

Training session on:
The Maritime Rescue Mission Coordinator
Function

El Jadida (Morocco) from 23 to 25 May 2017

" States should make arrangements individually, together with other States or with the appropriate international organization to integrate fishing operations into maritime search and rescue systems". Article 8.1.6 - FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

Context

The analysis of statistics relating to fatal occupational accidents by sector of activity highlighted the fact that fishing in relation to other sectors is largely one of the most dangerous occupations.¹

Unfortunately, there are no comprehensive statistics on accidents at sea for the African countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean, but we can assume that the rate of fatal casualties in the countries for which information is not available is higher than those having lists.

In addition to contributing for a significant part to the world, maritime traffic, the African waters are frequented by a considerable fishing fleet, composed of large dimension vessels but especially of a multitude of non-motorized and unseaworthy artisanal fisheries small boats.

These vessels and boats often operate in the same areas of activity, thereby increasing the risk of accidents at sea where artisanal fishermen pay a heavy price.

Due to this situation, the African Atlantic coast knows recurrent maritime safety accidents with disastrous economic and social consequences for the community as a whole and for the fishermen and their families.

¹ Report on the safety and health in the fishing industry. International Labor Organization. Geneva, May 1999.

In response to this strong propensity for marine casualties in African waters, international organizations such as IMO, ILO and FAO have undertaken sustained efforts which have resulted in considerable progress. However, it is still far from the relevant international standards, such as recommended by specialized international bodies.

The improvement of safety at sea goes by the strengthening the whole recommended arsenal; the operations of search and rescue (SAR), being only a component of this scheme. It is, however, the essential element in so far as it intervenes as a last resort, once the other elements (prevention, survival and rescue by own means) have failed.

It is in this framework that the training on " The Maritime SAR Mission Coordinator Function " is proposed backing the efforts undertaken by the international community for effective maritime search and rescue services and increased safety at sea.

Objective:

Strengthen the African region rescue services capacity for a better provision of human sea life-saving in the African maritime waters.

Description of the session:

This training action is to provide information and techniques for Maritime SAR Mission Coordinator in activity in the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center to fulfill his mission upon receiving a distress signal at sea.

His missions include:

- ✓ Assessment of the alarm and determination of the emergency phase;
- ✓ Assumption of responsibility for the operations coordination and resources management;
- ✓ Drawing up the operations plan ;
- ✓ Monitoring of operations;
- ✓ Termination or suspension of operations.