

CPC : KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP) OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF OBSERVERS AND GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF OBSERVERS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMMES

1. Case of disappearance at sea:

In case that an observer is missing, or falls overboard (MOB), the fishing vessel must:

- a) Cease immediately all fishing operations;
- b) Notify immediately and by all available means, the Rabat Marine Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC Rabat*), which is attached to the Maritime Fisheries Department;
- c) Provide to the MRCC Rabat all the information requested to enable location or quick rescue of the MOB ;
- d) Start immediately the search and rescue operations according to the plan established by the MRCC and remain at its disposal until the end of the operations is announced.
- e) Alert immediately the other vessels in close proximity by using all the available means of communication;
- f) Cooperate fully with the MRCC Rabat throughout the period of search and rescue operations;
- g) Cooperate with the closest port for the needs of the enquiry in coordination with the Maritime Fisheries Department;
- h) Prepare and communicate to the Maritime Fisheries Department and to the competent authorities a detailed report on the incident;
- i) Cooperate fully with all the official enquiries and conserve all potential proof as well as the personal belongings and the quarters of the deceased or missing observer.

2. Case of death at sea:

In the case that an ROP observer dies during deployment, the fishing vessel will ensure that the body is properly conserved for the purposes of an autopsy and an enquiry and will inform the Maritime Fisheries Department or the flag State of the vessel.

3. Case of illness or injury:

In the case where an ROP observer suffers from an illness or serious injury endangering the person's health or safety, the master of the vessel concerned will take the following measures:

- a) Cease immediately fishing operations;
- b) Inform immediately the MRCC Rabat, attached to the Maritime Fisheries Department, or the flag State of the vessel, the observers service provider, and communicate to them all the information to enable precise assessment of observer's state of health;
- c) Head to the closest port or according to the instructions of the MRCC Rabat;
- d) Act and make the necessary arrangements for an emergency medical evacuation and take all reasonable measures to take care of the observer and provide all medical treatment available and possible onboard the vessel;
- e) Follow the instructions given the doctor that has performed the teleconsultation via the MRCC Rabat if the patient must remain onboard;
- f) Communicate to the MRCC Rabat the coordinates of the designated agent on land and indicate the structure of the hospital where the observer will be taken;
- g) Cooperate fully with all official enquiries on the cause of the illness or the injury.

For the purposes of paragraphs 1 to 3, the Maritime Fisheries Department will ensure that the MRCC Rabat keep the observers service provider and the ICCAT Secretariat informed of the incident and the measures taken or underway and that all the necessary assistance has been provided.

4. Observer safety

- A. In the case where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a ROP observer has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened or harassed in such a way to endanger their health or safety and that the observer or observers service provider informs the Maritime Fisheries Department of their wish that the observer be removed from the fishing vessel, the Maritime Fisheries Department or the flag State of the vessel will take the necessary measures so that the fishing vessel:
- a) Acts immediately to protect the observer's safety, mitigate and resolve the situation onboard;
 - b) Inform the Maritime Fisheries Department /Morocco or the flag State as well as the observer service provider of the situation, indicating in particular the observer's state and location, as soon as possible;
 - c) Facilitate safe disembarkation of the observer in the manner and in the place indicated by the Maritime Fisheries Department / Morocco or the flag State and the observers service provider and facilitate access to any medical treatment necessary;
 - d) Cooperate fully with all official enquiries on the incident.
- B. In the case where 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 wish that the observer be removed from the fishing vessel, the Maritime Fisheries Department / Morocco or the flag State must take the necessary measures so that the fishing vessel:
- a) acts to protect the observer's safety and mitigates and resolves the situation onboard as soon as possible;
 - b) informs the Maritime Fisheries Department / Morocco or the flag State and the observers service provider of the situation, as soon as possible; and
 - c) cooperates fully with all the official enquiries on the incident.
5. In the case of occurrence of one the events referred to in paragraphs 1 to 5, the Maritime Fisheries Department / Morocco or the port State will facilitate the entry of the fishing vessel to enable disembarkation of the ROP observer and, to the extent possible, assist any enquiry if requested by the Maritime Fisheries Department / Morocco or the flag State.
6. In the case where, following disembarkation of the ROP observer from the fishing vessel, an observers service provider identifies, for example during the debriefing of the observer, a potential case of assault or harassment during their deployment onboard the fishing vessel, the observers service provider must notify in writing the Maritime Fisheries Department / Morocco or the flag State and the ICCAT Secretariat.
7. If notified, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 5b and 6b or 8, that an observer has been attacked or harassed, the Maritime Fisheries Department/Morocco or the flag state should:
- a) investigate the facts based on the information provided by the observers service provider and implement the appropriate measures in response to the findings of the investigation;
 - b) cooperate fully in all the investigations conducted by the observers service provider, in particular providing the report of the incident to the observers service provider and the competent authorities; and
 - c) quickly notify to the observers service provider and the Secretariat the results of its investigation, as well as any measures taken.
8. The Maritime Fisheries Department/Morocco or the flag state shall encourage the vessels flying their flag to participate, to the extent possible, in every research and rescue investigation involving a ROP observer.

9. Upon request, the observers service provider and the Maritime Fisheries Department/Morocco or the flag state of the vessel affected should cooperate with their respective investigations, which includes providing their incident reports for all incidents indicated in paragraphs 1 to 6 aimed at facilitating all investigations, where appropriate.

*** MRCC Rabat contact information:**

Tel.: +212 537625877
Fax: +212 537625017
Email: mrcc.rabat@mpm.gov.ma