



June 2017

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

Seafood Ethics Common Language Group

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

Seafish news

[Responsible Fishing Scheme’s international rollout gathers momentum](#). 26 April 2017.

With crew welfare and responsible catching practices onboard fishing vessels becoming more important issues of concern for seafood supply chains all over the world, the establishment of an internationally recognized standard that demonstrates good practice at sea and also encourages further engagement has been propelled to the top of many wish-lists. To advance the internationalization of standard, this year Seafish will be conducting work relating to the audit methodology – to further explore its international applicability, and refine the “international translation process” which has been drafted to ensure equivalence is established from country-to-country.

[Seafish launched Tools for Ethical Seafood Sourcing at Brussels Expo](#). 21 April 2017.

Seafish launched [TESS](#) (Tools for Ethical Seafood Sourcing) at Seafood Expo Global in Brussels. TESS is a comprehensive online signposting tool, directing users to a large number of free resources that can be used to manage social risks in seafood supply chains. TESS supports socially responsible business practices, helping businesses to better understand what is required to address any issues within their supply chains.

[Responsible Fishing Scheme Update](#). April 2017.

Explains how Seafish has made applying for the scheme even more straightforward, and gives a step-by-step guide to the new application process. There’s also news of our supply chain supporters, and internationalisation of the scheme.

Tools and resources

[Anti-Human Trafficking Compliance—Leveraging Your Data](#)

Assent Compliance has teamed up with Michael Littenberg of Ropes & Gray LLP to explore major anti-human trafficking laws and what they mean for your business in a downloadable webinar. Regulations discussed in the webinar include: the UK Modern Slavery Act, the U.S. Federal Acquisition Regulation and the California Transparency in Supply Chains Act. This covers: Anti-human trafficking laws and the benefits of complying with them; how a company can utilise tools, such as the Human Trafficking Risk Template, to collect data; and how to leverage data to comply with these regulations.

[The latest version of the Human Trafficking Risk Template \(HTRT\), 1.1.0, has launched](#). May 2017

The Human Trafficking Risk Template (HTRT) is an open-source industry-standard template for the collection of human trafficking related-data collection and can be used to assist companies in their efforts to comply with major human trafficking and modern slavery regulations and improve their supply chain-related public disclosures. Major updates include new template functionality and a newly-optimized question set based on industry feedback and expert research. Version 1.1.0 will be

SECLG news summary. June 2017.

easier for suppliers to use and provide more relevant data to companies without increasing the effort required to complete and submit the template.

[Assent Compliance Whitepaper: Regulatory Enforcement: A Case Study Review of Non-Compliance Risks. May 2017.](#)

This provides an overview of non-compliance risks across several regulations along with real-life case studies, consequences and lessons learned including The California Transparency Supply Chains Act and Nestlé being taken to court due to forced labor in their supply chain.

Recruitment

[ICCR Best Practice Guidance on Ethical Recruitment of Migrant Workers.](#)

The Interfaith Centre on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) latest report, Best Practice Guidance on Recruitment of Migrant Workers, brings to light emerging good practice from some well-known multi-national brands including Coca-Cola and Princes Tuna. The report aims to encourage companies to become leaders in international recruitment within their sectors, creating pressure and competition for others to follow suit. There are case studies on Thai Union and CP Foods.

Fishing industry news

[European guide for risk prevention in small fishing vessels. 7 June 2017.](#)

This guide is designed to prevent risk for small fishing vessels and those working on them. The different modules in the guide focus on key areas, notably the vessel, the crew, fishing operations, real case events, risk assessment and additional information such as flotation devices, stability, first aid, work equipment and emergency drills.

[European social partners call EU to halt abuses of migrant fishers in a part of the EU's fishing sector. 10 May 2017.](#)

The European social partners on sea-fisheries signed a resolution inviting the European Union (EU) to take up its responsibility and end forced labour practices in EU waters. Investigations executed by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) revealed serious infringements of fundamental principles at work and social protection rights of migrant fishers in a part of the EU's fishing sector. The social partners expect the EU to ensure fulfilment by Member States of their obligations and to adopt guidelines for flag state and port state inspections to prevent such practices. The resolution was signed by the General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives in the European Union (COGECA), the Association of National Organisations of Fishing Enterprises in the European Union (Europêche) and the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF).

[Chief of Irish fishing group fights allegations of labor abuse. 8 May 2017.](#)

The head of Ireland's fishermen's representative body has said media allegations of undocumented foreign workers working in Irish fishing, which proved unsubstantiated, have harmed the fishing industry in his country. "There is a very real campaign now being waged against the Irish fishing industry by the mainstream media in Ireland," O'Donnell, the CEO of the Irish Fish Producers Organisation suggesting that the campaign was "full of inaccurate observations that are factually incorrect and lacking in any detailed research."

[INTERPOL warning on human trafficking links to the fishing industry. 4 May 2017.](#)

INTERPOL has issued an alert to law enforcement on human trafficking for labour exploitation in the fisheries sector across Southeast Asia. The INTERPOL Purple Notice, sent to all 190 member countries, describes the modus operandi often used to recruit and transport unsuspecting workers onto vessels, into processing factories or aquaculture sites, where they are then exploited and abused. The notice outlines some of the structures and methods used by criminal networks which can involve a range of entities at various levels including agents, recruitment agencies, travel

agencies, vessel owners, fish processing companies and company owners. Although the notice focuses on Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, it is likely the modus operandi are employed elsewhere in the world.

[Newsletter of the Ship to Shore Rights Project. February 2017.](#)

The ILO's EU-funded Ship to Shore Rights Project ('Combatting Unacceptable Forms of Work in the Thai Fishing and Seafood Industry') works with the Thai Government, employer associations, unions, and civil society organizations to reduce forced labour, child labour and other unacceptable forms of work, and progressively eliminate the exploitation of workers—particularly migrant workers—in these sectors. To achieve this overarching goal, the project aims to address labour abuses via four inter-related objectives: improvements to the Thai legal and regulatory framework; effective enforcement of Thai labour law; industry-led capacity and accountability initiatives; and invest in building the capacity of unions and civil society organizations to serve, organize, and educate workers, and to hold government and industry accountable for higher standards.

Reports/projects/initiatives

[Seafood Stewardship Index begins new sustainability benchmarking project for world's largest seafood companies. 8 June 2017.](#)

The Seafood Stewardship Index is set to begin work on a new two-year project that will benchmark the world's largest seafood companies against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Among the 17 SDGs, the index will focus on seven or eight of them, with special attention on the stated U.N categories of zero poverty, working conditions and economic growth, and life below water. The Seafood Stewardship Index is part of a larger global benchmarking alliance that includes the insurance company AVIVA, the Business and Sustainable Development Commission, United Nations Foundation, and the Index Initiative.

The Ocean Conference. June 2017. Voluntary commitments

Voluntary commitments for The Ocean Conference are initiatives voluntarily undertaken numerous parties - individually or in partnership - that aim to contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. There were 1328 commitments.

[Human Rights Risk Tool for Seafood \(HRRTS\). Monterey Bay Aquarium and partners. Committing to Social Responsibility in Global Fisheries and Aquaculture. Conservation International](#)

[Social and human rights abuses on agenda at SeaWeb, UN Oceans Conference. 7 June 2017.](#)

A new [scientific paper](#) by Conservation International, the University of Washington and other partners is calling on governments, businesses and the scientific community to take measurable steps to ensure seafood is sourced without harm to the environment or people that work in the seafood industry. The paper, presented at the United Nations Oceans Conference in New York and also at the Seafood Summit in Seattle this week, offers the first integrated approach to taking account of social issues and human rights violations in the seafood industry. Conservation International also organized a volunteer commitment, calling on all sectors to improve social responsibility in the seafood sector. More than 50 organizations have signed up so far.

Paper: [Committing to socially responsible seafood Science paper talking points](#)

The purpose of this paper is to advance a global agenda for social responsibility by aligning businesses, governments, and civil society groups within the seafood sector to reduce human rights and social abuses and ensure sustainability. The framework is based on three core tenets, which are linked inextricably to issues of environmental sustainability: protect human rights, dignity, and access to resources; ensure equality and equitable opportunity to benefit; and improve food and livelihood security. There are three key next steps to drive sector-wide adoption and

implementation: establish best practices for businesses to incorporate social responsibility in sourcing policy, commitments, and business practices; drive uptake of the framework in governmental regulation of the seafood sector, including translation of existing international law, policy, and guidance into domestic regulation and policy reform; and work with seafood ratings and certification groups to incorporate this social responsibility framework into their standards and performance ratings.

[Tuna 2020 Traceability Declaration. Stopping illegal tuna from coming to market. 6 June 2017.](#)

Fifty of the world's largest businesses, retailers and fishing companies from across the tuna supply chain have banded together to stamp out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in their industry, protect the health of oceans and eliminate forced labor from fishing vessels. Launched at the United Nation's first global Ocean Conference, the Tuna 2020 Traceability Declaration aims to stop illegal tuna from coming to market. It is a non-legally binding declaration that grew out of discussions at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos in January 2017 between industry stakeholders, governments, civil society and the President of the United Nations General Assembly. They called for further collaboration between the public and private sectors to accelerate efforts to address the IUU fishing of tuna in line with Sustainable Development Goal 14 on oceans.

[New Issara publication - Towards Demand-Driven, Empowering Assistance for Trafficked Persons. 31 May 2017.](#)

This Issara Institute Research Brief provides a landscape analysis of mainstream trafficking victim assistance programs in Southeast Asia from the lens of empowerment, emphasizing the need to adapt current approaches to more directly address the real situations and needs of trafficked persons. 117 cases drawn from a pioneering 2015—2016 Issara Institute Freedom of Choice Unconditional Cash Transfer pilot for trafficked persons in Thailand and Myanmar are analyzed to provide a clear picture of what services and protections trafficked persons would choose—if given the choice.

[New sourcing strategy at Sainsbury's. 23 May 2017.](#)

Sainsbury's suppliers will be audited against new sustainability standards linked to UN Sustainable Development Goals. The new strategy is designed to give greater support to farmers and secure vital product sources in the face of mounting challenges from climate change, global competition, health and geo-political tensions, the retailer said. It comes after Sainsbury's recently conducted a major supplier review and reshuffle as part of a new strategy to increase direct to grower sourcing models. Trialled on prawns from Thailand and Belize, the new sustainability standards will be rolled out across 35 key crops and ingredients, after further pilots on other key products including bananas and potatoes.

[Supply chain transparency: a panel interview with the experts. 16 May 2017.](#)

Experts and innovators of supply chain transparency, in seafood and beyond, were interviewed to better understand the value proposition for pursuing and achieving transparency. We wanted to understand how companies are treating transparency as a business opportunity rather than an obstacle. Whether you're a seafood retailer, distributor, supplier, or a fisher on the water, there is real, demonstrable value in striving for transparency in your work.

[Powers and remit to change at GLA. 16 May 2017.](#)

The GLA is set for new name and expanded powers to address labour exploitation more effectively now the new Immigration Bill has received Royal Assent. This change indicates a new remit, including being able to officially investigate labour abuse and exploitation across the UK labour market.

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modernslaveryregistry.org. 10 May 2017.

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre launched Modern Slavery Registry on 10 May 2017, a redesigned version of the registry of statements made by companies under the UK Modern Slavery Act which the centre has maintained since February 2016. There are currently 1860 statements from companies in 27 sectors, headquartered in 29 countries.

Follow the Thread – other industries

[The Need for Supply Chain Transparency in the Garment and Footwear Industry](#). 20 April 2017

The apparel and footwear supply chain transparency pledge helps demonstrate apparel and footwear companies' commitment towards greater transparency in their manufacturing supply chain. Each company participating in this Transparency Pledge commits to taking at least the following steps by 31 December 2017 to publish manufacturing sites with the full name of all authorised production units and processing facilities, the site addresses, the parent company of the business at the site, the type of products made and worker numbers at each site.

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