

CPC : ALGERIA

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP) TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND PROTECT THE HEALTH OF OBSERVERS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVERS PROGRAMMES

The objective of this Emergency Action Plan (EAP) is to set out the actions, measures and procedures to be taken and followed by the fishing vessel owners/operators carrying onboard regional observers, or if the person is presumed to have fallen overboard, suffers from a disease or serious injury that threatens their health, safety or welfare, or assaulted, intimidated, threatened or harassed.

Procedures:

1- In case of missing at sea: In the case where an observer is missing, or has fallen overboard, the fishing vessel must:

A- In case of fishing in waters under national jurisdiction

- a) Immediately cease all fishing operations;
- b) Immediately notify using all available means, the National Centre (CNOSS) or the Regional Centres of At-Sea Surveillance and Rescue Operations (CROSS) which will intervene within the limit of the waters under Algeria's national jurisdiction or covered by the international programme of satellite system for search and rescue (COSPAS/SARSAT), as well as the Ministry of Fisheries and Fisheries Production;
- c) Provide to the CNOSS all the information requested to enable and facilitate prompt location and rescue;
- d) Immediately commence search and rescue operations if the observer is missing or presumed to have fallen overboard, and search for at least 72 hours, unless the observer is found earlier or the flag CPC or non-CPC orders the search to continue;
- e) Immediately alert all vessels in the vicinity ensuring the use of all available means of communication;
- f) Cooperate fully with the CNOSS throughout the period of search and rescue operations;
- g) Whether or not the search is successful, promptly return to the nearest port for further investigation in coordination with the Ministerial Department of Fisheries;
- h) Promptly provide a report on the incident to the observers service provider and to the competent authorities of the flag State;
- i) Fully cooperate in any official investigations and preserve any potential proof, the personal belongings and quarters of the missing observer.

B- In case of fishing in international waters:

It should be noted that tuna purse seine vessels operate in international waters to fish for live bluefin tuna. Therefore, the following applies for implementation of the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) to ensure the safety and preserve the health of observers within the framework of the ICCAT regional observers programmes.

- a) Immediately cease all fishing operations;
- b) Immediately inform using all available means, the MRCC of the country concerned and cooperate with the National Centre (CNOSS) or the Regional Centres of At-Sea Surveillance and Rescue (CROSS);
- c) Immediately notify the State that covers the area where the person is missing within the framework of the international programme of satellite system for search and rescue (COSPAS/SARSAT) in the SAR area;
- d) Immediately alert other vessels in the vicinity by using all available means of communication;
- e) Whether or not the search is successful, promptly return to the nearest port for further investigation in coordination with the Ministerial Department of Fisheries;

- f) Promptly provide a report on the incident to the observers service provider and the competent authorities of the flag State;
- g) Preserve any potential proof and the personal belongings and the quarters of the missing observer.

2. In case of death at sea

In the event that an ROP observer dies while deployed, the flag CPC or non-CPC shall require that the fishing vessel ensure that the body is well-preserved for the purposes of an autopsy and investigation.

3. In the case of illness or injury:

In the case where an ROP observer suffers from a serious illness or injury that endangers their health or safety, the Master of the vessel concerned shall take the following action:

- a) Immediately cease fishing operations and immediately return to the nearest fishing port, either national or of another CPC;
- b) Immediately notify the CNOSS, the Ministerial Department of Fisheries or the flag State or country of the vessel and the observers service provider and provide all information to enable assessment of the observer's state of health as to if a prompt medical evacuation is warranted;
- c) Immediately inform the State that covers the area where the person is missing within the framework of the international programme of satellite system for search and rescue (COSPAS/SARSAT);
- d) Care for the observer and provide any medical treatment available and possible onboard the vessel;
- e) While heading to the nearest port, as instructed by the CNOSS and/or MRCC, the vessel concerned shall ensure that first aid is administered while waiting for the ill or injured observer to be evacuated;
- f) Facilitate disembarkation and transport of the victim to the nearest hospital facility to provide the required care as soon as possible;
- g) Fully cooperate in any official investigations into the cause of the illness or injury.

4. For the purposes of paragraphs 1 to 3

The Ministerial Department of Fisheries shall ensure that the CNOSS informs as soon as possible the observers service provider and the ICCAT Secretariat of the incident as well as the actions taken or underway and that all necessary assistance has been provided.

5. Observer safety

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 Ministerial Department of Fisheries that they wish for the observer to be removed from the fishing vessel, the Ministerial Department of Fisheries or the country to which the fishing vessel is flagged 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) informs the Ministerial Department of Fisheries or the flag State and the observers service provider of the situation, indicating in particular 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 Ministerial Department of Fisheries or the flag State and the observers service provider, and facilitates access to any medical treatment needed; and
- d) cooperates fully in any 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 observers service provider wishes that the observer be removed from the fishing vessel, the Ministerial Department of Fisheries or flag 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 Ministerial Department of Fisheries or the flag State and the observers service 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 to 5 occur

The Ministerial Department of Fisheries or the port State 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 Ministerial Department of Fisheries or the flag State.

8. In the event that, after disembarkation from a fishing vessel of an ROP observer, an observers service provider identifies, such as during the course of debriefing the observer, a possible situation involving assault or harassment of the observer during their deployment onboard the fishing vessel, the observers service provider shall notify, in writing, the Ministerial Department of Fisheries or the flag State and the ICCAT Secretariat.
9. If notified, under paragraph 5b, 6b, or 8, that an observer has been assaulted or harassed, the Department of the fisheries sector or the flag 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 observers service provider, including providing the report to the observers service provider and competent authorities of the incident;
 - c) promptly notify the observers service provider and the Secretariat of the results of its investigation and the actions taken.
10. The Ministerial Department of Fisheries of the flag State shall encourage vessels flying their flag to participate, to the greatest extent possible, in any search and rescue operations involving a ROP observer.
11. Where requested, the relevant observers service providers and the Ministerial Department of Fisheries shall cooperate in each other's investigations, including providing their incident reports for any incidents indicated in paragraphs 1 to 6 to contribute to facilitating any investigations as appropriate.