

The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report is the U.S. Government's principal diplomatic tool to engage foreign governments on human trafficking. It is also the world's most comprehensive resource of governmental anti-human trafficking efforts. The U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons report (TIP) 2017 was published on 27 June 2017. <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/>

The report ranks states on their perceived efforts to acknowledge and eliminate human trafficking within their jurisdictions. In doing so, the TIP offers important insights for companies assessing their supply chains for risks of human trafficking and slavery. These assessments can then inform the development of strong due diligence programming in response to legislative and corporate social responsibility (CSR) requirements.

Seafish Insight: A quick analysis of the 2017 TIP report shows:

- Fish or fishing is mentioned in association with forced labour in 49 countries (51 in 2016).
- Countries that have been singled out specifically with regards to fishing include Burma (moved from a Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch), Cambodia, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Taiwan and Thailand.
- Countries where fishing has been mentioned as a risk this year (but not in 2016) are Guinea and Uruguay. Equally the records for Iceland, Malaysia and Mauritius no longer mention fishing.
- Thailand remains on the Tier 2 'Watch List', having been on the lowest rung, Tier 3, since 2014. 'The Government of Thailand does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The government demonstrated significant efforts during the reporting period by seizing more than 784 million baht (\$21.91 million) from traffickers, reporting more investigations, prosecutions, and convictions, convicting a business owner complicit in forced labor in the fishing sector, and extending the amount of time foreign trafficking victims and witnesses may be permitted to stay and work in Thailand.'

Media reporting

Just 15 years ago, human trafficking was an under-reported and often misrepresented issue and some reporting sensationalized the problem or even misinformed the public. In the last few years, a significant shift has occurred in the media's reporting of human trafficking, from dramatic exposés to in-depth original research and agenda-setting public-interest reporting. These media reports have helped change the way the public looks at human trafficking—from a crime that happens to 'others' to one that has an impact. The reports on fishing include:

- 2014. The Guardian. A six-month investigative series, "Modern-day Slavery in Focus," revealed direct links between the men forced to labor on fishing boats and in the production of seafood sold by major retailers throughout the world.
- 2015. New York Times. A seven-part series, "The Outlaw Ocean," which took two years to investigate, provided a comprehensive look at the overall lawlessness at sea and chronicled a diversity of crimes, including forced labor on fishing boats.
- 2016. Associate Press. The 18-month investigative story, "Seafood from Slaves," led to the release of more than 2,000 trafficking victims, traced the seafood they caught to supermarkets and pet food providers across the United States, and led to the jailing of perpetrators, congressional hearings, and the introduction of new laws.

Fishing references by country in 2017 TIP report (alphabetical)**Bangladesh – Tier 2 Watch List (downgraded from Tier 2 in 2016)**

Children are sold into a form of bondage by their parents, while others are induced into labor through fraud and physical coercion, including in the domestic **fish** drying industry, or exploited in sex trafficking.

Belize – Tier 3 (same as 2016)

Some migrants are subjected to forced labor in restaurants, shops, agriculture, and **fishing** or to sex trafficking. Trafficking-related complicity by government officials, including those at high levels, remains a problem.

Burma – Tier 2 Watch List (upgraded from Tier 3 in 2016)

Some Burmese men, women, and children who migrate for work abroad - particularly to Thailand and China, as well as other countries in Asia, the Middle East, and the United States—are subjected to forced labor or sex trafficking. Men are subjected to forced labor in **fishing**, manufacturing, forestry, agriculture, and construction abroad. NGOs report a continued increase in the number of Burmese males transiting Thailand en route to Indonesia and Malaysia, where they are subjected to forced labor, primarily in **fishing** and other labor intensive industries.

The government identified seven instances of forced labor in Burma’s fishing industry in 2016, triggering an ongoing interagency process led by the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons (CBTIP) to institute new preventative protocols in the fishing sector. Courts convicted 26 individuals under the 2005 anti-trafficking law for subjecting Bangladeshi and Rohingya migrants to trafficking, although it was unclear if these constituted instances of smuggling; the lead offender, a Thai national, received a 27-year prison sentence.

Some Burmese men in the Thai fishing industry are subjected to debt bondage, passport confiscation, threats of physical or financial harm, or fraudulent recruitment; some are also subjected to physical abuse and forced to remain aboard vessels in international waters for years.

Burundi – Tier 3 (same as 2016)

Children and young adults are coerced into forced labor on plantations or small farms throughout Burundi, in gold mines in Cibitoke, in informal commerce in the streets of larger cities, collecting river stones for construction in Bujumbura, and in the **fishing** industry.

Cambodia – Tier 2 (same as 2016)

Cambodian adults and children migrate to other countries within the region and increasingly to the Middle East for work; many are subjected to forced labor on **fishing** vessels, in agriculture, in construction, in factories and in domestic servitude – often through debt bondage – or to sex trafficking.

Significant numbers of male Cambodians continued to be recruited in Thailand for work on fishing boats and subjected to forced labor on Thai-owned vessels in international waters. Cambodian victims escaping this form of exploitation have been identified in Malaysia, Indonesia, Mauritius, Fiji, Senegal, South Africa, and Papua New Guinea. Cambodian men reported severe abuses by Thai captains, deceptive recruitment, underpaid wages, and being forced to remain aboard vessels for years.

Cameroon – Tier 2 Watch list (same as 2016)

Cameroonian children are exploited in domestic service, restaurants, begging or vending on streets and highways, 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 construction as errand boys, laborers, or night watchmen.

Comoros – Tier 3 (same as 2016)

Children on Anjouan, some of whom were abandoned by parents who left to seek economic opportunities in other countries, are subjected to forced labor, mostly in domestic service, roadside and market vending, baking, **fishing**, and agriculture.

Congo – Tier 3 (downgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2016)

Some child trafficking victims are also subjected to forced labor in stone quarries, bakeries, and the **fishing** and agricultural sectors, including in cocoa fields in Sangha department.

Costa Rica – Tier 2 (upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2016)

Men and children from other Central American and Asian countries are subjected to forced labor in Costa Rica, particularly in the agriculture, construction, **fishing**, and commercial sectors.

Prosecutors appealed three acquittals from 2014 in a case of suspected labor trafficking involving Asian fishermen on boats in Costa Rican waters, but the appellate court declined to accept the case.

Fiji – Tier 2 (same as 2016)

Family members, taxi drivers, foreign tourists, businessmen, and crew on foreign fishing vessels have allegedly exploited Fijian children in sex trafficking.

Workers from other Asian countries are subjected to forced labor on fishing vessels and transit through Fiji or board fishing vessels from Fiji ports and waters. They live in poor conditions, accrue significant debts, and work for little or no compensation on foreign fishing vessels, mainly Chinese- and Taiwan-flagged, in Pacific waters. South Asian and East Asian men are fraudulently recruited to work in Fiji and find themselves in conditions of forced labor upon arrival.

Gabon – Tier 2 Watch List (same as 2016)

Boys are forced to work as street vendors, mechanics, or in the **fishing** sector.

Ghana – Tier 2 Watch List (same as 2016)

Ghanaian boys and girls are subjected to forced labor within the country in **fishing**, domestic service, street hawking, begging, portering, artisanal gold mining, quarrying, herding, and agriculture. Boys as young as five years old are forced to work in hazardous conditions, including deep diving, and many suffer water-borne infections; girls perform work on shore such as cooking, cleaning **fish**, and preparing **fish** for market, and are vulnerable to sexual abuse.

Prosecution of a trafficker for the labor exploitation of a 15-year-old boy working on a fishing boat without pay on Lake Volta resulted in a sentence of a fine of 720 cedis (\$170). A study of the prevalence of child trafficking in selected communities in the Volta and Central Regions indicated that children from nearly one-third of the 1,621 households surveyed had been subjected to trafficking, primarily in fishing and domestic servitude.

Guinea – Tier 3 (not listed as mentioning fishing in 2016)

Boys are forced to beg, work as street vendors and shoe shiners, labor in gold and diamond mines, and work in herding, **fishing**, and farming.

Haiti – Tier 2 Watch List (upgraded from Tier 3 in 2016)

Haitian children working in construction, agriculture, **fisheries**, domestic work, and street vending in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Honduras – Tier 2 (same as 2015)

Children from indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, particularly Miskito boys, are vulnerable to forced labor, including on **fishing** vessels.

Iceland – Tier 2 (downgraded from Tier 1 in 2016) – but fishing is no longer mentioned.**India – Tier 2 (same as 2016)**

Within India, some are subjected to forced labor in sectors such as construction, steel, and textile industries; wire manufacturing for underground cables; biscuit factories; pickling; floriculture; **fish farms**; and ship breaking.

Indonesia – Tier 2 (same as 2016)

A significant number of Indonesians are exploited in forced labor and debt bondage in Asia and the Middle East, primarily in domestic service, factories, construction, and manufacturing, on Malaysian palm oil plantations, and on **fishing** vessels throughout the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

There were extensive reports of Indonesian fisherman in forced labor on Chinese and Taiwanese trawlers in 2016. Many of these vessels belong to Thai parent companies operating under the auspices of Thai-Indonesian shell companies, and utilized double-flagging and other illicit methods to contravene interception by the Indonesian authorities – a by-product of the government's 2014 moratorium on foreign fishing vessels. Taiwanese companies work with dozens of recruitment agencies in Burma, Indonesia, and Thailand to hire fisherman, assign them fake Thai identity and

labor permit documents, and force them to fish long hours in Indonesian waters for low or unpaid salaries while incurring severe physical abuse, including in the waters surrounding Benjina and Ambon. The shell companies prohibit the fishermen from leaving their vessels and reporting these abuses by threatening to expose their fake identities to the authorities or by detaining them on land in makeshift prisons. Reports continued of Indonesian fishermen subjected to labor trafficking on board South Korean fishing vessels in non-Indonesian waters, where similar practices of coercion and deprivation are not uncommon.

During the reporting period, authorities continued to investigate five of the companies involved in subjecting hundreds of Burmese fishermen to forced labor on fishing boats in Ambon in 2015.

An international organization partnered with the government to identify and provide services to 336 Indonesian and foreign trafficking victims, including 159 individuals subjected to trafficking in the fishing industry.

Although the government ratified the ILO Maritime Labor Convention in September and established a fishing vessel victim screening protocol in 2015, it did not uniformly adhere to either mechanism during the reporting period. The government continued to work with NGOs to identify trafficking victims among the crews of ships grounded or destroyed as part of the 2014 moratorium on illegal fishing vessels, but figures were unavailable at the end of the reporting period

The government unveiled new policies and mechanisms aimed at preventing trafficking in the fishing industry, including two formal regulations on human rights certifications for fishing companies and a fishing industry training academy featuring trafficking-specific curriculum materials.

Ireland – Tier 1 (same as 2016)

Victims of forced labor have been identified in domestic work, the restaurant industry, waste management, **fishing**, seasonal agriculture, and car washing services.

Experts, however, have noted gaps in the government's immigration policies to protect undocumented migrants (including undocumented fisherman) who are vulnerable to trafficking. A labor focused NGO said a government's immigration scheme launched in February 2016 for crew members of the Irish commercial sea-fishing fleets helped alleviate some of the concerns for undocumented fisherman but criticized the scheme as being specifically time bound and not available on a rolling basis

Israel – Tier 1 (same as 2016)

A 2013 report noted men from the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and India worked on **fishing** boats under harsh conditions, some of which constitute human trafficking, distinguished by isolation, long working hours, and withheld salaries.

Jamaica – Tier 2 (same as 2016)

Foreign nationals are subjected to forced labor in Jamaica and aboard foreign-flagged **fishing** vessels operating in Jamaican waters.

Kenya – Tier 2 (same as 2016)

Kenya is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Within the country, children are subjected to forced labor in domestic service, agriculture, **fishing**, cattle herding, street vending, and begging

Korea (Republic of) or South Korea – Tier 1 (same as 2016)

Men and women from China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, and other countries in Asia, the Middle East, and South America are subjected to forced labor in South Korea and on **fishing** vessels registered and operated by South Koreans.

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries continued to operate a hotline for foreign crew members on South Korean fishing vessels.

Approximately 400,000 low-skilled migrant workers, many employed under the government's employment permit system, work in fishing, agriculture, livestock, restaurants, and manufacturing; some of these workers face conditions indicative of forced labor. The ROK is a transit point for Southeast Asian fishermen subjected to forced labor on fishing ships bound for Fiji and other ports in the Pacific. Foreign fishermen aboard small fishing vessels operating beyond the purview of the government or owners' cooperatives are vulnerable to exploitation, including forced labour.

Laos – Tier 2 Watch List (same as 2016)

Lao men and boys are victims of forced labor in Thailand's **fishing**, construction, and agricultural industries. Lao victims of forced labor in the Thai **fishing** industry have been identified in Indonesian waters.

Madagascar Tier 2 Watch List (downgraded from Tier 2 in 2016)

Malagasy children, mostly from rural and coastal regions, and from impoverished families in urban areas, are exploited in prostitution, domestic servitude, and forced labor in mining, **fishing**, and agriculture across the country.

Malawi – Tier 2 (same as 2016)

Children are also subjected to forced labor in begging, small businesses, and potentially in the **fishing** industry.

Malaysia – Tier 2 (upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2016) - but fishing is no longer mentioned.

Marshall Islands Tier 3 (same as 2015)

The government also made modest efforts to identify trafficking victims, notably among foreign men working on **fishing** vessels in Marshallese waters. In one case, a Cambodian man was recruited to work as a translator on a ship, but upon boarding the vessel was subjected to forced labor as a **fisherman**.

Law enforcement and social services personnel did not employ systematic procedures to identify trafficking victims among women in prostitution and child sex trafficking, but did so in the fishing sector; during the reporting period, law enforcement implemented a newly formulated standard operating procedure to screen 79 crew members aboard a fishing vessel for indicators of labor trafficking. The government provided \$137,000 to an NGO to support protective services for victims of gender-based violence and human trafficking – an increase from no contributions in 2015. The NGO also signed an MOU with the Marshall Islands police department on victim assistance during the reporting period.

Mauritania – Tier 3 (not listed as mentioning fishing in 2016)

Authorities enforced fishing regulations barring individuals from boarding licensed foreign fishing vessels docked in Majuro in an attempt to mitigate the potential for the commercial sexual exploitation of women and underage girls.

As reported in the last three years, RMI is a source and destination country for RMI women and children and a destination for women from East Asia subjected to sex trafficking. RMI girls are recruited by foreign business owners and are subjected to sex trafficking with crew members of foreign fishing and transshipping vessels that dock in Majuro. Some of these foreign fisherman themselves are subjected to conditions indicative of forced labor on ships in Marshallese waters.

Mauritius – Tier 2 (same as 2016) – but fishing is no longer mentioned.

Cambodian fishermen were subjected to forced labor on foreign **fishing** boats in Mauritius' territorial waters.

Micronesia – Tier 2 (same as 2016)

Women and girls are allegedly exploited in prostitution (child sex trafficking for girls) by the crew members of docked Asian **fishing** vessels and by 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

Mongolia – Tier 2 (same as 2016)

North Korean and Chinese workers employed in Mongolia are vulnerable to trafficking as contract laborers in construction, production, agriculture, forestry, **fishing**, hunting, wholesale and retail trade, automobile maintenance, and mining.

Namibia – Tier 2 (same as 2016)

Children from less affluent neighbouring countries may be subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor, including in street vending in Windhoek and other cities as well as in the **fishing** sector.

There were reports in 2013 of labor violations—potentially including forced labor – involving foreign adults and Namibian adults and children in Chinese-owned retail, construction, and fishing operations.

New Zealand – Tier 1 (same as 2016)

Foreign men aboard foreign-flagged **fishing** vessels in New Zealand waters are vulnerable to forced labor.

The government continued to implement the Fisheries Foreign Charter Vessels Amendment, which came into effect May 1, 2016, and requires all foreign charter vessels fishing in New Zealand waters to operate as New Zealand-flagged vessels and abide by its health and labor laws.

Pakistan – Tier 2 Watch List (same as 2016)

Bonded labor is concentrated in Sindh and Punjab provinces, but also occurs in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, in agriculture and brick-making and, to a lesser extent, in **fisheries**, mining, and handicraft and carpet-making.

Palua Tier 2 (same as 2016)

Foreign workers on **fishing** boats in Palauan waters experience conditions indicative of human trafficking.

Papua New Guinea Tier 2 Watch List (upgraded from Tier 3 in 2016)

Foreign and local men are subjected to forced labor in logging and mining camps as well as on **fishing** vessels operating in Papua New Guinea's exclusive economic zone. Vietnamese, Burmese, Cambodian, and local men and boys are subjected to forced labor on fishing vessels; they face little to no pay, harsh working conditions, and debt bondage, and many are compelled to fish illegally, making them vulnerable to arrest.

Officials referred three cases of foreign vessels apprehended for illegal fishing to an international organization to screen for indicators of trafficking among the crew, but no trafficking victims were identified.

Philippines – Tier 1 (same as 2016)

Men are subjected to forced labor and debt bondage in the agricultural, **fishing**, and maritime industries.

An estimated 10 million Filipinos work abroad, and a significant number of these migrant workers are subjected to sex and labor trafficking – predominantly via debt bondage – in the **fishing**, shipping, construction, education, home health care, and agricultural industries, as well as in

domestic work, janitorial service, and other hospitality-related jobs, particularly across the Middle East, Asia, and North America.

Senegal – Tier 2 Watch List (not listed as mentioning fishing in 2016)

Recommendation to: expand workplace regulations to include labor inspections and labor trafficking investigations in the informal sectors of the economy, including mining, agriculture, and **fishing**.

Seychelles – Tier 2 (upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2016)

Migrant workers – including from China, Kenya, Madagascar, and countries in South Asia – make up 20 percent of the working population in Seychelles and are primarily employed in **fishing** and construction. NGOs report migrant workers face exploitative conditions in **fish** processing plants, and **fishermen** aboard foreign-flagged **fishing** vessels in Seychelles' territorial waters and ports are subjected to abuses indicative of forced labor, including non-payment of wages and physical abuse. Migrant workers sign their employment contracts upon arrival in the Seychelles, which increases their vulnerability to fraudulent recruitment tactics. There were reports of employers routinely retaining migrant workers' passports to prevent them from changing jobs prior to the expiration of their two-year contracts

Sierra Leone – Tier 2 (same as 2016)

Trafficking victims are also exploited in **fishing** and agriculture and subjected to sex trafficking or forced labor through customary practices, such as forced marriages.

Singapore – Tier 2 (same as 2016)

Singapore is a destination country for men, women, and girls from other Asian countries subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor, a source country for Singaporean women and children subjected to sex trafficking, and a transit country for Asian men subjected to forced labor on **fishing** vessels that transit through Singapore or its territorial waters.

An NGO reported that some men are subjected to forced labor and abuse by captains on long-haul fishing vessels that depart from Singapore or dock in Singaporean ports, and that some agencies in Singapore use deceptive tactics to recruit Filipino and Cambodian men for this work.

Solomon Islands – Tier 2 (upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2016)

Fishing crew members from Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Fiji have reported situations indicative of human trafficking, including non-payment of wages, severe living conditions, violence, and limited food supply on Taiwan-flagged fishing vessels in the Solomon Islands' territorial waters and ports.

South Africa – Tier 2 (same as 2015)

The government identified four Filipino fishermen victims and referred them to an NGO-operated shelter in Cape Town. Foreign male forced labor victims have been identified aboard fishing vessels in South Africa's territorial waters; NGOs estimated 10 to 15 victims of labor trafficking each month disembark in Cape Town.

Suriname – Tier 2 Watch List (upgraded from Tier 3 in 2016)

Migrant workers in agriculture and on **fishing** boats off Suriname's coast are highly vulnerable to forced labor.

Taiwan – Tier 1 (same as 2015)

Most of Taiwan's more than 587,000 migrant workers are hired in their home countries through recruitment agencies and brokers, some of which are from Taiwan, to perform low-skilled work as home caregivers and domestic workers, or in farming, manufacturing, construction, and **fishing** industries.

Taiwan authorities demonstrated serious and sustained efforts by conducting 134 trafficking investigations, including cases involving foreign fishermen, and convicting 56 traffickers. Authorities identified 263 trafficking victims, provided access to shelter and other victim services, and enacted new regulations requiring standard contracts and benefits for foreign fishermen hired overseas. Authorities sometimes treated labor trafficking cases as labor disputes and did not convict any traffickers associated with exploiting foreign fishermen on Taiwan-flagged fishing vessels.

Unlike in the previous year, authorities launched trafficking investigations of cases involving foreign fishermen, with four cases investigated involving 47 victims and 18 suspects. In total, the authorities initiated 128 prosecutions in 2016 (110 in 2015) and obtained 56 convictions (53 in 2015).

To protect foreign fishermen hired overseas, who are not protected by Taiwan's Labor Standards Act, authorities enacted new laws that require a standard contract stating the workers' salary, medical benefits, working conditions, and living arrangements; authorize businesses and not individuals to act as brokers; and establish a hotline for workers to file complaints or request assistance. However, some observers noted the shared responsibility between MOL and the Fisheries Agency for foreign fishermen impeded the streamlining of efforts to provide oversight to the industry and prevent trafficking. To prevent exploitation of domestic workers, MOL began to require first-time employers of foreign domestic workers to attend an orientation briefing on workers' rights and relevant regulations.

Documented and undocumented fishermen on Taiwan-flagged fishing vessels, mostly from China, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam, experience non- or under-payment of wages, long working hours, physical abuse, lack of food, and poor living conditions, which are indicators of trafficking.

Tanzania – Tier 2 (upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2016)

Boys are subjected to forced labor on farms—including as cattle herders and occasionally as hunters—and in mines and quarries, the informal commercial sector, and on **fishing** vessels operating on the high seas.

Thailand – Tier 2 Watch list (same as 2016)

Labor trafficking victims are exploited in commercial fishing and related industries, the poultry industry, factories, agriculture, and domestic work, or forced into street begging.

Trafficking in the fishing industry remains a significant concern. Thai, Burmese, Cambodian, Vietnamese, and Indonesian men and boys are subject to forced labor on Thai and foreign-owned fishing boats. Some remain at sea for several years, are paid very little or irregularly, work as much as 18 to 20 hours per day for seven days a week, or are reportedly threatened, physically beaten, drugged to work longer, and even killed for becoming ill, attempting to escape, or disobeying orders. Some trafficking victims in the fishing sector had difficulty returning home due to isolated workplaces, unpaid wages, and the lack of legitimate identity documents or safe means to travel.

Although the government continued to increase the number of inspection centers at fishing ports, inspections resulted in relatively few identified victims and criminal investigations. Therefore, Thailand remained on Tier 2 Watch List for the second consecutive year

The government investigated ship owners, captains, and brokers for labor trafficking in the fishing industry in 43 cases (39 in 2015); five ship owners, 36 captains, and 26 others were arrested as a result of these investigations, and prosecutions were initiated in 37 cases. In one case, a business owner and five others were convicted on trafficking charges and sentenced to 14 years imprisonment for their involvement in the forced labor of minors on fishing trawlers; four others were acquitted. This represents the first conviction of a business owner complicit in forced labor in the fishing sector in Thailand. Of the 23 investigations initiated in 2014 related to the trafficking on the Indonesian islands of Ambon and Benjina, the government initiated prosecutions in 21 cases in 2016 and received convictions in four cases; three cases were acquitted.

The government continued to screen for trafficking indicators among fishermen returning to Thailand and on fishing vessels in Thai waters, as well as among workers in seafood processing facilities. NGO observers noted both at-port and at-sea inspections conducted by multidisciplinary teams of the Command Center for Combating Illegal Fishing (CCCIF) resulted in few identified trafficking victims.

Timor Leste – Tier 2 (same as 2016)

NGOs report fishermen on foreign vessels operating in Timorese waters may be vulnerable to trafficking. Police accept bribes from establishments involved in trafficking or from traffickers attempting to cross borders illegally, and in prior years have been identified as clients of commercial sex venues investigated for suspected trafficking.

There were no formal procedures for victim identification, and authorities did not systematically screen for trafficking indicators among vulnerable groups, such as individuals in prostitution and domestic work and migrant workers on **fishing** vessels.

Uganda – Tier 2 (same as 2016)

Ugandan children as young as seven are exploited in forced labor in agriculture, **fishing**, forestry, cattle herding, mining, stone quarrying, brick making, carpentry, steel manufacturing, street vending, bars, restaurants, and domestic service.

United Kingdom – Tier 1 (same as 2016)

Migrant workers in the UK are subjected to forced labor in agriculture, cannabis cultivation, construction, food processing, factories, domestic service, nail salons, food services, car washes, and on **fishing** boats.

United State of America – Tier 1 (same as 2016) – but fishing is no longer mentioned.**Uruguay – Tier 2 (not listed as mentioning fishing in 2016)**

Foreign workers, particularly from Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and Argentina, are subjected to forced labor in construction, domestic service, cleaning services, elderly care, wholesale stores, textile industries, agriculture, **fishing**, and lumber processing.

Vietnam – Tier 2 (same as 2016)

Some victims are subjected to forced labor in construction, fishing, agriculture, mining, logging, and manufacturing, primarily in Taiwan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Laos, Angola, United Arab Emirates, and Japan.

About the TIP rankings

The TIP report is released annually by the U.S. Department of State, and 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:

- **Tier 1:** The government meets the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards
- **Tier 2:** The government does not meet the TVPA minimum standards, but is making significant effort to do so
- **Tier 2 Watch List:** The government does not meet the TVPA minimum standards, but is making efforts to do so (nonetheless, due to a range of considerations, the country is more likely to be pushed back to Tier 3 than upgraded to Tier 2 or 1)
- **Tier 3:** The government is not meeting the TVPA minimum standards and is making no significant effort to rectify this
- Countries on the Tier 2 Watch List for two consecutive years may be downgraded to Tier 3 automatically if no improvements are demonstrated. This could result in restrictions on non-humanitarian and non-trade-related foreign assistance from the U.S., at the discretion of the President.

Seafish has become actively engaged in this area and has introduced a series of work areas to help the industry achieve the goal of eliminating unethical practices from UK seafood supply chains.

For further information on Seafish work on seafood ethics see:

- Seafish web page <http://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/ethics-in-seafood>
- Ethics in seafood – Seafish role. Factsheet. http://www.seafish.org/media/publications/SeafishRoleinAddressingEthicsinSeafood_0317.pdf
- **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 ethical issues in the UK supply chain.** <http://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/ethics-in-seafood/assessment-of-ethical-issues>

This is an information service provided by Seafish for industry and key stakeholders. To the best of our knowledge this information is factually correct at the date of publication.

For further information contact:

Karen Green, Industry Issues and Communications, Seafish

T: +44 (0) 1480 431500 **M:** +44 (0) 7515 993499 **E:** karen.green@seafish.co.uk

Seafish Industry Authority, Origin
Way, Europarc, Grimsby, DN37 9TZ

T: 01472 252300
W: www.seafish.org

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