

# STCW-F revision 2020

# Catching THE Potential

## WHAT IS STCW-F?



The STCW-F is an international convention of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to increase safety on board fishing vessels and preventing marine pollution by setting a minimum standard for training, certification and watchkeeping of fishers on board seagoing fishing vessels.

There was a need for a convention for fishing vessels, as the **STCW Convention applies 'only' to merchant ships**. The STCW-F Convention was written in 1995 and entered into force on 29 September 2012. It sets the certification and minimum training requirements for skippers, officers of seagoing fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and above, for personnel in charge of or performing radiocommunication duties on board fishing vessels, the **basic safety training for all fishing vessel personnel** and for watchkeeping personnel, which countries are obliged to meet or exceed.

## CONTENT STCW-F



The STCW-F Convention is comparatively short and consists of 15 Articles and an annex containing technical regulations in four chapters:

CHAPTER			
I	II	III	IV
General provisions	Certification of Skippers, Officers, Engineer Officers and Radio Operators	Basic safety training for all fishing vessel personnel	Watchkeeping

The STCW-F applies to all fishers on board fishing vessel, **flying the flag of a country that ratified the STCW-F Convention**. However, the content of the convention, defined in 1995, is outdated. Therefore, the IMO Subcommittee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW) is currently revising STCW-F.

## CHAPTER 3



STCW-F has only one training included that is required for **all fishing vessel personnel**, regardless the position aboard, the size of the vessel, propulsion power or area of operation. This training is the basic safety training for all fishing vessel personnel in Chapter III of the convention.

However, chapter III of STCW-F only gives an indication what topics need to be addressed in the Basic Safety Training without further guidance on their content.



With the contribution of  
the European Maritime  
and Fisheries Fund of the  
European Union

In the current version, the Basic Safety training should address the following:

1. personal survival techniques, including donning of lifejackets and, as appropriate, immersion suits;
2. fire prevention and firefighting;
3. emergency procedures;
4. elementary first aid;
5. prevention of marine pollution; and
6. prevention of shipboard accidents.

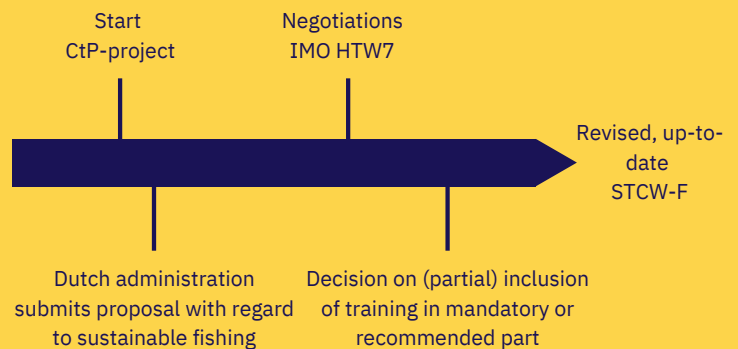
Due to a **lack on guidance on the content**, administrations can follow their own policy and insight. Therefore, the content of the Basic Safety Training for which a mutual recognised certificate is issued can vary from country to country. The administration also determines whether, and if so to what extent, these provisions apply to **personnel of small fishing vessels** or **personnel already employed** on fishing vessels.

## LINK WITH CATCHING THE POTENTIAL

The CtP-project is a **cooperative effort** of the fishing sector and educators to develop and implement an effective, **international standard for sustainable fishing training** for fishers. To achieve an international scope and level playing field amongst countries regarding a (mandatory) sustainable fishing training, inclusion of this training, preferably with the status of a **Basic Sustainability training for All Fishing Personnel**, in the STCW-F seems an effective implementation strategy.

## PROCESS

CtP's aim was to develop, based on real, international experience, an international sustainable fisheries training standard and to get it implemented as **widely** and **mandatorily** as possible within the project. However, STCW-F revision is already in progress for some years and is almost finalised.



The CtP-project still has the same aim, but because of this development, we are trying to get a 'slot' already in the revised STCW-F requirements, by submitting, with partners, a revision proposal. This 'slot' can then be used to fit in the (to be developed) CtP-standard. When we define the detailed standard later in the CtP project, we will keep a close eye on the revised STCW-F requirements to make sure it fits. Meanwhile, we will also explore other routes than STCW-F as alternatives or as means to strengthen the STCW-F implementation.

Regardless of the outcomes of the STCW-F revision process, the documented experiences from the **country specific sustainable fishing courses** in the CtP-project are valuable. If not now, these experiences might be of interest for **future amendments** in the STCW-F. The documented experiences could also be helpful during the development of a **model course for sustainable fisheries training** based on the convention text, if such a model course would be planned or decided by IMO.