The 1995 IMO Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F) is a binding treaty that sets certification and minimum training requirements for crews of seagoing fishing vessels with the aim to promote the safety of life at sea and the protection of the marine environment, taking into account the unique nature of the fishing industry and the fishingworking environment. STCW-F generally applies to personnel of seagoing fishing vessels and, in particular, to skippers and officers in the deck department of fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over, and officers in the engine department of fishing vessels powered by main propulsion machinery of 750 kW or more.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) is the first binding international agreement to specifically target illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Its objective is to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing by preventing vessels engaged in IUU fishing from using ports and landing their catches. In this way, the PSMA reduces the incentive of such vessels to continue to operate while it also blocks fishery products derived from IUU fishing from reaching national and international markets.

The Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) (“the Convention”) seeks to ensure decent standards for all fishers regarding conditions of service, accommodation and food, occupational safety and health, as well as medical care and social security. The Convention is supplemented by the accompanying Work in Fishing Recommendation (No. 199) as well as two sets of Guidelines for flag states and port states carrying out inspections under the Convention.

The 2012 Cape Town Agreement (CTA), adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), outlines fishing vessel standards and includes other regulations designed to protect the safety of crews and observers, and provides a level playing field for the industry.