

About Tools for Ethical Seafood Sourcing (TESS)

In 2014, a significant media campaign by *The Guardian* highlighted major issues in the Thai seafood sector. Seafish was asked by the UK seafood industry to help provide support to the industry.

It became clear that the global seafood industry needs to collaborate to consolidate activities and messages on how ethical issues can be addressed across the supply chain. It was recognised by industry that there was a significant opportunity for Seafish to become more active by sharing information and profiling initiatives undertaken both in the UK and globally. Seafish were uniquely placed to help provide industry with information and guidance, as well as bringing together the many different stakeholders that work on this issue.

In 2014, we were asked three main questions to help support the seafood industry:

1. What are the issues in the seafood industry?
2. Where are the issues presenting themselves?
3. What can seafood businesses do to tackle them?

What is Seafish doing on social issues?

Seafish has taken a major role in leading an integrated, interdisciplinary and collaborative approach in supporting the seafood industry address social issues relating to ethical seafood production.

We have introduced a series of work activities to help industry achieve their goal of eliminating unethical practices from seafood supply chains including:

- Establishing the Seafood Ethics Common Language Group (SECLG) to bring industry and other stakeholders together to collaboratively determine how ethical issues can be addressed across the supply chain;
- Completing a review of ethical issues in UK supply chains and disseminating insightful news briefings;
- Developing the voluntary Seafish Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS) certifying high standards of crew welfare and responsible catching practices on fishing vessels.
- Developing Tools for Ethical Seafood Sourcing, an online resource to help businesses understand risks in the supply chain and signpost to useful resources which will help businesses manage and mitigate those risks;

We have a webpage and factsheet which provide an overview of all our activities, see the 'further information' section at the end.

All of our work to date has been aimed at answering the three questions (mentioned above). As part of this, we are developing tools to help businesses. TESS is one of the 'tools' we have developed.

What is TESS?

Tools for Ethical Seafood Sourcing (TESS) is a website that provides information for businesses who want to manage social risks in their supply chains.

It is aimed at seafood businesses who want to understand social responsibility and 'what to do' to address any issues in their supply chain. It is a 'signposting' tool providing a gateway to the wide range of helpful resources that Seafish is aware of.

All the information is publicly available on external websites, so visitors to the site are taken to the source of the information.

Why has TESS been developed?

There are many different sources of information available on ethical issues in the seafood supply chain, from identifying the issues through to international standards and 'on the ground' initiatives that are working to address them. It can be challenging for seafood businesses to understand this complex landscape and what they need to do to identify issues and make improvements. TESS has been developed to be a one-stop shop for useful information, specifically to help businesses.

What are the benefits of TESS?

The main benefit of TESS is that it brings all these resources together in one place. It is also easy to update and keep up to date, compared with a report.

What doesn't TESS do?

TESS is not a risk assessment tool. It signposts users to resources that can help address ethical issues once a risk has been identified. We do not provide ratings or ranking of the information provided. This is because every business is different and some resources will be more useful to some businesses than others.

TESS doesn't provide details of all the rules, regulations and legislation that are in place relating to work and employment. This is because there are many rules and regulations, not just in the UK but across every country in the world. It would be too complex and difficult for us to provide details on rules and regulations for every country in the world, and ensure we can keep this up to date.

How is the site helpful?

There are different ways to find the information on this site. From the homepage and main menu pages, there are three main sections to help you find the information you are looking for.

The three main sections of most interest;

- **More about the issues;** this section of the site provides an overview of the issues facing the seafood sector and why it is important for businesses to tackle these issues. Also included is a 'recommended reading' section, providing details and links to publications that provide more detail around the issues and why they are so important.
- **Step by step approach;** this section of the site provides a six step process that businesses could follow to tackle social issues in global supply chains. For each step, there is a further explanation of

the specific action to take. Also included is a list of resources, specifically tailored to each step, to provide additional help and support.

- **Search facility;** Site users can type search terms into our database search and it will generate relevant results. The site has been populated with content that we have identified as useful including information, initiatives, standards, organisations and other resources to help support businesses in tackling social issues. These can be filtered by region, sector and type of record to enable results to be tailored to individual requirements. The results generated are based only on content available in TESS.

How up to date is the content on TESS?

We are constantly adding new content. All the links on the site are checked weekly to ensure they remain active.

We are keen to hear from anyone who has information that will be useful to include in TESS. Please contact us, using the contact details over page. We will ask you to provide information to help us develop the content which we will include on TESS.

Where can I find TESS online?

The TESS website is available at www.seafish.org/tess



Useful information

More about Seafish's work on social responsibility

- Webpage - <http://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/ethics-in-seafood>
- Seafish role in ethics factsheet - http://www.seafish.org/media/Publications/SeafishRoleinAddressingEthicsinSeafood_0317.pdf
- Seafood Ethics Common Language Group (SECLG) ; sign up to our monthly newsletters for more information - <http://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/discussion-forums/the-seafood-ethics-common-language-group>

Contact us

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supporting the seafood industry for a sustainable, profitable and socially responsible future