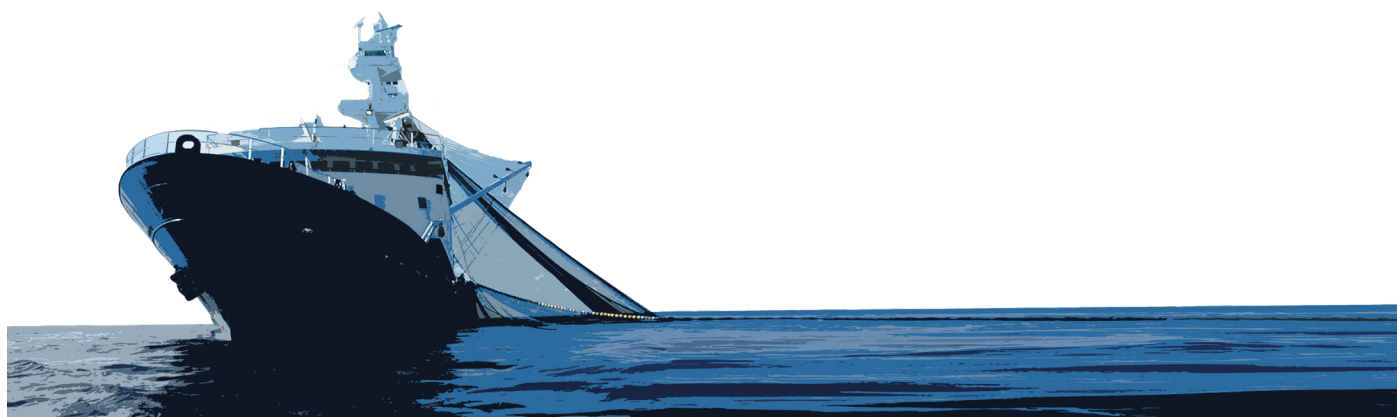
- 09:30-11:15 Panel discussion on marine debris from fishing vessels
- 11:45-12:00 Adoption of Conference Resolutions (text to be further developed during the conference), including Torremolinos Statement, calling on States to ratify the Cape Town Agreement on Fishing Vessel Safety and to take other action to address fishing vessel safety and prevent illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.
- 12:00-12:30 Closing remarks and formal closure of the conference.

Wednesday 23 October (p.m.)-Friday 25 October

Joint FAO/ILO/IMO Working Group on IUU Fishing - Agenda includes: status of IUU fishing (responsibilities of flag States, port States, coastal States, market States, fishing personnel training/providing States, and States with fleet managing, food processing and food distribution companies); global legal framework; status of combating IUU fishing; recommendations and follow up actions.

MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS

Journalists are invited to attend the Conference. Arrangements will be made for access to the main programme and for interviews. Please email media@imo.org.



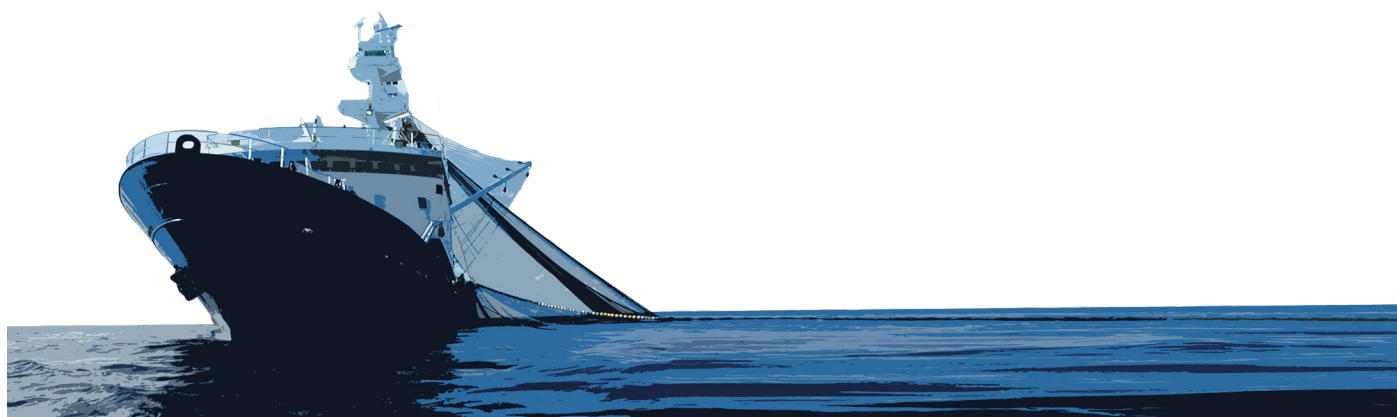
KEY FACTS

How many ratifications are needed to bring the Cape Town Agreement into force?

- The treaty will enter into force 12 months after at least 22 States, with an aggregate 3,600 fishing vessels of 24 m in length and over operating on the high seas have expressed their consent to be bound by it. To date (September 2019), 11 countries have ratified the Cape Town Agreement: Belgium, Congo, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Saint Kitts and Nevis, South Africa and Spain. Between them, they have an aggregate of 1,413 fishing vessels of 24 m in length and over operating on the high seas.
- Ratification by key players with large fishing vessels fleet, such as China, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation would bring the treaty closer to its entry into force criteria. But widespread ratification is needed to ensure global regulation.

About fishing

- Fishing is one of the most dangerous professions in the world. It is estimated that thousands of fishers lose their lives every year. The safety of fishing vessels is key to reducing lives lost in the sector.
- The lack of an international mandatory regime makes it harder for effective control and monitoring of fishing vessel safety standards. But the key international treaty covering fishing vessel safety is not yet in force.
- The continuing and alarmingly high number of fishing vessel personnel fatalities and of fishing vessels reported lost every year could be substantially reduced by global, uniform and effective implementation of the Cape Town Agreement. The hazardous working conditions fishing vessel personnel encounter working at sea can be exacerbated when fishing vessels are poorly designed, constructed and badly maintained.
- The 2012 Cape Town Agreement is an internationally-binding instrument which will provide a global mandatory regime to ensure fishing vessels are designed and constructed to be safe, have the right safety equipment on board, and will be surveyed and certified to meet the requirements. Ratifying the Cape Town Agreement will also support action on illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing.
- Prime Ministers, Ministers of fishing and maritime affairs and high level officials from 111 countries will meet over three days to discuss how to boost the ratification of the Cape Town Agreement.
- In order to take early action on accession, during the first day of Conference (21 October), the Government of Spain has called for interested Member States to join them in signing a non-legally binding political declaration to publicly indicate their Government's determination to ratify and promote the Agreement by the tenth anniversary of its adoption (11 October 2022). The signing ceremony will take place after Conference adjourns on Monday, 21 October 2019.
- Torremolinos has been chosen as the venue for this conference because it was where originally was launched the first internationally-binding instrument to improve the security of fishing vessels: the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977
- More than 40 years after the first international treaty to address fishing vessel safety was adopted there is still no binding regulatory framework in force providing minimum safety measures for fishing vessels. The conference aims to garner the momentum to change that, and to get on the road to ratification and entry into force of the Cape Town Agreement.



Global treaties for global fishing

For fishing and fishers, the four essential global treaties are:

1. IMO's 2012 Cape Town Agreement (not yet in force)
2. IMO's STCW-F Convention on training of fishers - it entered into force in 2012.
3. ILO's Work in Fishing Convention 2007 (Convention No. 188) - it entered into force on 16 November 2017. It sets minimum requirements for work on board including hours of rest, food, minimum age and repatriation.
4. FAO's Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA), 2009 - it entered into force in 2016. It seeks to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing through the adoption and implementation of effective port State measures.

The Cape Town Agreement and the SDGs

- Legal, sustainable fishing operations conducted by fishers in a safe and decent environment has the capacity to transform the fisheries sector and fulfil multiple SDGs (including SDGs 1, 5, 8 and 14). Ratification and entry into force of the Cape Town Agreement will deter the proliferation of IUU fishing and establish international safety standards for fishing vessels.

FURTHER READING

Torremolinos conference: <http://www.imo.org/en/About/Events/Pages/Torremolinos-Conference-safe-fishing-legal-fishing.aspx>

Enhancing fishing vessel safety to save lives: <http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Fishing.aspx>

Status of ratification of IMO Cape Town Agreement (CTA), FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA); ILO Work in Fishing Convention No. 188 (interactive map)

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/it/research-and-analysis/data-visualizations/2018/three-treaties-to-end-illegal-fishing>

Fatalities in the fishing sector - non exhaustive list of resources and studies

Fatalities in fisheries <http://www.fao.org/3/X9656E/X9656E.htm>

MAIB Report on the Analysis of Fishing Vessel Accident Data 1992-2000 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/377609/Analysis_of_fishing_vessel_accident_data.pdf

Analysis of Fishing Vessel Casualties A Review of Lost Fishing Vessels and Crew Fatalities, 1992 – 2007 https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/CG-5PC/CG-CVC/CVC3/reports/2008_Casualty_Analysis.pdf

Work-related mortality in the US fishing industry during 2000-2014 This study found fatality rates in fishing fleets during 2010–2014 ranging from 21 to 147 deaths per 100,000 FTEs, many times higher than the rate for all US workers. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5958543/>

Ireland: Fishing is one of the most dangerous professions. The average fishing fatality rate works out at 40 times more hazardous than general working https://www.hsa.ie/eng/Your_Industry/Fishing/Sea_Fishing_Sector/The_Sea_Fishing_Sector/Fatal_injuries_in_agriculture_forestry_and_fishing_in_Great_Britain_2018/19 <http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/pdf/agriculture-fatal-injuries-1819.pdf>

Traumatic work related fatalities in commercial fishermen in Australia - The incidence of fatality of 143/100,000 person-years was 18 times higher than the incidence of fatality for the entire workforce, and considerably higher than that of the mining and agricultural workforces. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1128055/>

Commercial Fishing Fatality Summary Alaska region <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2017-171/pdf/2017-171.pdf>
Accidents at work statistics https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Accidents_at_work_statistics

Injuries and Fatalities in Danish Commercial Fishing Fleet in 1998–2016 <https://www.mdpi.com/2313-576X/4/2/13/htm>

Facts of the catch: occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities to fishing workers, 2003–2009 <https://www.bls.gov/opub/btn/volume-1/facts-of-the-catch-occupational-injuries-illnesses-and-fatalities-to-fishing-workers-2003-2009.htm>

Canada: The fishing industry - in Canada as abroad - has long registered disproportionately large numbers of accidents and fatalities. <http://www.tsb.gc.ca/eng/surveillance-watchlist/marine/2018/marine.html>

Insight report on safety in the fishing industry Lloyd's Register Foundation <https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/en/publications/insight-report-on-safety-in-the-fishing-industry/>