

October 2017

**Seafood Ethics Common Language Group e-alert
(amalgamation of news alerts issued to SECLG circulation list by email in October 2017)**

Seafood Ethics Common Language Group

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

UK news and reports

Northern Ireland Fisheries Non-EEA Crew anti-slavery & trafficking report issued. 26 October 2017.

Human Rights at Sea has issued an independent project [report](#) on non-EEA nationals working in the Northern Ireland fishing industry, as well as a fishing industry response into the non-EEA crew issue in Northern Ireland. This research commissioned by the Anglo North Irish Fisheries Producer Organisation (ANIFPO) and carried out by Human Rights at Sea through its consultancy company, found that there was little to no evidence of slavery and trafficking in the Northern Ireland fishing industry at first instance. The significance of this independent research is that this is the first time in the UK that a fisheries Producer's Organisation (PO) voluntarily requested a complete review of its work relating to the employment of non-EEA crews, against the current background of anti-slavery and trafficking investigations by UK constabulary forces. The facts show that in the case of ANIFPO, there is significant care and attention paid to the PO's corporate social responsibility policies and mechanisms in the employment of their non-EEA crews, and it highlights a new level of transparency by a core member of the UK fishing industry.

Alan McCulla OBE, CEO, Sea-Source/ANIFPO Ltd, Kilkeel, Northern Ireland commented that:

"The recruitment of experienced and qualified non-EEA fishermen is critical to the fishing industry in Northern Ireland. The welfare of all our crew is of paramount importance to the Anglo-North Irish Fish Producers Organisation (ANIFPO). With all of this in mind we have been very fortunate indeed to work with Human Rights at Sea (HRAS) to ensure compliance with statutory regulations, as well as extending practical help when needed. HRAS is a highly professional charity, one that has not only been unafraid to challenge us, but guide us through the process of drafting our Transparency in the Supply Chain Statement."

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: [record for Human Rights at Sea](#)

Seafish 2017 Pilot Survey of Employment in the UK Fishing Fleet. October 2017.

The 2017 pilot survey was conducted by Seafish on behalf of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Marine Scotland to test the data collection methodology ahead of the full employment surveys that are due to run from 2018, as required under the EU's Data Collection Framework (DCF). The survey collected data on the gender, age, education level, nationality and employment status of people working in the UK catching sector. Seafish collected the data via face-to-face interviews with vessel owners and skippers in ports across the UK. The 2017 pilot survey gathered data on 313 UK fishing vessels and 914 jobs. These figures represent 7% of active vessels and 7% of jobs in the UK fishing fleet in 2016. This was a pilot exercise, the analysis of findings focuses on the survey sample only: results have not been extrapolated to the whole of the UK fishing industry. In terms of the distribution of jobs in the sample by worker nationality Seafish found that just over three quarters (77%) of the jobs in the sample were filled by UK citizens. Around 10% of foreign workers in the survey sample were citizens of other EEA/EU Member States and 13% were from non-EEA countries. Non-UK workers in the sample occupied mainly deckhand and engineer jobs, representing 31% of all engineers and 39% of all deckhands.

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: [record for Seafish](#)

[FLEX Research Paper: Risky business: tackling exploitation in the UK labour market.](#) October 2017.

Over the last year, Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX) has undertaken focused research across three UK labour sectors – construction, bakeries and fishing – examining the vulnerabilities of migrant workers to human trafficking for labour exploitation. The report is a roadmap to prevent exploitation through three key steps: enforcing labour rights at work; ensuring workers can report abuse and access information; and leading the fight to drive exploitation out of company supply chains.

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: [record for FLEX](#)

[New Codes of Practice to improve fishing safety coming into force.](#) 19 October 2017.

Three new Codes of practice are coming into force on 23 October, which will improve safety for everyone in the fishing industry. All three Codes have been developed with the help of the Fishing Industry Safety group (which includes Fishing Federations, Seafish, the Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers Association and the Fishermen's Mission). Each Code has been designed to improve safety through the introduction of new safety requirements, adopting technological developments and addressing recommendations from the Marine Accident Investigation Branch. They include holding monthly emergency drills, life rafts for specific vessels, the fitting of radar reflectors and bilge alarms, as well as fitting of carbon monoxide monitors, EPIRBs and personal locator beacons with built-in GPS.

GLAA Annual Conference: Tackling Labour Exploitation Together. 11 October 2017.

[Video 'premiere'](#) gives you the level and tone of the event

[To see all the presentations](#)

EU news

[Europeche and ETF - EU Social Partners keep up momentum on safety and labour conditions in fishing.](#) 9 November 2017.

The EU Social Partners in the fisheries sector (Europêche and ETF) met with the specialised agencies of the United Nations which play a vital role in fishers' safety at sea and working conditions. Representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) together with the European Commission (EC) and Social Partners laid the foundations for a comprehensive action plan to raise awareness and jointly promote worldwide all relevant international instruments on fisheries to ultimately improve safety and labour conditions. The focus was on possible ways to implement at EU and international level key International Conventions so far poorly ratified or not yet in force namely the IMO Cape Town Agreement, the FAO's Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) and the ILO Work in Fishing Convention C188. The EU Social Partners have requested the EC to adopt enforcement provisions relating to the ILO C188 and to provide assistance to the UN agencies to produce guidelines on how to correctly recruit migrant fishers, on medical examination of fishers and for the implementing the occupational safety and health and accident prevention provisions set in the ILO C188.

Surveys

[Calls for seafood processors to participate in critical workforce survey ahead of Brexit.](#) 9 November 2017.

Seafood processors are being asked to contribute data on their workforce to help get a clear understanding of labour availability in the UK and the possible impacts on access to labour after leaving the European Union. In response to industry and government requests, Seafish will collect workforce and labour availability information in a series of straightforward surveys which will be used to inform government decisions about the seafood processing sector workforce. In early 2017 a labour nationality survey by Seafish found 66% of UK seafood processing sites employed workers from other EU countries. The same data revealed 42% of the 10,000 employees in the survey were

from other EU countries. The new Seafood Processing Labour Reports will track trends in the number, proportion and ease of recruiting both UK and non-UK workers in the seafood processing sector in the period before and immediately after the UK leaves the EU. These reports will focus on the nationality of permanent, temporary and seasonable workers. The research will be used to inform Government to address labour availability issues throughout the research period and beyond. The first survey will begin during November 2017.

Transparency in Supply Chains

[Parliamentary debate on the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act.](#) 26 October 2017.

There was one seafood mention by Kerry McCarthy, Labour MP for Bristol East citing the admirable work of the Environmental Justice Foundation 'over the past five years in exposing modern slavery in Thailand's seafood sector, uncovering widespread human trafficking and human rights abuses both in the pre-processing facilities and at sea. There have been examples of people being kept at sea for several years, being moved from ship to ship, and never reaching shore and being able to seek sanctuary. In April, the Environmental Justice Foundation reported that, despite reforms, forced labour continues to be widespread, citing the shocking statistic that 59% of Thai fishing workers had witnessed the murder of a fellow worker. Many more had been tortured and abused, and had wages, food and sleep withheld from them. This is directly linked to the supply chains of many major seafood companies around the world, including in the UK; millions of pounds of seafood products are imported from Thailand every year. The EJF is calling for: transnational approaches for all countries—port, flag and coastal states—to ratify and implement fully the International Labour Organisation's convention 188 on work in fishing; all countries to implement legislation to prosecute national citizens engaged in human trafficking on vessels registered to another country; and retailers and the industry to establish effective transparency and traceability across their whole supply chain, including committing to independent, third-party and unannounced auditing of their supply chains.

[ETI Briefing for backbench business debate on the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.](#) There are four key asks:

- Commission an independent review of the effectiveness of Section 54 (the TISC, or Transparency in Supply Chains Clause) of the Modern Slavery Act.
- Publish a list of all companies covered by TISC and enact penalties for companies that fail to comply.
- Require companies to post their annual Modern Slavery Statements on a credible, accessible and free Central Registry.
- Strengthen the legislation by applying the TISC requirement to all public and government bodies procuring goods and services.

Home Office Modern Slavery Act Guidance Updated.

The Home Office has updated its '[Transparency in supply chains: a practical guide](#)' document. This provides information about section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 which requires organisations with a turnover of £36 million to publish modern slavery and human trafficking statements.

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: [record for TISC](#)

[BHRRC report, First Year of FTSE 100 Reports Under the UK Modern Slavery Act: Towards Elimination?](#)

This analyses the modern slavery statements of the FTSE 100 companies and is a follow-up to [FTSE 100 At the Starting Line](#). This analysis shows there are only a small number of companies taking robust action to identify and address modern slavery risks in their operations and supply chains. Disappointingly, the majority of companies demonstrate a need for substantial improvement. By highlighting better practice and providing a reputation reward for those companies demonstrating leadership within the FTSE 100 in this report, we aim to drive a race to the top and better practice among all companies.

Key findings:

- Highest performing companies: Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury (J), Unilever, British American Tobacco, Tesco and Vodafone.
- Weak performing companies: Hargreaves Lansdown, Paddy Power Betfair, Pearson and Worldpay.
- No company reached the top tier.
- 50 companies provided little or no information on whether their actions were effective in addressing modern slavery risks.
- 43% companies failed to meet the minimum requirements.

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: [record for BHRRC](#)

New initiatives

[Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability \(SALT\)](#). 6 October 2017.

SALT is a collaboration between FishWise, USAID, and the Walton, Moore, and Packard Foundations to fight illegal fishing through improved traceability. SALT is a global alliance to improve the transparency of seafood supply chains by bringing together stakeholders throughout the seafood industry to share their insights on traceability. SALT will convene businesses, governments, and organizations to collaborate on solutions for legal and sustainable seafood and enhanced tracking of seafood through supply chains. SALT will build the capacities of these actors by fostering key relationships, facilitating learning across pilot sites to promote innovation, and expanding the use of emerging best practices. These improvements will ultimately help to address food security, labour rights, and marine biodiversity conservation. See the [blog](#). You can register your interest in SALT on the website [here](#).

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: [record for SALT](#)

This is an amalgamation of the news alerts issued in October 2017.