

Original: English

[...]

DRAFT RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A PROCESS TO ADDRESS LABOR STANDARDS IN ICCAT FISHERIES
(a new proposal by the United States)

RECOGNIZING that various international instruments speak to the issue of certain labor standards and labor abuses such as forced labor;

RECALLING that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO's) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries provides that "States should ensure that fishing facilities and equipment as well as all fisheries activities allow for safe, healthy and fair working and living conditions and meet internationally agreed standards adopted by relevant international organizations";

AWARE OF work being done to address the issue of labor standards in the seafood sector in other relevant international organizations and fora, such as the International Labor Organization (ILO), Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the recommendations from the fourth meeting of the Joint FAO/ILO/International Maritime Organization (IMO) Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Related Matters;

[...]

WELCOMING the initial exchange on labor practices and potential labor abuses during the 2021 Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) Working Group meeting, during which some CPCs expressed their concern about the practice and stressed the urgency of addressing it;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that unfair and abusive labor practices and unsafe working conditions are dire problems in international fisheries that must be both condemned in the strongest way possible and eliminated through effective CPC actions, taken collectively and individually;

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

1. An *ad hoc* Working Group on labor standards is established to identify actions that CPCs can take, individually and collectively, to improve labor standards in ICCAT fisheries, including through cooperation with other relevant international organizations and assistance to developing CPCs in the development and strengthening of relevant domestic legislation on labor standards and in the enforcement of that legislation.
2. The *ad hoc* Working Group will meet intersessionally beginning in 2022, preferably in conjunction with another ICCAT intersessional meeting. All CPCs are encouraged to participate in the Working Group. At its first meeting, the Working Group will elect its chair. The Working Group may invite outside experts to support its work, as needed.
3. The *ad hoc* Working Group will report on the progress of its deliberations at the 2022 ICCAT Annual Meeting as well as provide its recommendations regarding the need for additional intersessional meetings. The Commission will consider this report and decide on next steps.
4. CPCs are strongly encouraged to immediately take all appropriate actions under domestic and international law to improve and enforce requirements regarding labor standards and the prohibition of labor abuses including by, where applicable, strengthening these effective controls over vessels flying their flag that participate in ICCAT fisheries or in fishing-related activities that support such fishing.