

Seafish Social Responsibility in Seafood workshop

Sunday 31 January 2016

Tools/initiatives

Summary of work, research and evidence, or an initiative that is having an important impact – either directly on workers, or changing the operating landscape for seafood businesses in tackling modern slavery/forced labour.

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Collaboration

Seafish Seafood Ethics Common Language Group

Following media reports in 2014 there was significant interest from the seafood industry and other stakeholders working in this area to collaborate on a way forward. Whilst ethical issues had previously been addressed by the Seafish Common Language Group (CLG), in July 2014, Seafish formed the Seafood Ethics CLG.

The Seafood Ethics CLG is an exemplar model of an integrated, interdisciplinary and collaborative approach to address ethical and social issues relating to responsible seafood production – a simple, yet effective and novel approach for this industry. The group convenes seafood stakeholders including major supermarket chains, smaller retailers, processors and suppliers throughout the whole supply chain, with government, NGOs, development organisations and charities in a ‘safe’ environment. The aim is to reach mutual consensus on issues which impact on the responsible sourcing of seafood – to facilitate a coherent and credible sector-wide response.

News alerts are circulated regularly to a growing circulation list of around 200. There is a dedicated ethics in seafood web page, and a web page for the group, and a number of industry briefing documents have been produced. Seafish facilitates and provides the secretariat for the group which has met three times since July 2014. The aim of the group is to establish a common understanding of ethical issues impacting on the seafood supply

See: <http://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/discussion-forums/the-seafood-ethics-common-language-group>

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UK/US Reykjavik Group

The aim of the ‘Reykjavik’ group is to bring together a select group of key stakeholders from the US/European seafood supply chain to develop a collective response and action plan to tackle unethical practices within the global seafood market, which will be adopted and implemented by the US and European seafood supply chains.

With the U.S. and Europe buying from the same supply chains there was a recognition that reputational issues were shared, the ethics issue was large and complex, everyone was responsible and that it could be tackled by collaboration. The U.S. National Fisheries Institute (NFI) approached Seafish, as an impartial European body, to look at collaborative working. Seafish and NFI now facilitate a grouping of U.S./European commercial companies (retail, food service processors) and has adopted a two-pronged approach to push the Royal Thai Government for change, through suppliers, directly, or through country embassies, to look at what practical solutions the supply chain can take to force change at a faster pace by sharing knowledge and best practice. Jointly facilitated

by NFI and Seafish, the invited stakeholders include representation from the US and European retail, food service and processing sectors, along with representation from the Thai seafood industry.

Objectives

1. To assess and agree the scale of the issue in the seafood supply chain starting with Thailand.
2. To identify steps the seafood supply chain can take collectively to address these issues from a commercial perspective.
3. To develop these steps into a clear action plan, with a check list of questions for every link in the supply chain to ask e.g. is VMS used, are the vessels RFS (or equivalent) certified. Addressing the specific issues in Thailand will provide a model for addressing unethical practices globally.

The likely outputs could be: a joint statement outlining US/European intent to contribute to the human trafficking/slavery issues; and the development of a check list of key questions that must be asked and criteria met at all stages of the supply chain. Potential outcomes are: the adoption of the collective statement and implementation of the action plan by the individual commercial members of the Seafood Ethics Common Language Group in the UK, and NFI and NRF in the US; endorsement and promotion of the statement and action plan by NGO members of the Seafood Ethics Common Language Group in the UK (and the equivalent in the U.S.).

The first meeting was held in Reykjavik in January 2015 with follow up meetings in Boston and Brussels.

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Ethical Trading Initiative

The Ethical Trading Initiative is a tripartite membership organisation of companies, trade unions and NGOs that seeks to address and resolve workers' rights and welfare issues through stakeholder engagement and constructive dialogue. The values followed by ETI and its members can be found in The United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This guidance provides the framework for ETI's Base Code that ETI members agree to follow and implement down their supply chains. ETI approaches employment conflicts and instances of worker exploitation through collaboration with existing multi-stakeholder initiatives, and such as social dialogue to build trust. ETI considers workers' freedom of association and collective bargaining to be the best approach to building good worker-management relations and sustainable business. Effective reform requires skilled facilitation and time to both develop and be implemented.

The Thai example

Looking at the Thai seafood industry, we can see serious failures throughout the business model; unsustainable fishing practices, conflicting labour policies, poor worker-management relations, extreme forms of exploitation, weak business structures and poor regulation. This can never lead to a sustainable business model. The solution to such a range of issues requires co-ordination and co-operation at all levels; Government, business, civil society and international actors.

ETI seeks to work with existing initiatives such as the company's Taskforce, the ILO, The Royal Thai Government and civil society bodies. Mutual understanding and trust must be built as a first step towards a dialogue that can lead to necessary reforms and the resolution of conflicts. In particular, ETI seeks to work with seafood industry associations to encourage ethical principles, leadership and the regulation of their members. At the same time, ETI also wants to strengthen the capacity of workers and workers' representative bodies to engage with business, to negotiate better employment contracts, better consideration for worker welfare and a recognition of workers' right to organise themselves. If workers are free to express their needs and concerns and are respected by their employers, then many of the current failures will be resolved and foundations laid for a sustainable industry. Of course, the need for reform goes beyond the doors of seafood companies and their associations; for example, the supply chain for labour provision and Government policies on migration. By business empowering and engaging with their workers, better solutions can follow.

See: <http://www.ethicaltrade.org/>

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Shrimp Sustainable Supply Chain Task Force

The Shrimp Sustainable Supply Chain Task Force is a group of seafood processors, feed producers, buyers, retailers, government representatives and NGO's who have come together to address issues surrounding labour and illegal fishing in shrimp supply chains focusing on the seas around Thailand.

What are the key issues that the Task Force is trying to address?

Seafood supply chains are often long and complex. Due to this complexity, labour abuse can sometimes enter the supply chain. Recent media investigations have highlighted these issues and some of them point to the Thai fishing industry and to Thai fishing boats engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU). The Thai fishing industry is our current focus.

What has the Task Force done to address these issues so far?

In simple terms the Task Force has mapped the various supply chains of the buyers / processors within it, implemented track and trace systems to provide visibility, engaged with government and industry to upgrade codes of conduct and legislation as well as supported the formation of fishery improvement projects (FIPs). It has recently divided its workload into sub-groups. For further information on these sub-groups and progress to date, click [here](#)

Is the work of the Task Force just focussed on Thailand?

The Task Force was initially focussed on Thailand, but at its annual membership review in October 2015, it was agreed that, over time, it will start to use the models it is currently developing to expand its scope beyond shrimp and to other countries.

How can our organisation get involved?

The Task Force is open to all types of organisations whether commercial or not. Anyone who buys seafood or has an interest to participate to actively solve the problems being faced can become a

member. We have a document which explains what is expected of the various types of member organisations which can be found here. Please note, this is an action oriented group and all members are expected to actively contribute to the sub-groups, monthly meetings and supporting the various work streams.

How is the Task Force funded and are there membership costs involved?

Presently the Task Force is funded through individual member in-kind contributions. However, with the exponential expansion of the membership and the implementation of a more formal governance structure at the end of 2015, minimal annual membership contributions have been introduced. These contributions vary according to business size and scale. For more details of membership contribution levels, email the Task Force Secretariat by clicking here.

What do the membership fees cover?

Membership fees cover a full range of secretariat services and Task Force communications. Any additional contributions are used to fund targeted task force related work streams.

How are decisions made?

The Task Force counsels regular opinion from its members and holds an annual full-member meeting. This meeting is key to the development of strategy and long-term goals. Due to its scale a member elected Steering Committee made up of the different constituent groups meets regularly to make short-term decisions on behalf of the group. Current Steering Group members can be found here

Who is currently participating?

Task Force membership is split into funding partners and non-commercial stakeholders. The current membership list can be found here.

We want to become a member and get actively involved, what's the immediate next step?

Contact the Task Force Secretariat / Communications Team who will send through your details to the Steering Committee for review and agreement at the next meeting.

We are not eligible to join but are interested in the progress being made – can we receive updates?

Yes, if you want to receive progress updates simply visit the contact page and subscribe to our mailing list.

See: <http://www.shrimptaskforce.global/>

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Information/campaigns

Stop the Traffik Australia campaign

Stop the Traffik Australia (Stop the Traffik) is a coalition of member organisations fighting against modern slavery and human trafficking. Stop the Traffik engages with key private sector players to enhance transparency and social responsibility in the supply chains of major industry producers and retailers, works collaboratively with NGOs, faith-based organisations and community groups to address the issue of human trafficking at a local level, and advocates for supportive policy and regulation in relevant jurisdictions through open dialogue with government agencies and representatives.

Stop the Traffik launched its fisheries campaign in 2015 and associated activities to date include: a public campaign in Australia calling on major retailers to commit to enhanced transparency and accountability in their seafood supply chain; meetings with relevant partners, suppliers and authorities in Thailand to discuss critical issues and challenges regarding human trafficking in the country's fishing industry; and ongoing engagement and discussion with public and private sector parties to provide guidance and support in the adoption of approaches to effectively manage and eradicate human trafficking in the seafood supply chain.

See: <http://www.stopthetraffik.co/fishing/>

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Greenpeace USA

Greenpeace is working in alliance with human rights, labour and environmental groups to ensure that seafood is caught, farmed and processed in ways that are not harmful to the environment or to workers. Our focus is on tuna fisheries, although the wider scope of the problem has made it necessary to address other fisheries and aquaculture operations as well. We work closely with governments and corporations, seeking to collaborate when possible on achieving regulatory reform as well as private sector commitments. While there is no single silver bullet that can eliminate abuse of workers from seafood supply chains, Greenpeace is advocating for a number of solutions that will go a long way toward solving this problem. On the water, ending transshipment and moving quickly toward full observer coverage for problem fisheries will have a huge impact. For buyers, full traceability is a fundamental first step. Seafood businesses need to take responsibility for the seafood they sell, including products sold under other brands. Particularly in dealing with seafood involving countries with poor track records, such as Thailand or Taiwan, site visits and independent audits are useful tools. Workers involved with producing your seafood should have basic protections such as freedom of association, and worker-based assessment and grievance mechanisms.

See: <http://www.greenpeace.org>

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Environmental Justice Foundation

The Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) is a UK-based non-profit organization working internationally to protect the environment and defend human rights. Since 2013, EJF has undertaken field investigations on land and at sea in Thailand to expose the nexus between the illegal 'pirate' fishing operations, exploitation and use of bonded, forced and slave labour in fisheries. The situation in Thailand requires collective and coordinated measures that address both the environmental and human rights dimensions, and drive transparency and traceability in the seafood sector. To this end, EJF is conducting targeted advocacy and engaging with key stakeholders to develop and support the implementation of long-term, structural and joined up solutions to secure sustainable and ethical seafood supply chains.

See: <http://ejfoundation.org/>

Contact: Steve Trent, EJF steve.trent@ejfoundation.org

How research can contribute to government policy. Christina Stringer, University of Auckland.

Dr Christina Stringer, is an Associate Professor in the Department and Management at the University of Auckland, in New Zealand. In 2008, Christina undertook a project for New Zealand's Ministry of Fisheries (now Ministry of Primary Industries) which looked at the extent that New Zealand caught fish was being processed in China before being exported to key markets. This project led in 2010, to Christina and colleagues investigating labour and human rights abuses on board South Korean foreign charter vessels fishing in New Zealand's waters on behalf of New Zealand companies and quota holders. The research initially published as a working paper entitled 'Not in New Zealand's waters, surely?' contributed to a Ministerial Inquiry, a major shift in government policy, and the enactment of a law requiring all foreign charter vessels to be reflagged to New Zealand by 1 May 2016.

See: <http://docs.business.auckland.ac.nz/Doc/11-01-Not-in-New-Zealand-waterssurely-NZAI-Working-Paper-Sept-2011.pdf>

Contact: Christina Stringer, University of Auckland, New Zealand. E: c.stringer@auckland.ac.nz

Other publications on forced labour in the fishing industry include:

Stringer, C., Whittaker, D.H. and Simmons, G. (2016) 'New Zealand's turbulent waters: The use of forced labour in the fishing industry', *Global Networks*, 16(1): 3-24, 10.1111/glob.12077.

Stringer, C. and Simmons, G. (2015) 'Stepping through the looking glass: Researching slavery in New Zealand's fishing industry', *Journal of Management Inquiry*, 24(3): 253-263.

Simmons, G. and Stringer, C. (2014) 'New Zealand's fisheries management system: Forced labour an ignored or overlooked dimension?' *Marine Policy*, 50, (Part A): 70-84.

Accreditation/certification

Seafish Responsible Fishing Scheme

The Seafish Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS) is a voluntary vessel based programme certifying high standards of crew welfare and responsible catching practices on fishing vessels.

The independently audited third-party scheme demonstrates that a vessel and its skipper are operating to best practice in five core areas:

- Safety, health and welfare
- Training and professional development
- The vessel and its mission
- Care of the catch
- Care for the environment.

It is the only programme certifying crew welfare and responsible catching practices on vessels, complementing other fishery-based sustainability certifications and contributing to this sector's long term viability. The RFS has been developed in accordance with the requirements of internationally recognised standard ISO17065.

We are developing a Chain of Custody Standard to ensure the provenance and traceability of RFS certified products throughout the supply chain. While the RFS aims to certify vessels and skippers operating to high standards, we are keen to use the RFS to raise standards too, especially in developing regions. We are creating a mechanism for a Vessel Improvement Project (VIP) which would benchmark skippers and vessels in the programme against the RFS standard, and then develop milestones based on the results, producing a trajectory towards full compliance with RFS.

See: <http://www.seafish.org/rfs/>

Twitter: @SeafishRFS

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Global Aquaculture Alliance's Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) Programme - How Seafood Certification Promotes Ethical Sourcing.

Long and complex supply chains for farmed seafood present special problems for buyers seeking assurances about sustainable production methods and ethical practices. In response to these problems GAA has developed a certification programme covering hatcheries, farms, feed mills and processing plants that is designed to validate responsible practices and help drive industry improvement. There are now well in excess of 1,000 facilities worldwide that have been independently certified to the BAP standards for social responsibility, environmental integrity, food safety and traceability. To make further progress with social standards, the BAP Program is building links with other certification programs, including IFFO RS and Seafish's RFS, so that supply chain forces can also be used to help tackle social conditions on fishing vessels.

To advance social standards on land, GAA's main vehicle is the BAP Seafood Processing standard which, unlike other food processing standards, addresses social issues as well as food safety. It has been operational for over a decade but it is not a fixed piece of work and its requirements are regularly reviewed and strengthened over time. For example, the latest version from December 2015 explicitly bans the use of independent shrimp peeling sheds, which have been linked to abusive labour practices particularly regarding migrant workers in SE Asia.

To gain independent validation of the social components of its programme GAA has entered the Global Social Compliance Program. GAA also participates in the Shrimp Sustainable Supply Chain Task Force initiative that involves market leaders and Thai Industry Associations and pushes for stronger and consistent enforcement of labour laws in the seafood industry.

See: <http://www.gaalliance.org>

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Aquaculture Stewardship Council

The Aquaculture Stewardship Council offers a comprehensive environmental and social standard. In addition to stringent prohibitions on environmental harms, the ASC certification includes Farm Standards on Worker & Community Rights that are primarily based on core United Nations International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions relating to child labour, forced labour, discrimination, health and safety, working hours and remuneration.

Iain Pollard will discuss the origin of the ASC standards and how the standards achieve better salaries for workers, promotes safety on the job and other improvements for employees. When farms were asked about the most valuable aspects of meeting the ASC standards, 100 per cent of farms cited improved social conditions as a top benefit of certification. Among these same respondents, 88 percent described improved employees conditions and a 100 per cent found their support led to better community relations.

See: <http://www.asc-aqua.org/>

Contact: Iain Pollard, ASC. E: Iain.Pollard@asc-aqua.org

Marine Stewardship Council

The Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) vision of the world's oceans teeming with life, and seafood supplies safeguarded for this and future generations, provides the basis for the requirements elaborated in the its standard. The MSC standard is designed to promote ecological sustainability of fisheries resources and associated ecosystems and through this, contribute to global efforts to maintain livelihoods, reduce poverty, secure the basis for food production and reduce vulnerability of individuals and communities that depend on fisheries for their food and livelihoods.

The MSC standard does not include specific requirements on labour. However, the MSC recognises the concern about forced labour and condemns its presence in fisheries and supply chain companies.

In 2014 the MSC announced a clear policy on forced labour. The policy renders any entity prosecuted for forced labour violations, as out of scope and ineligible for certification to the MSC standard. The policy also means that if an entity that belongs to a previously certified client group is considered on this basis to no longer be in scope of the MSC programme it will be withdrawn from the MSC certificate. As outlined by the International Labour organisation, the MSC understands forced labour to be work or service exacted under the menace of a penalty and as work which is not offered voluntarily.

Further to this, the MSC recognises the significant extent of activity by diverse organisations to develop standards and guidance on forced labour and other social issues in fisheries and in the supply chain and as part of its contribution to global efforts to address these issues in fisheries, the MSC continues on an ongoing basis to engage with these organizations.

See: <https://www.msc.org/>
https://www.msc.org/newsroom/news/board-statement-ensuring-that-msc-certified-companies-are-free-from-forced-labour?set_language=en
<https://www.msc.org/documents/scheme-documents/fisheries-certification-scheme-documents/fisheries-certification-requirements-version-2.0>

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Fair Trade USA

Fair Trade USA is the leading third-party certifier of Fair Trade products in the United States, focusing on social empowerment, environmental sustainability, and economic development. We audit and certify products from around the world that are sold in North American and European markets. A recent study conducted by the University of Bonn found that consumers are willing to pay an average of 30% more for a Fair Trade Certified™ product. By harnessing that market power, we can leverage everyday purchases to improve the livelihoods of producers. When consumers purchase a product with the Fair Trade Certified label, they know the farmers, fishermen, and workers who produced it got a fair deal for their hard work. This means better prices and wages, protection of fundamental human rights, and improved environmental stewardship. In addition to its rigorous social and labour requirements, what makes Fair Trade special is its financial incentive via the Fair Trade premium. Along with negotiated market prices for their products, farmers and fishermen are paid an additional community development premium based upon a percentage of total goods produced. These funds are channelled directly back into the community where they can do the most good based upon the community's needs and desires – whether it be building a new school, improving access to clean drinking water, or investing in their businesses. Fair Trade is based upon a step-wise process where our criteria get more rigorous over the course of six years. This allows fisheries to enter our program and learn, grow, and improve over time, leading to meaningful changes on the ground that help ensure financially stable fishing families, safe working conditions, access to community services, and biologically healthy marine ecosystems.

See: <http://fairtradeusa.org/certification/producers/seafood>

Contact: Ashley Apel, Fair Trade USA. E: aapel@fairtradeusa.org

Approaches

Empowering migrant workers in Thailand

The Migrant Workers Rights Network (MWRN) is a membership based organisation for migrant workers from Myanmar residing and working mainly in Thailand. MWRN was founded in March 2009 by a group of nine Myanmar migrant leaders who strongly believed that empowerment of migrants is the best way for migrants to protect themselves in their vulnerable situation as migrant workers in Thailand.

The founders' goal for MWRN is to promote and strengthen Myanmar migrant workers' rights, eventually across the whole globe, by raising awareness, promoting access to justice and negotiation processes with employers and officials and advocating for policy change.

On 19 January the Migrant Workers Rights Network (MWRN) and Thai Union joined forces to start up a new project, aimed at creating better protection for migrant employees. The one-year scheme, "Promoting Workers Rights and Social Dialogue in Thai Union Facilities", will allow MWRN to better and more systematically map worker conditions and migrant systems in each of the tuna canner's five export facilities in Thailand. MWRN will also develop worker rights curriculum based on a needs assessment and train workers - all with the hope that enhanced rights protection and social dialogue in Thai Union facilities will be rigorous by the end of 2016. The first day of the project entailed mapping, engagement and training activities, led by MWRN at Thai Union's Mahachai and Songkhla Canning Hatyai facilities.

MWRN works closely with Thai Tuna Industry Association (TTIA), Thai Frozen Foods Association (TFFA) and the Thai Food Processors' Association (TFPA) on a social dialogue pilot project looking at enhancing effectiveness of workplace welfare committees. MWRN also works on case assistance, education, organising, advocacy, responsible recruitment, close relations with buyers and retailers. MWRN is on the Thai Government taskforce on good labour practices as the main migrant worker representative and does work conditions research with Finnwatch, Swedwatch, Ilrf, Fairfood etc.

See: <http://migrantworkerrightsnetwork.org/>

Contact: Andy Hall, Migrant Worker Rights Network. E: andyjhall1979@gmail.com

Fishermen's Mission in the UK

The Fishermen's Mission have been reaching out to fishermen and their families for over 135 years. As an ecumenical charity we maintain a Christian presence in our fishing communities providing a lifeline of welfare and support to fishermen and their families.

- We can provide immediate financial assistance to help with rent, food, heating and lighting bills.
- We can respond to an emergency call for help, day or night, 365 days a year. Responding to injured, sick and shipwrecked fishermen.

- We can offer emotional support during bereavement, family breakdown or emotional difficulties. We are a shoulder to cry on and a friend to trust.
- We can help to prevent poverty amongst retire fishermen and their families. Offering expert guidance through the benefit system and sourcing long term grants.
- We can combat loneliness by making home and hospital visits and arranging group activities. A cuppa and a heart to heart make a world of difference.
- Finally, one of the most important areas of our work in recent years has been to promote safe fishing to our fishermen. In the past inflatable oilskins and lifejackets have been too cumbersome to wear while working. Newly designed Personal Flotation Devices are specifically designed not to get in the way of fishing. We promote and distribute these, working with our partners.

See: <http://www.fishermensmission.org.uk/>

Contact: David Dickens, Fishermen's Mission. E: DavidDickens@fishermensmission.org.uk

Food and Drink Federation fishing vessel commitment

New England Seafood purchases from fisheries globally and operates the highest standards across our company and supply chains. We recognise that our industry has an urgent need to continue to address issues of human rights abuses, and believe the best solutions will be found collaboratively; through our business, our industry and key stakeholders working together to ensure we are doing everything possible to avoid the risk of, and verify the absence of, social issues in our supply chains. We attain ethical audits in our processing facilities on land and our primary concern is now to verify what occurs at sea.

With our co-members of the Food and Drink Federation (FDF) Seafood Group, we've developed an agreement outlining best practice for crew conditions on frozen at sea vessels, for our suppliers to agree and sign up to, and we are rolling this out. This is one small step towards visibility on the primary issue we all contend with: how to successfully audit social conditions on vessels at sea. We trust that the Responsible Fishing Scheme could be part of the solution, there will be other tools to help us, we seek to understand what is available, to contribute towards the solutions, and are committed to our role in obtaining evidence on the water, for all our supply chains.

Contact: Lucy Blow, New England Seafood E: sustainability@neseafood.com

Project Issara (Issara Institute)

Issara Institute is a public-private sector platform and alliance to tackle human trafficking and forced labour in Southeast Asia. Initially launched as 'Project Issara', in January 2014, the pilot began working with 10 private sector partners to investigate and resolve labour rights issues in Thailand's export-oriented supply chains for seafood.

Issara runs a trusted 24 hour hotline for migrant workers in Burmese, Khmer, Thai, and Lao languages, through which thousands of calls are received each year, enabling Issara to assist and empower workers with information, referrals, and continued support. Hotline posters and information on how to call for assistance are distributed at partners' facilities, providing Issara with unique visibility of what is happening in partner supply chains. This intelligence, coupled with data gathered through Issara's Inclusive Labour Monitoring™ method (including workplace assessments, port risk assessments, and interviews with workers, management, field experts, and local communities) allows the Issara team to produce risk reports for global brands and retailers, and collaborate with suppliers to develop effective, inclusive, labour improvement plans.

Through workplace assessments and improvements to supplier facilities, over 40,000 workers have been positively impacted to date. 4,682 workers were directly impacted by actions taken to eliminate forced labour in 2015, with 58 trafficking/ exploitative brokering cases investigated and acted upon. Issara also provides continued support to victims of trafficking through its Freedom of Choice Programme. Through this Programme, victims are provided with a series of unconditional cash transfers, and are empowered with the widest possible range of options, information, and resources, so that they can make their own informed decisions about their recovery, whether health, economic, legal or otherwise.

In 2016, Issara Institute will continue to work with private sector partners through its Strategic Partnerships Programme. In addition to supply chain work, the Programme will run a series of solutions-oriented Working Groups designed to bring together a range of high calibre industry players, including retailers and importers, local supplier businesses, NGOs, academics, and technical experts, to come up with innovative new solutions to issues of forced labour. Topics covered will include: Slavery Free Recruitment Systems, Innovations in Trafficking Victim Protection, Technological solutions to Trafficking in Global Supply Chains, and The Intersection between Seafood Sustainability and Labour Rights.

See: <http://www.projectissara.org>

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International Pole & Line Foundation

The International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF) works to develop and demonstrate the value of pole-and-line and hand-line caught tuna (hereafter referred to as one-by-one tuna) in order to improve the wellbeing of coastal fisheries, and the people and seas connected with them. IPNLF recognises the social challenges faced by one-by-one tuna fisheries, and is working on specific activities aimed at ameliorating the benefits these fisheries bring to the communities that depend on them:

Enhancing labour standards - at a time when the quality of life afforded to fishers aboard tuna vessels is coming into question, there is an urgent need for fishery improvement and improvement in vessel operation and performance, including crew welfare and safety, is a high priority. IPNLF is working with fishers to on standards that ensure vessels hold a culture of integrity and respect with decent working conditions. One way we are doing this is through programmes such as the Seafish Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS) and it's Vessel Improver Programme (VIP), and the Fair Trade USA certification and labelling scheme in the US, Indonesia and Maldives.

Building human capacity – faced with factors like technological advancement and high market standards, small-scale fisheries are often in need of capacity strengthening. In Maldives and Indonesia, IPNLF supports education programmes that bridge the information gap between the catch sector and an ever-evolving market.

Social research - analyses of the social impacts of the one-by-one tuna sector is a relatively young field compared to that for fisheries economics and biology/ecology. Even when supply chain and governmental actors collect some social data it often remains in silos and is not synthesized or communicated. IPNLF is working in consultation with relevant stakeholders from the government, fishing industry and supply-chain to develop a system for collecting 'hidden' social data and will be using it to understand the social contributions of one-by-one fishing to the community, and what could be done to improve these contributions.

See: <http://ipnlf.org/>

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Scoping a new ethics risk tool

This partnership between Seafood Watch, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership and Seafish aims to develop a new method for risk assessment in fisheries worldwide to address issues of labour and human rights abuses. It will use pertinent information on the standing of countries on these issues at fisheries level. It will focus on at-sea practice, cover varying levels of risk based on incidence and severity, with the assessments made public.

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