



STELLA MARIS



**The role of the CSO's
in combatting exploitation of fishers
and IUU Fishing**

**7th Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (GFETW)
Moving from Words to Action
Innovative Collaborative Partnerships to Combat IUU Fishing
30 July – 4 August in Halifax, Nova Scotia**

Fr. Ciceri Bruno



Stella Maris, is the Catholic charitable organization that provide material and spiritual assistance to seafarers, fishers and their families regardless race, nationality, gender, religion, culture or ethnic origin, taking in consideration only their need as human being.

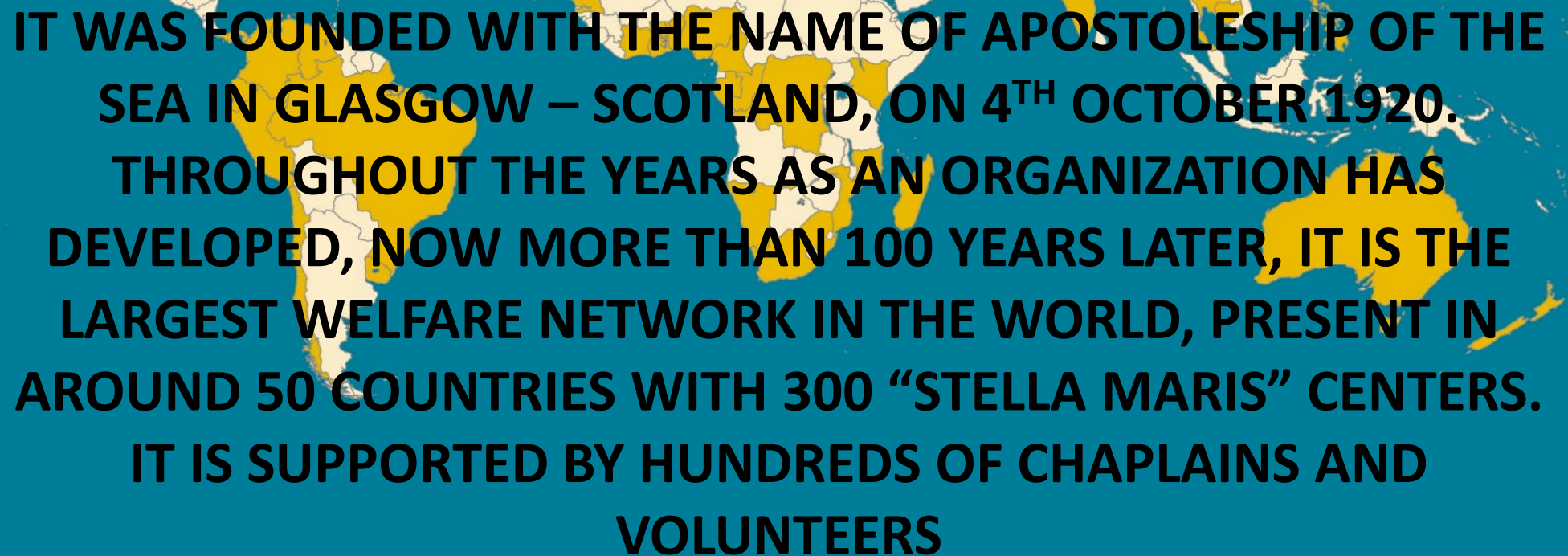


History of Stella Maris



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100 YEAR CELEBRATION
1920-2020

A world map with a blue background. Countries in North America, Europe, Africa, and parts of Asia and South America are highlighted in yellow. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean.

IT WAS FOUNDED WITH THE NAME OF APOSTOLESHIP OF THE SEA IN GLASGOW – SCOTLAND, ON 4TH OCTOBER 1920. THROUGHOUT THE YEARS AS AN ORGANIZATION HAS DEVELOPED, NOW MORE THAN 100 YEARS LATER, IT IS THE LARGEST WELFARE NETWORK IN THE WORLD, PRESENT IN AROUND 50 COUNTRIES WITH 300 “STELLA MARIS” CENTERS. IT IS SUPPORTED BY HUNDREDS OF CHAPLAINS AND VOLUNTEERS

History of Stella Maris



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Port and ship visits are instrumental to understanding the living and working conditions of the fishers

OUR CHAPLAINS AND VOLUNTEERS:

- Every day visit fishers in the ports and be friends with them. We **listen to their dreams and struggles**, as they share stories about their lives at sea.
- Have the chance to **observe the facilities onboard the vessel**, to assess whether or not they are adequate and compliant with the relevant laws.



What Stella Maris does?



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- **Distributes** telephone cards and provide free wi-fi, for the fishers to contact their families and loved ones and update their socials.
- **Provides** to their spiritual needs by organizing liturgical celebrations and special blessings, giving away rosaries, and other religious material.
- **Give away** clothing, food, magazines, newspapers, toiletries, and other supplies.



What Stella Maris does?



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- Often fishers, after **occupational accidents or medical emergencies** are left in the hospital and the vessel sail, the Stella Maris chaplains and volunteers would regularly visit them, act as interpreters when necessary, until when are fit to return home.
- **Unpaid salary** after having works for months and months, is one of the main issue facing the fishers, with the assistance and cooperation of with proper authorities and union, the Stella Maris supports the fishers until the **received all that is due to them**.



- If we perceive or are informed that fishers are subject to any exploitation, we contact the competent authority and **intervene making sure that first of all fishers are protected and safe**.

What Stella Maris does?



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- Most fishers are elementary and high school graduates. They **lack knowledge on the labor laws and regulations** related to their work, making them vulnerable to labor abuses and exploitation. To protect their rights, Stella Maris **empowers fishers through educational seminars.**
- A step further, is to organize sessions with fishers **to form leaders** and train them **how to form labor union**, according to local national laws.

- **Others services offered:**

- ✓ Shelter
- ✓ Wellness and mental health
- ✓ Sport activities
- ✓ Transportation from port to city and vice versa



What Stella Maris does?



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Several International Organizations, based on investigations and case studies, has reveal that where there are human and labor rights violations (verbal and physical abuses, forced labor, trafficking, withholding of wages, etc.) there are connections with IUU fishing and eventually with others criminal activities.



FINANCIAL
TRANSPARENCY
COALITION

“Illegal fishing is often a vehicle for other crimes, such as people smuggling, drugs smuggling and slavery” (Susi Pudjiastuti, Former Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia)

Exploitation of fishers and IUU fishing



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Combating **exploitation of fishers and IUU fishing** are not two different wars, but **are two faces of the same war.**

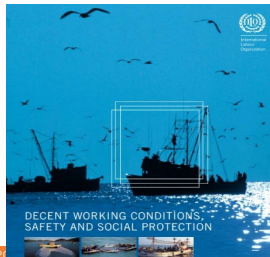
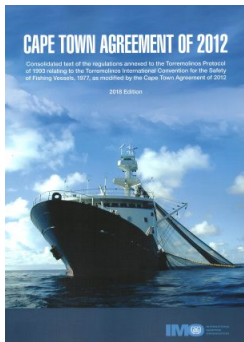
All the forces involved International Organizations, governments and CSO's must join hands to tackle these intertwining issues faced by the fishing industry, already for too long!

The different CSO's, could contribute to the realization of the *Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)* policy for fisheries management **with a diversified approach according to their specificity**

Exploitation of fishers and IUU fishing



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**WORK IN FISHING
Convention No. 188
Recommendation No. 199**

If we want really to eradicate the problem of exploitation of fishers, in poor and remote areas, where illegal recruiters seek their “victims”, the **CSO’s present in the territory** should take a leadership role in:

- **Raising awareness** about the risks of illegal recruitment and exploitation especially of forced labor and human trafficking in fishing.
- **Disseminating information** about possible channels for legal and safe migration, using social media.
- **Provide contact details** (cellphone number, addresses of centers, etc.) **of organizations** in different countries, that could offer assistance in case of need.
- **Lobbying governments** to ratify the ILO Work in fishing Convention 188, the Protocol to the Forced Labor Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and others instruments, related to labor rights and combatting IUU fishing.

CSO’s, before departure of fishers



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Now a day there are number of CSO' that:

- Thanks to **the technological development** have acquire a capacity to do MCS and **detect non-compliance actions while the vessels are out at sea.**
- Trough **desk-based studies and researches on the field, are gathering enough information regarding possible or alleged violations** on human and labor abuses and IUU fishing.
- **Thanks to investigative journalism,** the information was brought out to a wide audience forcing in some cases governments to intervene by implementing/changing the laws and retailers to change their suppliers.

CSO's, while fishing vessels are at sea



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It is essential that a CSO's should be physically present in the port either with a Center or through the daily visit of its personnel:

- To **welcome and individually meet with the fishers** returning after months if not years at sea.
- **Distributes** telephone cards and provide free wi-fi.
- To listen to their stories, **collect their complains and provide advices** on the best course of action to have their issues solved.
- To **provide a safe place and a mental/psychological support** to the fishers while claiming for justice.
- In case the authority would intervene with force, to be part of the team, **to re-assure the fishers** that nothing bad would happen them.



CSO's, while fishing vessels are in port



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**Coalition of Catholic Organizations
Against Human Trafficking
(CCOAH)**

The US imports 80-90% of its seafood, and tens of thousands of people are exploited at every link in the seafood harvesting and production chain:

- **Abusive Recruitment:** With little to no alternative, vulnerable people are deceived and forced/kidnapped into jobs that become trafficking situations.
- **Slavery at Sea:** Once at sea, workers endure inhuman working hours and are compelled to labor under life-threatening conditions, including extreme and reckless exposure to danger and the elements, while being kept on the verge of starvation. Beatings and torture are routinely used to ensure submission. The cost of noncompliance can be death.
- **Exploitation on Land:** Conditions of slavery permeate seafood processing plants, and this seafood ends up on our plates.

To learn more visit our website: www.usccb.org/stopslavery
human trafficking in the U.S.

During Lent many Catholics eat fish and abstain from meat to be in greater solidarity with those in need. The Vatican has announced that it will "slave proof" its supply chain, and many major corporations are following its lead.

Catholics want slave-free seafood this year, and will be vigilant about this as we observe Lent.

We, therefore, kindly urge you to do all in your power to ensure that your supply chains are free of the taint of forced labor.

Signature

StarKist Co.
225 North Shore Drive, Suite 400
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Customers' attention, that fish sold by retailers should include social and ethical information, has been increasing in recent years. Consumers groups could influence the marketing policy of the retailers:

- By **demanding the certification** that the human and labor rights of fishers and all the other workers in the supply chain were respected. Could we have a label for **"Slave-free seafood"**?
- By **requesting certification and eco labels**, making sure that the fish were caught without harming turtles, dolphins, etc.
- By wanting **transparent information** about the quality and origin of the product sold, printed in the package.
- By **raising awareness about the deleterious effects** on the economy and possibly also on personal health of the fish caught through **IUU fishing** and put in the market.

CSO's and retailers



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“An economy without human trafficking is:
an economy of care.”

Care can be understood as taking care of people and nature,
offering products and services
for the growth of the common good.

An economy that cares for work, **creating employment opportunities that do not exploit workers through degrading working conditions and grueling hours.**”

*Video Message of His Holiness Pope Francis
to the participants in the 7th World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action against Human Trafficking.
Monday, 8 February 2021*



Economy of care



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SUPPORTING SEAFARERS AND FISHERS
AROUND THE WORLD

Thank you!

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