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# Seafish Insight: Fishing references by country in 2022 TIP report

Source: 2022 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report

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July 2022

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## Overall highlights

**The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report is the U.S. Government's principal diplomatic tool to engage foreign governments on human trafficking. The U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report 2022 was published on 19 July 2022.**

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report/>

The Trafficking in Persons Report, or the TIP Report, is an annual report issued by the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. It ranks governments based on their perceived efforts to acknowledge and combat human trafficking.

The TIP report documents the growing movement against human trafficking and provides a roadmap for governments to address the crime, laying out realistic and actionable policy priorities and insisting on continuous improvement. It has tracked the seriousness with which governments take this issue, not just in verbal commitments but also in concrete action. It is a standard-bearer for the principles enshrined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) and the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol (Palermo Protocol - an international framework to tackle trafficking, established in 2000).

## A quick analysis of the 2022 TIP report shows:

- 188 countries are mentioned in the TIP report.
- Each country is ranked according to a number of criteria (see description on page 5). The narrative for each country looks at prosecution, protection and prevention and describes how a government has or has not addressed the relevant TVPA minimum standards during the reporting period.
  - Tier 1 – 30 countries (28 in 2021)
  - Tier 2 – 99 countries (95 in 2021)
  - Tier 2 Watch List – 34 countries (45 in 2021)
  - Tier 3 – 22 countries (17 in 2021)
  - Special case – 3 (3 in 2021)
- Fish or fishing is mentioned in association with forced labour in 58 (54 in 2021) of the 188 countries in 2022 (50 countries in 2020, 49 from 2017 – 2019, 51 in 2016).
- Of the 58 countries where fishing is mentioned:
  - Tier 1 – 7 countries (9 in 2021)
  - Tier 2 – 34 countries (24 in 2021)
  - Tier 2 Watch – 12 countries (18 in 2021)
  - Tier 3 – 5 countries (3 in 2021)
- The United Kingdom entry makes specific reference to the transit visa scheme.
- Countries that have been singled out specifically with regards to fishing include: Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China PRC, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Ireland, Korea (Republic of), Papua New Guinea, Taiwan, Solomon Islands, Thailand and Vietnam. Of these countries please note (in this report):
  - Cambodia has been downgraded from Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 3.
  - Ireland has moved from Tier 2 Watch to Tier 2.
  - Korea (Republic of) has moved from Tier 2 to Tier 2.
  - Thailand has moved from Tier 2 Watch to Tier 2.
  - Despite a lot of fishing references Taiwan remains at Tier 1.

*This is an analysis of the fishing references in the 2022 Trafficking in Persons report. It is not necessarily the view of Seafish. It is an information service provided by Seafish for industry and key stakeholders.*

## About the TIP rankings

The TIP report is released annually by the US Department of State. It offers a summary of the laws and enforcement efforts of various countries with respect to human trafficking. Specifically, it ranks countries based on a '3P paradigm' of prosecuting traffickers, protecting victims and preventing crime. Scoring on these elements is then collated to give each country a ranking.

The Department places each country into one of four tiers, as mandated by the TVPA. This placement is based not on the size of a country's problem but on the extent of government efforts to meet the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking (see page 58-61), which are generally consistent with the Palermo Protocol. While Tier 1 is the highest ranking, it does not mean that a country has no human trafficking problem or that it is doing enough to address the crime. Rather, a Tier 1 ranking indicates that a government has made efforts to address the problem that meet the TVPA's minimum standards. To maintain a Tier 1 ranking, governments need to demonstrate appreciable progress each year in combating trafficking. Tier 1 represents a responsibility rather than a reprieve.

- **Tier 1:** Countries whose governments fully meet the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.
- **Tier 2:** Countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.
- **Tier 2 Watch List:** Countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards, and for which:
  - a) the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing;
  - b) there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year, including increased investigations, prosecution, and convictions of trafficking crimes, increased assistance to victims, and decreasing evidence of complicity in severe forms of trafficking by government officials;
  - c) or the determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional steps over the next year.
- **Tier 3:** Countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA's minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so. No tier ranking is permanent. Every country, including the US, can do more. All countries must maintain and continually increase efforts to combat trafficking.
- Countries on the Tier 2 Watch List for two consecutive years (and who would otherwise be ranked Tier 2 Watch List for the next year) will instead be ranked Tier 3 in that third year. The Secretary of State is authorised to waive this automatic downgrade only once, in that third year, based on credible evidence that a waiver is justified because the government has a written plan that, if implemented, would constitute making significant efforts to meet the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is devoting sufficient resources to implement the plan. Tier 3 could result in restrictions on non-humanitarian and non-trade-related foreign assistance from the US at the discretion of the President.

## Fishing references by country (alphabetical and verbatim)

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
<b>Angola</b>	Tier 2 	Tier 2 same as 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffickers exploit Angolans, including children as young as 12 years old, in forced labour in the brick making, domestic service, construction, agriculture, fisheries, and artisanal diamond mining sectors.</li> </ul>
<b>Australia</b>	Tier 1 	Consistently Tier 1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some fishing vessels that transit or dock at Australian ports use physical abuse to force men to perform labour.</li> </ul>
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Tier 2 	Tier 2 same as 2020 and 2021. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2018 and 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffickers force adults and children to work in the shrimp and fish processing industries, aluminium, tea, and garment factories, brick kilns, dry fish production, and shipbreaking.</li> <li>Another study estimated that approximately 40,000 children are enslaved for nine months at dry fish processing units, while their parents receive money advances against the children's salaries.</li> <li>Rohingya girls and boys are recruited from camps and forced to labour as shop hands, fishers, rickshaw pullers, and domestic workers. Some Bangladeshi fishers use debt-based coercion to exploit Rohingya men if they place their shelter on the fisher's land. Some Rohingya men who fled to Bangladesh from Burma decades ago have been trapped in forced labour through debt-based coercion to Bangladeshi fishers for decades.</li> </ul>
<b>Belize</b>	Tier 2	New entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People's Republic of China nationals may be vulnerable to forced labour on fishing vessels registered in Belize.</li> </ul>
<b>Burma</b>	Tier 3 	Tier 3, same as 2018 – 2021, downgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government of Burma does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so, even considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its anti-trafficking capacity; therefore, Burma remained on Tier 3.</li> <li>The regime maintained a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Thailand to facilitate labour recruitment into the Thai fishing sector through a formalized, government-to-government hiring process. However, official overseas recruitment agencies suspended operations due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, most vessel owners continued to staff their crews through unregulated and unlicensed Thai and Burmese intermediaries charging high recruitment fees that continued to place Burmese fishermen at risk of debt-based coercion into forced labour. The regime did</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
			<p>not prohibit worker-paid recruitment fees, which created vulnerabilities to trafficking among migrant workers. Moreover, the regime's process to issue work certificates to Thai migrant workers required workers to pay exorbitant fees to brokers and regime representatives to renew their certificates; corruption was reportedly rampant within the program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffickers subject Burmese males transiting Thailand en route to Indonesia and Malaysia to forced labour, primarily in fishing and other labour-intensive industries.</li> <li>• Recruitment agencies in Burma and other Southeast Asian countries lure fishermen with promises of high wages, and then charge fees, and curtailment deposits to assign them fake identity and labour permit documents while sending them to fish long hours in remote waters on vessels operating under complex multinational flagging and ownership arrangements.</li> <li>• Senior crew aboard vessels in the Thai and Taiwanese fishing fleets subject some Burmese men to forced labour through debt-based coercion, passport confiscation, contract switching, wage garnishing and withholding, threats of physical or financial harm, or fraudulent recruitment; they also subject some to physical abuse and force them to remain aboard vessels in international waters for years at a time without coming ashore.</li> </ul>
<b>Burundi</b>	Tier 2 	Improved from Tier 2 Watch List in 2021, Tier 3 2016 - 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both economic necessity and coercion push children and young adults into labour, including domestic service, forced labour on plantations or small farms throughout Burundi, in gold mines in several provinces around the country, in informal commerce in the streets of larger cities, in charcoal production, and in the fishing industry.</li> <li>• NGOs report that fishermen exploit some boys in the Lake Tanganyika fisheries</li> </ul>
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	Tier 2	New entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabo Verdean children engaged in begging, domestic work, street vending, car washing, construction, garbage picking, fishing, and agriculture are vulnerable to trafficking</li> </ul>
<b>Cambodia</b>	Tier 3 	Downgraded from Tier 2 Watch List 2019 - 2021, and Tier 2 2016 – 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government continued to cooperate with an NGO to provide services to male victims exploited in the Thai commercial fishing industry. The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MOLVT) also provided vocational training and other programs to identify job opportunities for male trafficking victims from the commercial fishing industry, but it did not report how many victims benefited from these programs. Service provider NGOs noted that an acute lack of reintegration services and cultural stigma surrounding the experience of forced labour at sea catalysed re-trafficking among fishermen returning home.</li> <li>• Cambodian adults and children migrate to other countries within the region and increasingly to the Middle East for work; traffickers force many to work on fishing</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
			<p>vessels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffickers continue to recruit significant numbers of Cambodian men and boys in Thailand to work on fishing boats and exploit them in forced labour on Thai-owned and -operated vessels in international waters. Cambodian victims escaping from their traffickers have been identified in Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, and South Africa. Cambodian men working on Thai-owned and -operated fishing vessels report deceptive recruitment tactics, severe physical abuse, underpayment or non-payment of wages, restricted access to medical care, and confinement at sea for years at a time without permission to come ashore.</li> </ul>
<b>Cameroon</b>	Tier 2 Watch List 	Same as 2020 and 2021. Downgraded from Tier 2 in 2018 and 2019, but Tier 2 Watch List in 2016 and 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criminal elements force Cameroonian children to work in artisanal gold mining, gravel quarries, fishing, animal breeding, and agriculture (on onion, cotton, tea, and cocoa plantations), as well as in urban transportation assisting bus drivers and in construction to run errands, work, or provide security. Media reporting indicates exploitation in Cameroon’s fishing sector is widespread.</li> </ul>
<b>Chad</b>	Tier 2 Watch List 	Same as 2020 and 2021. Downgraded from Tier 2 in 2019 but Tier 2 Watch List in 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the Lake Chad region, community members exploit some children in catching, smoking, and selling fish</li> </ul>
<b>China PRC (People’s Republic of China)</b>	Tier 3 	Same as 2019 - 2021. No mention of fishing in 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government did not report any measures to screen for or identify forced labour indicators among the thousands of vulnerable migrant seafarers employed on Chinese DWF vessels, nor within its extensive coastal offshore fishing fleet.</li> <li>PRC fishermen subjected to forced labour were generally unable to report abuses to local authorities or access protection services when returning to the PRC.</li> <li>African and Asian men reportedly experience conditions indicative of forced labour aboard Chinese-flagged and Chinese-owned, foreign-flagged fishing vessels operating worldwide in China’s DWF; men from other regions may be in forced labour aboard these vessels as well.</li> <li>Traffickers also subject PRC seafarers to forced labour on board fishing vessels in Taiwan’s highly vulnerable DWF, in Papua New Guinea’s exclusive economic zone and surrounding maritime territories, and on foreign flagged cargo vessels operating in the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>Many men from countries in Africa, Asia—especially Indonesia and the Philippines—and other regions employed on many of the 2,900 Chinese-flagged DWF fishing vessels operating worldwide experience contract discrepancies, excessive working</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
			<p>hours, degrading living conditions, severe verbal and physical abuse, denial of access to health care, restricted communication, document retention, arbitrary garnishing or non-payment of wages, and other forced labour indicators, often while being forced to remain at sea for months or years at a time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRC fishing operators in turn require DWF crewmembers to pay “guarantee money” that places them at further risk of debt-based coercion. Some DWF senior vessel crew members also subject these fishermen to forced criminality in illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and smuggling (including in areas under the jurisdiction of other coastal states) making them vulnerable to unjust civil and criminal liabilities in port countries.</li> </ul>
<b>Comoros</b>	Tier 3 	Same as 2016 – 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffickers and employers on Anjouan may subject children, some of whom were abandoned by parents who left to seek economic opportunities in other countries, to forced labour, mostly in domestic service, roadside and market vending, baking, fishing, and agriculture.</li> </ul>
<b>Congo</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2021. Re-entry. No mention of fishing in 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreign business owners and Congolese exploit most foreign victims in forced labour in domestic service, market vending, and the fishing sector.</li> <li>• Individuals in the fishing industry and market shop owners were the primary exploiters of victims within the country.</li> </ul>
<b>Ecuador</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2018 - 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffickers exploit Ecuadorian men, women, and children in sex trafficking and forced labour within the country, including in domestic service, begging, banana and palm plantations, floriculture, shrimp farming, fishing, sweatshops, street vending, mining, and other areas of the informal economy.</li> </ul>
<b>Fiji</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2021. Improved from Tier 2 Watch List 2018 to 2020, downgraded from Tier 2 in 2016 and 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family members, taxi drivers, foreign tourists, businessmen, crew on foreign fishing vessels, and other traffickers have allegedly exploited victims from Thailand and China, as well as Fijian women and children, in sex trafficking.</li> <li>• Recruitment agencies operating in victims’ home countries, vessel owners, and other crew exploit migrant fisherman from Southeast Asian countries, especially Indonesia, in forced labour on Fijian flagged fishing vessels, or foreign flagged fishing vessels (mainly China- and Taiwan-flagged) transiting Fijian ports and waters. Victims of forced labour experience threats of violence, passport confiscation, debt-based coercion, excessive working hours, and abusive living and working conditions.</li> </ul>
<b>France</b>	Tier 1 	Same as 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labour trafficking most frequently occurs in domestic work, followed by construction, small commerce, agriculture, fishing, and livestock;</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
<b>Gabon</b>	Tier 2 Watch List 	Downgraded from Tier 2 2020 to 2021. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2019. Tier 3 in 2018. Tier 2 Watch List 2016 & 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffickers...force boys to work as street vendors, mechanics, microbus transportation assistants, and laborers in the fishing sector.</li> </ul>
<b>Ghana</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2018 – 2021. Tier 2 Watch List in 2016 and 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffickers exploit Ghanaian children in forced labour within the country in inland and coastal fishing, domestic service, street hawking, begging, portering, artisanal gold mining, quarrying, herding, and agriculture, especially cocoa.</li> <li>• Traffickers exploit children as young as four in forced labour in Lake Volta’s fishing industry and use violence and limited access to food to control their victims.</li> <li>• Traffickers operating fishing vessels flagged to Ireland and the United Kingdom also exploit Ghanaian workers in forced labour, allegedly in cooperation with some Ghanaian recruitment agencies.</li> </ul>
<b>Guinea</b>	Tier 2 Watch List 	Same as 2020 and 2021. Downgraded from Tier 2 in 2019, Tier 2 Watch List in 2018, Tier 3 in 2016 and 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffickers exploit boys in forced labour in begging, street vending and shoe shining, mining for gold and diamond, in herding, fishing, and agriculture, including farming and on coffee, cashew, and cocoa plantations.</li> </ul>
<b>Haiti</b>	Tier 2 Watch List 	Same as 2021. Downgraded from Tier 2 in 2019 and 2020. Tier 2 Watch List in 2017 and 2018, and Tier 3 in 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haitian children working in construction, agriculture, fisheries, domestic work, begging, and street vending in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.</li> </ul>
<b>Indonesia</b>	Tier 2 Watch List 	Downgraded from Tier 2 2016 - 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government of Indonesia does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so.</li> <li>• In Indonesia, labour traffickers exploit adults and children in fishing, fish processing, and construction; on oil palm and other plantations; and in mining and manufacturing.</li> <li>• Senior vessel crew on board PRC, Korean, Vanuatuan, Taiwan, Thai, Malaysian, Italian, and Philippines-flagged and/or owned fishing vessels operating in Indonesian, Thai, Sri Lankan, Mauritian, and Indian waters subject Indonesian fishermen to forced</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
			<p>labour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government prosecuted 167 alleged trafficking cases under the anti-trafficking law and convicted 178 traffickers in 2021, representing a decrease from 259 traffickers convicted in 2020. One of those cases involved the forced labour of 12 Indonesian fishermen aboard a People’s Republic of China (PRC)-flagged fishing vessel; the government convicted five traffickers and sentenced them each to three and a half years in prison under the anti-trafficking law in April 2021.</li> <li>• The government did not report the number of trafficking victims it identified or assisted among Indonesian fishermen exploited on foreign-flagged fishing vessels in 2021. In comparison to the previous reporting period, in 2020 the government repatriated 589 Indonesian fishermen who complained about working conditions from 98 PRC-flagged fishing vessels.</li> <li>• The government did not effectively implement regulations over the fishing sector, which allowed forced labour to persist. For the third consecutive year, the president did not sign implementing regulations required to solidify the roles and responsibilities of the ministry of maritime affairs and fisheries and other ministries, which hampered coordination efforts to effectively oversee recruitment and labour practices in the fishing sector.</li> <li>• Civil society groups noted many Indonesian and migrant fishermen were unaware of their rights and responsibilities and unprepared for the work in the absence of standardized, employer-paid pre-departure and post-arrival orientation and training. The government continued to implement a ban—instituted in 2020—on Indonesian fishermen working aboard PRC-flagged vessels, vessels operated by PRC-state owned companies, and South Korean- and Taiwanese-flagged vessels operating outside of their Exclusive Economic Zones.</li> <li>• The government continued to operate two Fishers Centers—established in 2020—to handle complaints from fishermen; however, unlike in the previous reporting period, it did not report how many complaints of labour exploitation the centers received in 2021. In 2021, the MFA established an Indonesian Seafarer Corner (ISC) in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, to provide shelter and repatriation services to Indonesian fishermen; however, the government did not report if it identified or provided services to any trafficking victims at the ISC.</li> <li>• Dozens of recruitment agencies in Burma, Indonesia, and Thailand lure fishermen with promises of high wages, charge fees and curtailment deposits to assign them fake identity and labour permit documents, and then send them to fish long hours in waters on vessels operating under complex multinational flagging and ownership</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
			<p>arrangements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some fishermen are unaware their recruitment agencies continue to withhold or withdraw funds from their salary for years. Crew on board these vessels have reported low or unpaid salaries and coercive tactics such as contract discrepancies, document retention, restricted communication, poor living and working conditions, threats of physical violence, and severe physical and sexual abuse. Boat captains and crews prohibit fishermen from leaving their vessels and reporting these abuses through threats of exposing their fake identities to the authorities, threats of blacklisting them from future fishing employment, and, in previous years, by detaining them on land in makeshift prisons.</li> </ul>
Ireland	<p>Tier 2</p> 	<p>Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2020 and 2021. Downgraded from Tier 2 in 2018 and 2019, and Tier 1 in 2016 and 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government of Ireland does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so. The government demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared with the previous reporting period, considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its anti-trafficking capacity; therefore Ireland was upgraded to Tier 2.</li> <li>• The government formally recognized seven sea fishers as trafficking victims and identified potential trafficking victims during inspections, which was an increase compared with prior year reporting</li> <li>• While gaps and serious concerns remained, the government made some progress providing assistance to sea fishers—workers in the Irish fishing industry—during the reporting period. The government had not recognized any sea fishers as trafficking victims since 2018; however, in 2021, the government resumed identification and formally recognized seven victims of human trafficking in the fishing industry.</li> <li>• The seven sea fisher trafficking victims, from Egypt and Ghana, were either self-identified or referred by NGOs to police for formal victim identification; all seven were offered victim assistance through the NRM, but only three accepted. In 2021, four Ghanaian sea fishers decided to leave government-provided accommodation in Ireland and cooperate with UK law enforcement, which resulted in the arrest of the alleged trafficker in the UK.</li> <li>• Although the government identified 23 victims (36% of the total victims identified) among sea fishers in 2018, following the government's 2019 amendment to its atypical working scheme (AWS) for sea fishers, it did not identify any victims in the fishing sector in 2019 or 2020. Civil society raised serious concerns regarding the absence of any identified victims for several years in an industry inherently vulnerable to forced labour. Civil society asserted foreign national sea fishers, especially those from outside of the European Economic Area (EEA), were at even greater risk</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
			<p>following the 2019 amendment of the scheme because the government failed to enforce the amended rules, stopped identifying victims for several years, and had revoked the status and associated protections against previously identified trafficking victims within this sector. However, failure to uniformly screen all trafficking victims – before referring them to immigration authorities for deportation—persisted, and in May 2021, the police declined to interview an undocumented sea fisher and self-identified trafficking victim, who had reportedly recorded the trafficker confessing, and instead referred the case to immigration authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2021, a university published a report, which featured in-depth interviews with 24 male non-EEA sea fishers in the Irish fishing industry, some of whom were undocumented. The report concluded that labour exploitation was still prevalent in the Irish fishing industry and that the overall conditions in the sector had worsened since the implementation of the AWS in 2016, echoing the conclusions of another NGO report published in 2017.</li> <li>• Several descriptions from the 24 interviewed sea fishers could meet the threshold for trafficking, including the use of fraudulent recruitment and non-violent psychological coercion via threats of permit revocation and subsequent deportation, which coerced sea fishers into less pay, longer hours, more dangerous situations, and the endurance of racial and verbal abuse, as well as several instances of forced criminal activity by coercing sea fishers to hide fish, in contravention of quota regulations. Fear of reprisal and permit revocation, as well as language barriers, were obstacles for victims to engage with inspectors.</li> <li>• In March 2022, a human rights group filed a petition with the U.S. government requesting the banning of any seafood imports from Ireland to the United States that were caught or produced using forced labour, specifically highlighting four Irish fishing companies.</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
<b>Jamaica</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2016 - 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been reports of forced labour of foreign nationals aboard foreign-flagged fishing vessels operating in Jamaican waters.</li> </ul>
<b>Japan</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2020 and 2021. Downgraded from Tier 1 in 2018 and 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cases of forced labour continue within the TITP, a government-run program originally designed to foster basic technical skills among foreign workers that has effectively become a guest-worker program. TITP participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam pay sending organizations in their home countries thousands of dollars in excessive worker paid fees, deposits, or vague “commissions” - despite bilateral agreements between sending countries and Japan aimed at curbing the practice - to secure jobs in fishing, food processing, shellfish cultivation, ship building, construction, textile production, and manufacturing of electronic components, automobiles, and other large machinery.</li> </ul>
<b>Kenya</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2016 - 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffickers exploit children through forced labour in domestic service, agriculture, fishing, cattle herding, street vending, and begging.</li> <li>• Despite reports of the prevalence of labour trafficking among migrant workers in Korea, especially in Korea’s fishing fleet, the government did not report identifying any foreign forced labour victims.</li> </ul>
<b>Korea (Republic of)</b>	Tier 2 	Downgraded from Tier 1 2016 - 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK) does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so. However, these efforts were not serious and sustained compared with the efforts during the previous reporting period, even considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, if any, on the government’s anti-trafficking capacity. Despite reports of the prevalence of labour trafficking among migrant workers in Korea, especially in Korea’s fishing fleet, the government did not report identifying any foreign forced labour victims. Officials did not consistently utilize victim identification guidelines, and courts sentenced the majority of criminals convicted for trafficking-related crimes to less than one year’s imprisonment, fines, or suspended sentences. Therefore South Korea was downgraded to Tier 2.</li> <li>• NGOs reported the government did not implement adequate or frequent inspections of fishing vessels, which reportedly resulted in minimal regulation and impunity for boat captains and others who exploited migrant workers including in forced labour.</li> <li>• Despite ongoing concerns that traffickers exploited migrant workers in forced labour in various industries, the government did not identify any migrant workers exploited in labour trafficking (six in the previous reporting period) and it did not report identifying any migrant fishermen exploited in labour trafficking.</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffickers capitalized on gaps in Korean labour laws to exploit foreign fishermen in forced labour.....NGOs reported some migrant fishermen continued to work long hours, sometimes more than 18 hours per day..... The minimum wage for migrant fishermen was reportedly one-fifth less than the minimum wage of Korean fishermen, and migrant workers often did not receive holiday or overtime pay.....In addition, surveys conducted in September 2021 revealed the majority of migrant fishermen still did not maintain control of their identity documents.....The government did not adequately regulate the recruitment process for migrant fishermen and instead a cooperative of private agencies regulated this process and charged standard recruitment fees of approximately \$5,000 to workers, and many paid more than that.</li> <li>• Traffickers have forced some physically or intellectually disabled South Korean men to work on fishing vessels and fish, salt, and cattle farms.</li> <li>• South Korea is a transit point for Southeast Asian fishermen subjected to forced labour on fishing ships bound for Fiji and other ports in the Pacific. There are ongoing reports of abuse, including forced labour, of migrant workers in the Korean fishing fleet, one of the world’s largest distant-water fishing fleets. Recruiters, boat owners, captains, and job brokers often use debt-based coercion to exploit migrant fisherman in forced labour on Korean-flagged or -owned vessels. Reports estimate that nearly 4,000 migrant workers, mainly from Indonesia, are employed on these vessels. Korean distant-water fishing vessels frequently use at-sea trans-shipment of catches and can often stay at sea for a year or longer without visiting a port, limiting the ability of workers to report exploitation to authorities or to safely leave their exploitation.</li> <li>• According to one study, Korean longline fishing vessels spend the longest amount of time at sea, travel the furthest distances, and have the longest daily fishing hours compared with the world’s 25 largest longline fishing fleets. Recruitment agencies and job brokers often charge fishermen excessive recruitment fees, sometimes as much as \$13,000 for Indonesian and Vietnamese fisherman working on vessels in coastal waters, increasing their vulnerability to debt-based coercion. Migrant fishermen on distant-water vessels often have the first three months of their wages withheld to serve as a “deposit” they are unable to receive back until the completion of their contract. Although the government has undertaken some efforts to address problems in this sector, trafficking vulnerabilities remain. Such workers can be forced to work excessive hours, up to 20 hours per day with limited rest hours or days off, abused physically and verbally by boat captains, subjected to salary deductions, provided inadequate food and water, or forced to live and work in unsanitary conditions. It is common for recruitment agencies, captains, and skippers to retain coastal and distant-water fishermen’s passports to prevent them from leaving their employment</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
<b>Laos</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2020 and 2021. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2019 and Tier 3 in 2018. Tier 2 Watch List in 2016 and 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffickers exploit Lao men and boys in forced labour in Thailand's fishing, construction, and agricultural industries. Lao men are also subjected to forced labour on fishing vessels operating in Indonesian territorial waters.</li> </ul>
<b>Madagascar</b>	Tier 2 Watch List 	Downgraded from Tier 2 2019 - 2021, upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2017/2018, Tier 2 in 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffickers exploit Malagasy children, mostly from rural and coastal regions, and from impoverished families in urban areas, in child sex trafficking, and forced labour in domestic service, mining, fishing, and agriculture across the country.</li> </ul>
<b>Malawi</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2020 and 2021. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2019. Tier 2 2016 – 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffickers exploit children in forced labour in begging, domestic servitude, small businesses, and potentially in the fishing industry; in past years, some children were coerced to commit crimes.</li> </ul>
<b>Maldives</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2021. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List 2019 & 2020. No fishing mentions 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffickers may have targeted migrant workers on fishing and cargo boats in Maldivian for forced labour.</li> </ul>
<b>Marshall Islands</b>	Tier 2 	Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2019 – 2021, downgraded from Tier 2 in 2018, Tier 3 in 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government continued to take measures to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of vulnerable populations by prohibiting unauthorized visitors on board licensed foreign fishing vessels docked in Majuro; unlike prior reporting periods, the government did not issue immigration day passes for crewmembers due to pandemic restrictions. In the previous reporting period, the government created a digital registry system to track the movement of passengers from the country's main ports increasing oversight of individuals entering and exiting the country.</li> <li>Hotel and bar staff and family members recruit and transport women and girls and exploit them in sex trafficking with foreign construction workers and crewmembers of foreign fishing and transshipping vessels that dock in Majuro.</li> <li>Traffickers also exploit some of these foreign fishermen in conditions indicative of forced labour on ships in Marshallese waters.</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
<b>Mauritania</b>	Tier 2 Watch List 	Same as 2020 and 2021. Upgraded from Tier 3 2017 - 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children of Haratine and Afro-Mauritanian descent working in the fisheries sector are vulnerable to forced labour.</li> <li>• Traffickers also exploit Senegalese children in fishing and drug production.</li> </ul>
<b>Micronesia</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2016 - 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sex traffickers exploit Micronesian women and girls through commercial sex with the crew members of docked Asian fishing vessels and on vessels in Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) territorial waters, or with foreign construction workers. Foreign migrants from Southeast Asian countries report working in conditions indicative of human trafficking on Asian fishing vessels in FSM or its territorial waters.</li> </ul>
<b>Mongolia</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2019 - 2021, upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2018, Tier 2 in 2016 and 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRC national workers employed in Mongolia are vulnerable to trafficking as contract laborers in construction, manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, wholesale and retail trade, automobile maintenance, and mining.</li> </ul>
<b>Namibia</b>	Tier 1 	Same as 2020 and 2021. Upgraded from Tier 2 2016 – 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffickers bring children from Angola and neighbouring countries and subject them to sex trafficking and forced labour, particularly in agriculture, cattle herding, domestic servitude, street vending in Windhoek and other urban centres, and in the fishing industry.</li> </ul>
<b>Norway</b>	Tier 2	New entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffickers exploit women and girls in sex trafficking in massage parlours and men and women in labour trafficking, specifically in domestic service, as well as in restaurants, grocery stores, car repair shops, and the construction, fishing, and transportation industries.</li> </ul>
<b>Pakistan</b>	Tier 2 	Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List 2020 and 2021. Downgraded from Tier 2 in 2018 and 2019, Tier 2 Watch List in 2016 and 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffickers also force men, women, and children to work to pay off exaggerated debts in other sectors in Sindh and Punjab and in Balochistan and KP in agriculture and brick kilns and, to a lesser extent, in fisheries, mining, and textile-, bangle-, and carpet making.</li> </ul>
<b>Palau</b>	Tier 2 Watch List 	Same as 2021. Downgraded from Tier 2 2016 - 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreign workers on fishing boats in Palauan waters also experience conditions indicative of human trafficking.</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	Tier 2 Watch List  	Same as 2021. Tier 3 2018 – 2020, Tier 2 Watch List in 2017, Tier 3 in 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endemic corruption and complicity among officials, particularly in the logging and fishing sectors, continued to facilitate vulnerability to sex trafficking and forced labour among foreign and local populations.</li> <li>• Observers reported that a law allowing officials to apprehend foreign fishermen for desertion in port may have dissuaded some victims of forced labour from escaping and reporting their abuses.</li> <li>• After their arrival, many of these women—from countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, People's Republic of China (PRC), and the Philippines—are turned over to traffickers who transport them to logging and mining camps, fisheries, and entertainment sites and exploit them in sex trafficking and domestic servitude.</li> <li>• Burmese, Cambodian, PRC national, Malaysian, Vietnamese, and local men and boys seeking work on fishing vessels go into debt to pay recruitment fees, which vessel owners and senior crew manipulate to coerce them to continue working indefinitely through debt bondage in Papua New Guinea's exclusive economic zone and in other maritime territories, particularly in tuna fishing. These fishermen may face little to no pay, contract switching, wage garnishing or withholding, harsh working and living conditions, restricted communication, and threats of physical violence as coercive tactics to retain their labour.</li> </ul>
<b>Philippines</b>	Tier 1  	Same as 2016 -2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government did not prioritize identifying forced labour on fishing vessels and employed notably few inspectors dedicated to conduct inspections on fishing vessels. Traffickers exploit women and children from rural communities, conflict- and disaster-affected areas, and impoverished urban centres in sex trafficking, forced domestic work, forced begging, and other forms of forced labour in tourist destinations and urban areas around the country, and traffickers exploit men in forced labour in the agricultural, construction, fishing, and maritime industries, sometimes through debt-based coercion.</li> </ul>
<b>Poland</b>	Tier 2	New entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffickers exploit migrants in forced labour among Poland's growing Ukrainian, Belarusian, Filipino, and Vietnamese populations, particularly in agriculture, restaurants, construction, domestic work, and the garment and fish processing industries.</li> <li>• The government also launched a human trafficking awareness campaign for children and established two working groups focused on human trafficking in the fishing sector, while courts awarded restitution to more victims than the year prior.</li> </ul>
<b>Portugal</b>	Tier 2	New entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2021, the government reported establishing two sub-working groups focused on human trafficking in the fishing industry around the Tagus River.</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
<b>Seychelles</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2021. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2020. Tier 2 in 2019, Tier 2 Watch List in 2018, Tier 2 in 2017, Tier 2 Watch List in 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nearly 17,000 migrant workers — including individuals from Bangladesh, India, China, Kenya, Madagascar, and other countries in South Asia — make up approximately 20 percent of the working population in Seychelles and are primarily employed in fishing, farming, and construction; credible reports indicate traffickers subject migrant workers to forced labour in these sectors.</li> <li>NGOs report traffickers exploit migrant workers aboard foreign-flagged fishing vessels in Seychelles' territorial waters and ports using abuses indicative of forced labour, including non-payment of wages and physical abuse.</li> </ul>
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2020 and 2021. Tier 2 Watch List in 2018 and 2019, Tier 2 in 2016 and 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffickers exploit victims in fishing and agriculture, and sex trafficking or forced labour through customary practices, such as forced marriages.</li> </ul>
<b>Singapore</b>	Tier 1 	Same as 2020 and 2021. Tier 2 in 2016 - 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Singapore law did not prescribe a minimum wage. Under the Employment Act, wages were negotiated and outlined in individual contracts of service. Requirements were less detailed for foreign domestic workers and fishing crews employed locally, who were covered under the EFMA, and for whom employers were legally required to provide a document containing employment terms such as monthly salary, number of rest days, and agency fees.</li> <li>Some fishing vessel captains of long-haul boats that transit or dock at Singaporean ports use physical abuse to force men to perform labour.</li> </ul>
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2017 - 2021, Tier 2 Watch List in 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government, in partnership with international organizations, developed and began implementing a new policy with terms and conditions for workers on licensed foreign and domestic-flagged fishing vessels in Solomon Islands' waters, intended to reduce their risks of exploitation.</li> <li>For the third consecutive year, the Labor Division did not report conducting any monitoring and inspection activities at logging operations or in the fishing or mining sectors.</li> <li>In November 2021, the government, in partnership with international organizations, developed a policy framework to set minimum terms and conditions for crewmembers working on licensed foreign and domestic-flagged fishing vessels operating in Solomon Islands' waters in an effort to address trafficking risks among crewmembers.</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labour traffickers exploit men from Indonesia and Malaysia in the logging, fishing, palm oil, and mining industries. Fishermen from Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), and Fiji report situations indicative of labour trafficking, including non-payment of wages, dire living conditions, violence, and limited food supply, on Taiwan-flagged fishing vessels in Solomon Islands’ territorial waters and ports.</li> <li>• Some official corruption—especially in relation to facilitating irregular migration and involvement in the fishing and forestry sectors—may enable trafficking.</li> </ul>
<b>South Africa</b>	Tier 2 Watch List 	Same as 2021. Downgraded from Tier 2 in 2020. Tier 2 Watch List in 2018 and 2019, Tier 2 in 2016 and 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffickers force adults and children, particularly those from poor and rural areas and migrants, into labour in domestic service, mining, begging, street vending, food services, criminal activities, agriculture, and the fishing sector.</li> <li>• Traffickers exploit foreign male victims aboard fishing vessels in South Africa’s territorial waters.</li> <li>• Asian workers may travel to South Africa via commercial flights to disembark on fishing vessels where they are exploited.</li> </ul>
<b>Suriname</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2019 - 2021, upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2017 and 2018, Tier 3 in 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult and child migrant workers in agriculture, retail shops, construction, and on fishing boats off Suriname’s coast are at risk of trafficking.</li> </ul>
<b>Taiwan</b>	Tier 1 	Same as 2016 - 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient staffing and inspection protocols continued to impede efforts to combat forced labour on Taiwan-flagged and -owned fishing vessels in the highly vulnerable Distant Water Fleet (DWF). Taiwan authorities’ lack of specific labour laws ensuring the rights of migrant domestic caregivers left thousands vulnerable to exploitation in forced labour.</li> <li>• Taiwan authorities increased law enforcement efforts, but they did not sufficiently prioritize the detection, investigation, or prosecution of forced labour crimes in the coastal-offshore or DWF fishing industries.</li> <li>• In previous years, labour rights groups alleged some low-level corruption among local government officials impeded action against forced labour in the fishing industry, although no such allegations were reported in 2021.</li> <li>• The FA reported conducting unannounced inspections on 112 fishing vessels, including 98 at domestic ports, 12 at foreign ports, and two that were Taiwan-owned and foreign flagged, interviewing a total of 641 crewmembers (compared with 124 inspections -102 at domestic ports, 20 at foreign ports, and two on the high seas, interviewing a total of 658 crew - in 2020). Observers noted DWF vessels - both Taiwan - and foreign-flagged - spent more time docked in Taiwan’s ports due to the</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
			<p>pandemic in 2021. Inspectors uncovered 62 violations relating to contract issues, excessive overtime, physical assault of crewmembers, wage discrepancies, and suspected human trafficking (compared with 141 in 2020). Forty-four of these remained under initial investigation. Authorities referred five of the cases to district prosecutors; continued prosecutorial investigation of two cases; and closed one due to perceived lack of evidence (compared with eight referrals in 2020; three in 2019; and three in 2018). Notably, two of the aforementioned referrals were for cases of suspected trafficking aboard Taiwan-owned, foreign-flagged vessels - a first in recent years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOL maintained a separate 24-hour migrant worker hotline, from which the FA reported fielding 51 labour rights-related complaints from migrant fishermen (compared with 75 calls in 2020). Authorities resolved 22 of these cases and recovered 875,900 NT in wages (\$31,610) (compared with 870,000 NT, or \$31,400, recovered from 42 resolved cases in 2020). Unlike the previous year, authorities did not identify any trafficking victims through this hotline. Observers noted crewmembers aboard vessels in the DWF likely had difficulties accessing the MOL hotline due to limited awareness of its existence, lack of cellular service and internet connectivity in remote maritime areas, and restrictions on their communication imposed by senior vessel crew. Some migrant fishermen previously alleged significant lags in hotline response times, and that hotline staff had relayed complaints directly back to senior vessel crew, thereby exposing callers to potential retaliation.</li> <li>• Taiwan's Labor Standards Act did not protect fishing workers hired to work aboard DWF vessels, who instead fell under the jurisdiction of the FA. The FA maintained regulations that standardized fishing workers' employment contracts, set a minimum wage with direct payment options, provided medical and life insurance, unified working hours and rest time, and established access to new complaint mechanisms. However, NGOs remained concerned that the minimum compensation established in these regulations remained below Taiwan's broader minimum wage, and that senior vessel crew continued to delay or withhold salary remittance in violation of contractual pay schedules, leaving some foreign fishing workers vulnerable to debt-based coercion.</li> <li>• Documented and undocumented Chinese, Indonesian, Filipino, and Vietnamese fishermen working on Taiwan-owned and -flagged and Taiwan-owned, foreign-flagged fishing vessels experience non or under-payment of wages, long working hours, physical abuse, lack of food or medical care, denial of sleep and substandard safety equipment, and poor living conditions while indebted to complex, multinational brokerage networks through the continued imposition of recruitment fees and</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
			<p>deposits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migrant fishermen have reported senior crewmembers employ such coercive tactics as threats of physical violence, beatings, withholding of food and water, retention of identity documents, wage deductions, and non-contractual compulsory sharing of vessel operational costs to retain their labour. These abuses are particularly prevalent in Taiwan’s DWF, comprising 1,140 Taiwan owned and -flagged fishing vessels, as well as on 230 Taiwan-owned, foreign-flagged fishing vessels operating thousands of miles from Taiwan and without adequate oversight. According to FA estimates, approximately 8,000 Filipinos and more than 20,000 Indonesians work onboard DWF vessels.</li> <li>• Taiwan’s pandemic-related entry restrictions have at times compounded trafficking vulnerabilities for migrant fishermen stranded on board vessels beyond the length of their original contracts, placing them at risk of being “sold” to other recruitment agencies through unregulated channels. Some Taiwan-based labour brokerage firms reportedly supply fishing vessels operating under the auspices of the PRC’s highly vulnerable DWF with migrant workers as well.</li> </ul>
<b>Tanzania</b>	Tier 2 	Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List 2019 - 2021, downgraded from Tier 2 in 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NGOs report Tanzanian fishermen working on foreign flagged fishing vessels may experience working conditions indicative of forced labour.</li> </ul>
<b>Thailand</b>	Tier 2 	Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2021. Downgraded from Tier 2 2018 - 2020, Tier 2 Watch list in 2016 and 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thai authorities have never reported identifying a victim of labour trafficking as a result of fishing vessel inspections conducted at ports.</li> <li>• Officials initiated investigations of 22 potential cases of labour trafficking—including two cases involving the fishing sector - compared to 14 labour trafficking investigations in 2020. Authorities identified 90 migrant labour trafficking victims exploited within Thailand in 2021, including two exploited in the fishing sector.</li> <li>• A lack of clear guidance to measure work and rest hours for workers aboard fishing vessels heightened their risk of trafficking.</li> <li>• In August 2021, provincial authorities in Phuket issued an order to quarantine fishermen on their vessels, which increased their risk to exploitation, including longer work hours and inability to leave exploitative conditions</li> <li>• The government operated inspection centres at ports to verify whether fishing vessels were operating legally and reported identifying 17 vessels in violation of the law, including for failure to pay workers’ wages through bank transfers, failure to provide workers a copy of their contracts, and other labour violations.</li> <li>• In December 2021, allegations emerged that inmates producing fishing nets under a</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
			<p>prison work program faced exploitative conditions, including indicators of forced labour. In response, the Department of Corrections issued orders to 143 prisons to cease the production of fishing nets, and the Department committed to establishing advisors within each prison to ensure labour conditions in prisons meet international standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workers in the seafood processing and fishing sectors increasingly face forced overtime as a result of increasing demand for shelf-stable seafood during the pandemic, as well as unsafe working conditions.</li> <li>Vessel owners, brokers, and senior vessel crew subject Thai, Burmese, Cambodian, Vietnamese, and Indonesian men and boys to forced labour on Thai and foreign-owned fishing boats.</li> <li>Research published in 2019 and 2020 found that between 14 and 18% of migrant fishermen were exploited in forced labour in the Thai fishing industry, indicating traffickers exploited thousands of workers on fishing vessels.</li> </ul>
<b>Timor Leste</b>	Tier 2 	Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2020 and 2021. Downgraded from Tier 2 2016 - 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government acknowledged possible trafficking violations in the fishing industry in Timor-Leste's coastal waters and exclusive economic zone to the south; however, the government lacked the vessels, training, and human resources to patrol, inspect, and interdict vessels in its waters and investigate possible trafficking violations on these vessels.</li> <li>Traffickers exploit foreign fishing crews in forced labour on foreign-flagged vessels that transit Timor-Leste waters.</li> </ul>
<b>Uganda</b>	Tier 2 	Upgraded from Tier 2 in 2020 and 2021. Downgraded from Tier 2 2016 - 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffickers exploit Ugandan adults and children in forced labour in various industries, including agriculture, fishing, mining, street vending, hospitality, and domestic work.</li> </ul>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Tier 1 	Same as 2016 - 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In March 2022, media reported the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) arrested a suspected trafficker for exploiting foreign nationals for labour on fishing vessels.</li> <li>Observers also expressed concern about the government's transit visa scheme for workers in the fishing industry, noting the inability to change vessels or leave the vessel without violating the terms of the visa left workers at risk of labour rights abuses and labour trafficking. In May 2021, UN Rapporteurs called on the government to allow migrant workers the right to change employers at any given time and for any reason and the ability to apply for a visa extension. In December 2021, the government published an evaluation of the seasonal workers pilot for non-EU migrants, noting several areas of concern regarding the welfare and rights of migrants. NGOs urged reform of the program, noting it left migrant workers vulnerable</li> </ul>

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
			<p>to exploitation; according to an NGO study, many of the workers accrued large debts and were limited in their ability to change employers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffickers force adults and children to work in agriculture, cannabis cultivation, construction, food processing, factories, domestic service, nail salons, food services, the hospitality industry, and car washes, as well as on fishing boats.</li> </ul>
<b>Uruguay</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2017 - 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreign workers, mainly from Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, and Argentina, are exploited in forced labour in construction, domestic service, cleaning services, elderly care, wholesale stores, textile industries, agriculture, fishing, and lumber processing.</li> <li>• From 2018 to 2020, 17 crew member deaths were associated with Taiwan-, Chinese-, and other foreign-flagged fishing vessels docked at the Montevideo port and in Uruguay's waters; before 2018, observers reported an average of 11 crew member deaths per year. Foreign workers aboard these vessels are subjected to abuses indicative of forced labour, including unpaid wages, confiscated identification documents, and physical abuse, and there are anecdotal reports of murder at sea.</li> </ul>
<b>Vanuatu</b>	Tier 2 	Same as 2020 and 2021. New entry in 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffickers target low skilled foreign workers in high-risk sectors, such as agriculture, mining, fishing, logging, construction, and domestic service.</li> <li>• Foreign fishermen working on board Vanuatuan-flagged, Taiwan owned vessels have experienced indicators of forced labour, including deceptive recruitment practices, abuse of vulnerability, excessive overtime, withholding of wages, physical and sexual violence, and abusive living and working conditions on board.</li> <li>• Forced labour and child sex trafficking occur on fishing vessels in Vanuatu.</li> </ul>
<b>Vietnam</b>	Tier 3 	Downgraded from Tier 2 Watch List 2019 - 2021, downgraded from Tier 2 2016 -2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are increasing reports of Vietnamese labour trafficking victims in Taiwan, continental Europe, the Middle East, and in Pacific maritime industries, including on Indonesian and Taiwanese fishing vessels operating under complex ownership and registration arrangements that enable traffickers to evade detection and intervention by law enforcement.</li> <li>• Traffickers subject victims to forced labour in construction, fishing, agriculture, mining, maritime industries, logging, and manufacturing, primarily in Taiwan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Laos, Japan, and to a lesser extent, some parts of Europe and the UK (including in nail salons and on cannabis farms)</li> </ul>
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	Tier 2 Watch List	New entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 71% of child labour occurs in the agriculture sector, including on tobacco, sugarcane, and cotton farms, as well as in forestry and fishing sectors, where children weed, spray, harvest, and pack goods.</li> </ul>

## Seafish work on social responsibility

For further information see:

- **Seafish social responsibility in seafood web page.**  
**See:** <https://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/social-responsibility-in-seafood/>
- **Seafish fact sheet. Social responsibility in seafood – Seafish role. April 2019.**  
**See:** <https://www.seafish.org/document/?id=82FED629-E4A3-4178-A674-02726E406B41>
- **Tools for Ethical Seafood Sourcing (TESS).** TESS is an online tool signposting users to numerous online resources and initiatives that support socially responsible business practices.  
**See:** <http://www.seafish.org/tess/>
- **Assessment of worker welfare issues in UK seafood supply chains.**  
**See:** <https://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/social-responsibility-in-seafood/assessment-of-worker-welfare-issues/>
- **Country profiles**  
**See:** <https://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/social-responsibility-in-seafood/assessment-of-worker-welfare-issues/#z-country-profiles-2>

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Here to give the UK seafood sector  
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The logo for Seafish, featuring the word "seafish" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. Above the letter "i" in "fish", there is a stylized graphic of a fish's head and scales, composed of several small, white, diamond-shaped elements arranged in a curved pattern.

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