ONLINE   **INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS**

DETECTING FORCED LABOUR IN COMMERCIAL FISHING

MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE (MOOC)

11 – 29 NOVEMBER 2024
🕐 **3 WEEKS, 4 HRS/WEEK**

Information Note

FREE

International Labour Organization

ITC International Training Centre

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Decent work at sea remains elusive for far too many fishers. While there has been progress in some regions and countries, recent reports from a variety of sources confirm that forced labour and trafficking in persons persist in the fishing industry globally.

Forced labour risks are especially pronounced in, but by no means limited to, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Migrant fishers, who make up a significant portion of the fisheries workforce, are particularly vulnerable to being deceived and coerced to work on board fishing vessels.

The detection of forced labour victims in the fishing industry remains a major challenge, as forced labour at sea poses highly specific and complicated obstacles to victim detection and identification. Much of the work on victim identification has focused on the detection of forced labour on land, rather than on the detection of those exploited at sea. And yet effective detection is the critical first step to ensuring that forced labour victims escape exploitation and are afforded protection and assistance. It is also an essential part of ending the impunity of traffickers and other perpetrators and securing access to justice for forced labour victims.

In this context, the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITCILO), in collaboration with 8.7 Accelerator Lab – an initiative of the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch (FUNDAMENTALS) – is offering and piloting a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) aiming at providing guidance and tools on the detection of forced labour in industrial fishing activities, including distant water fishing.

WHO IS THE TARGET AUDIENCE?

- Representatives of State authorities with oversight over different aspects of the commercial fishing industry, namely labour inspectors, fisheries inspectors, coastguard and navy officials, maritime safety and port State control inspectors.
- Representatives of non-state actors directly engaged with fishers or otherwise concerned with labour and human rights in fishing, such as trade unionists, representatives from international trade union federations, vessel owner associations, welfare groups and other NGOs, seafood buyers, "social auditors" and researchers.

WHAT WILL PARTICIPANTS GAIN FROM THE COURSE?

- Understanding of the ILO legal instruments for work in fishing and for eliminating forced labour.
- Knowledge of the indicators the ILO has developed for identifying forced labour situations.
- Knowledge of resources and tools to assess situations where risks of forced labour are highest in the commercial fishing industry, to conduct inspections, and to follow-up when indicators of forced labour are found.
- Capacity to detect forced labour situations on board fishing vessels.

WHAT TOPICS DOES THE COURSE COVER?

- The international framework for work in fishing and for eliminating forced labour:
  - ILO relevant instruments, with emphasis on the definition of "forced labour" and its key elements;
  - the ILO forced labour indicators.
- How to effectively detect forced labour in fishing, using a "strategic compliance" approach:
  - risk assessment;
  - vessel inspections, from reviews of vessel documentation to inspection of working and living conditions on board fishing vessels, including interviews with fishers and other actors;
  - follow-up investigation, referral and enforcement action of suspected forced labour cases.

HOW IS THE COURSE ORGANIZED?

- The course runs at a distance, via Internet, and is hosted on the ITCILO eCampus.
- Participation requires approximately 12 hours of self-study (4 hours / week).
- The course combines different types of activities and is based on interactive self-guided sessions with materials to work with anywhere and anytime, and including video pills, case studies and multiple-choice quizzes.
- An assessment at the start and at the end of the training will allow participants to measure improvements in levels of knowledge and understanding.
- A Discussion Forum and an eLibrary will be available to participants interested in sharing best practices and deepening knowledge.

WHAT IS THE LANGUAGE OF THE COURSE?

The course will be offered in English. A good command of the working language is required.

WHAT DIGITAL CREDENTIAL CAN PARTICIPANTS GET?

Participants will be entitled to a certificate of participation, specifically issued by the ITCILO, upon completing the course and filling in the evaluation form.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE COURSE?

Candidates must submit the on-line registration form duly completed by **27 October 2024**. The form is available at: https://oarf2.itcilo.org/MIN/A9717601/en

As an Organization dedicated to promoting social justice and human rights at work, the ILO is taking a leading role in international efforts to foster gender equality. In line with this ILO focus, women are particularly encouraged to apply to ITCILO courses.

INFO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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COURSE CODE:A9717601