



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STABILITY AND  
LOAD LINES AND ON FISHING VESSELS  
SAFETY  
51st session  
Agenda item 5

SLF 51/5/1  
8 April 2008  
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## SAFETY OF SMALL FISHING VESSELS

### Report of the correspondence group

Submitted by South Africa

#### SUMMARY

<b><i>Executive summary:</i></b>	This report summarizes the work completed by the correspondence group since its re-establishment at the fiftieth session of the Sub-Committee
<b><i>Strategic direction:</i></b>	5.2
<b><i>High-level action:</i></b>	5.2.1
<b><i>Planned output:</i></b>	5.2.1.3
<b><i>Action to be taken:</i></b>	Paragraph 14
<b><i>Related documents:</i></b>	SLF 50/5/1; SLF 50/5/2; SLF 50/5/3; and SLF 50/5/4

#### Introduction

1 This document summarizes the work completed during the intersessional period by the correspondence group on the drafting of the Safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels (hereafter referred to as the Safety recommendations), which was established by the Sub-Committee at SLF 48 and re-established at SLF 49 and SLF 50. The group was co-ordinated by South Africa.

2 The correspondence group was composed of a total of 30 delegations, including the following Member States:

ARGENTINA  
BAHAMAS  
BRAZIL  
CANADA  
CHILE  
CHINA

DENMARK  
GHANA  
ICELAND  
IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)  
IRELAND  
JAPAN

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RUSSIAN FEDERATION

SOUTH AFRICA  
SPAIN  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM  
UNITED STATES  
VENEZUELA

the following Associate Member of IMO:

HONG KONG, CHINA

the following United Nations and specialized agencies:

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)  
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

and the following non-governmental organizations:

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU)  
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME RESCUE FEDERATION (IMRF) (formerly  
INTERNATIONAL LIFEBOAT FEDERATION (ILF)

### **Terms of reference**

3 The intersessional Correspondence Group on Fishing Vessel Safety (FVS ISCG) under the co-ordination of South Africa was originally established at SLF 48 with the following terms of reference:

In co-operation with FAO and ILO, and referring to existing information relevant to the safety standards of small fishing vessels, currently available from a number of diverse sources, the group should:

- .1 examine existing regional and national safety standards for small fishing vessels and the FAO/ILO/IMO Fishing Vessel Safety Code and Voluntary Guidelines for small fishing vessels, as well as any appropriate recommendations emanating from recent IMO/FAO sponsored regional seminars on the safety of small fishing vessels, as well as any other relevant material;
- .2 develop a consolidated draft text of the safety standards for small fishing vessels covering decked fishing vessels of less than 12 m in length and undecked fishing vessels of any length;
- .3 give further consideration to the title of the Safety standards;
- .4 examine the possibility of completing the development of the standards in 2008; and
- .5 submit a report to SLF 49.

4 SLF 49 re-established the correspondence group with the following additional terms of reference:

- .1 to finalize the draft Safety recommendations, taking into account part 2 of the working group's report from SLF 49; and
- .2 to submit the report to SLF 50.

5 SLF 50 re-established the correspondence group with the following terms of reference:

- .1 exam the texts of the Work in Fishing Convention (ILO C188) and Recommendation and the draft Safety Recommendations to ensure consistency;
- .2 review the work submitted by FAO on wooden scantlings contained in Annex II of the draft Safety Recommendations;
- .3 consider any comments of other sub-committees, as appropriate; and
- .4 submit a report to SLF 51.

#### **Work undertaken**

6 In accordance with the terms of reference, the FVS ISCG examined the text of the Work in Fishing Convention.

7 Reviewed the work of the FAO on wooden scantlings, Annex II.

8 Took into account the comments of the FP, DE and STW Sub-Committees and reviewed the text as appropriate.

#### **ILO and the Work in Fishing Convention and Recommendation**

9 The General Conference of the International Labour Conference having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its ninety-sixth session, in May 2007, adopted Convention 188, the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007. Certain parts of the draft Safety Recommendations (e.g., provisions concerning accommodation and medical care at sea) have been cross referenced to ensure consistency with the Convention and Recommendation. No major inconsistencies were found. However, the correspondence group is reviewing the text to ensure consistency with the Convention.

#### **FAO's work on wooden vessel construction standards**

10 The FAO/NTNU workshop on the scantlings of wooden fishing vessels was held in Trondheim, Norway, from 4 to 6 March 2008. The outcome of this workshop, which is one of the activities under a research project funded by FAO and undertaken by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, is expected to result in revisions to Annex II of the Safety recommendations. The representative from FAO informed the correspondence group that his Organization would submit proposals regarding Annex II shortly after the completion of the research project later his year.

**Timetable for the finalization of the work**

11 The finalization of the work will depend on the other sub-committees, which have been requested to consider relevant parts of the prepared text, and that they finish their work within the given time frame. As the draft text for each chapter and related annexes has now been prepared to the extent described in paragraph 8 above, the correspondence group recommends that the Sub-Committee applies the time frame for the finalization of the work as follows:

- 2008/2009: The sub-committees involved finalize the relevant chapters and annexes of the Safety recommendations.
- 2010: The SLF Sub-Committee submits the final draft text of the Safety recommendations to MSC for approval.

**Recommendations on how to proceed with the adoption of the safety recommendations**

12 The correspondence group recommends that the Sub-Committee establish a working group to review the text prepared by the correspondence group (paragraphs 6 to 10).

13 The correspondence group recommends that, on finalization of the draft texts by other sub-committees, the texts are reviewed by the Secretariat, to ensure consistency in style and format.

**Action requested of the Sub-Committee**

14 The Sub-Committee is invited to:

- .1 note the progress during the intersessional period;
- .2 note that the text, as presented to SLF 50 and MSC 83, is being considered in light of the comments of other Sub-Committees (paragraph 8);
- .3 note the information, provided by ILO, regarding the Work in Fishing Convention (C188) (paragraph 9);
- .4 note the information provided by FAO (paragraph 10);
- .5 confirm the timetable for the completion of work (paragraph 11);
- .6 establish a working group at SLF 51 to review the text (paragraph 12);
- .7 consider the recommendations given in paragraphs 12 and 13; and
- .8 approve the report in general.