

Outcomes HTW 7

The seventh meeting of the IMO Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW7) took place from 15 – 19 February 2021.

Due to the covid-19 situation, this meeting was held digitally. The Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW) deals with the human side of shipping, including training, watchkeeping and certification; the review, updating and revision of IMO model courses; and guidance addressing issues such as fatigue.

During the meeting, the inclusion of sustainability training for fishers in STCW-F was discussed. This submission was tabled by the Netherlands, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF).

MONDAY 15TH OF FEBRUARY 2021: PLENARY MEETING

MR. COR BLONK ATTENDED THE MEETING ON BEHALF OF THE NETHERLANDS AND AS A PARTNER (PFA) FROM THE CTP-PROJECT. HE TOOK PART IN THE PLENARY MEETING AND THE WORKING GROUP ABOUT THE REVISION OF STCW-F DURING HTW7. HERE IS A BRIEF REPORT FROM HIS SIDE ON THE PROCESS OF HTW7.



HTW7 started on Monday the 15th of February with a Plenary Meeting. The submission on sustainability training for fishers was item 8 on the agenda. During the Plenary Meeting other IMO Member States had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the submission and to accept or decline (part of) the submission to be discussed in more detail within the Working Group. The overall outcome of the Plenary Meeting was positive since the entire submission was sent to the working group. Below you can find several interesting observations from the Plenary session:

- All IMO Member States were mostly **positive** about the submission and recognized the **importance** of its content.
- The Chair repeatedly emphasized **the importance of including plastics and Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)** in the revision of STCW-F and referred to discussions that took place in the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC).
- Vanuatu and Argentina were very positive about the submission. Argentina requested clarification on the definition of sustainability in this context.
- One delegation questioned the timing of the submission since the revision of STCW-F has been ongoing for some time.
- Another delegation was positive about the submission but questioned the level of ambition. They emphasized that the primary focus of the revision of STCW-F should be on aligning the requirements with STCW, not on adding additional requirements.
- **The entire submission was sent to the Working Group**

On Tuesday the 16th of February 2021 the Working Group on the revision of STCW-F started. Within the Working Group the revision of STCW-F would be discussed in more detail on the 16th, 17th and 18th of February 2021. The submission on including sustainability training in STCW-F would be part of the discussions during these three days. The Working Group had to decide on how to include the content of the submission in the revised text of STCW-F. This included deciding on requirements in the mandatory part A or in the voluntary part B of chapter 2 in STCW-F. Below you can find several interesting observations from the Working Group sessions:

**TUESDAY 16TH – 18TH
OF FEBRUARY 2021:
WORKING GROUP**



- A small number of delegations were in **favour** of including most of the submission in mandatory part A.
- A large group of delegations, including many European delegations, had no preference for including it in the requirements of part A or part B of chapter 2, while some delegations preferred including it in part B.
- The preference of the delegation to include the requirements on sustainable fisheries training in the mandatory Part A or voluntary Part B showed no specific regional representation.
- Despite the fact that there was more support for including the requirements in Part B instead of Part A, **it was agreed by all parties within the Working Group that Plastics and ALDFG would be included in part A of chapter 2.** All other requirements will be included in part B of chapter 2.
- Duplications between the various chapters (chapter 2 and 3) and between the various parts (part A and B) need to be removed.
- A Correspondence Group should be established that will continue to work on the details of the revised STCW-F with the intention to finalize the text before HTW8 (2022).

**FRIDAY 19TH OF
FEBRUARY: PLENARY
MEETING →**

The advice of the Working Group was presented, discussed and accepted during the Plenary Meeting on Friday the 19th of February 2021. The Netherlands volunteered to be part of the Correspondence Group around the revision of STCW-F.



CONCLUSIONS CTP



- IMO Member States **recognize the importance** of including sustainability training in the training requirements for fishers.
- It is important to **promote** the ratification of STCW-F.
- Progress has been made in **including sustainability training in the training requirements for all fishers.**
- It is important to **stress** that the main objective of the comprehensive revision of the STCW-F is the alignment with STCW requirements where possible. However, the unique character of the fishing industry should be considered, and additional or different requirements should be included where needed.
- The revised STCW-F will include a **strategically important** slot for the sustainability training that will be developed within the **CTP-project.**
- Work remains to be done on **encouraging** EU Member States on moving requirements from voluntary part B to compulsory part A in chapter 2 from STCW-F.

