

August 2017

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

Seafood Ethics Common Language Group

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

UK news

Director of Labour Market Enforcement warns rogue bosses of plans to use powers to jail worst offenders. 25 July 2017. Submit evidence to inform the strategy by 13 October 2017.

Sir David Metcalf, Director of Labour Market Enforcement, has published his Introductory Labour Market Enforcement Strategy. This [Introductory Strategy](#) sets out an initial analysis of the labour market non-compliance and enforcement. It also sets out a number of issues on which the Director is seeking views to inform the 2018/19 Labour Market Enforcement Strategy (Chapter 4).

Stakeholders can respond via two channels: written feedback on the document and any relevant evidence that you may wish to bring to our attention and meetings to discuss issues directly. The Director and his team are keen to meet with as many people and organisations as possible from across the United Kingdom. These meetings can either be multi-stakeholder roundtable discussions (e.g. sector-focused) or bilateral with organisations individually. To organise a meeting with the Director or members of his team, or to submit evidence please [email](#) or call 0207 215 8865.

Changes ahead to safety in fishing. 24 July 2017.

As part of the preparation for the implementation of ILO C188, the first meeting of a special Fishing Industry Safety Group (FISG) to develop a voluntary safety management code has taken place. The Convention, due to be implemented in the UK early next year, will apply to every fisherman and owner in the UK with requirements for the first time on items such as medicals, crew agreements and safety management. The FISG Project Group will develop a Safety Management System (SMS) that can be self-audited, and as all owners and crews will need to make significant changes to their current practices, the code will ensure that the UK's fishermen will have the support of an organised and structured system to help make the necessary changes required. The project involves maritime charities the Fishermen's Mission and Human Rights at Sea. The SMS will give every fishing vessel owner in the UK the support needed to help them become compliant with the ILO C188 changes by February 2018. Two UK-wide schemes, the Responsible Fishing Scheme and the free SafetyFolder.co.uk website are already involved in this project to ensure that they can align with the SMS.

Almost 200 breaches of work permits on fishing boats detected. 20 July 2017.

Almost 200 breaches of work permits on fishing boats have been identified over the past 18 months by the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC). (The [WRC report](#) is on its operations over the past 18 months in support of multi-agency enforcement of the Atypical Worker Permission Scheme for non-EEA workers engaged on certain fishing vessels over 15 metres in length which operate in the Polyvalent, Bean Trawl or Specific fleet segments). In a report the WRC said five prosecutions were initiated where 'compliance by other means was not secured'. The report was based on inspections of crew working on fishing vessels over 15 metres in length. These monitored the Government's 'Atypical' worker permission scheme for non-European Economic Area (EEA) crew. The State had issued some 200 'Atypical' permits to the end of June this year, under a scheme introduced by former marine minister Simon Coveney after a report in The Guardian newspaper in 2015 which

alleged there were abuses of worker rights in the sector. The WRC report found 36% of breaches related to failure to produce or keep records, while 20% related to leave, public holiday and Sunday entitlements.

[Skippers could be forced to sell up because of ‘ridiculous’ ruling. 6 July 2017.](#)

A west coast fisherman has spoken out about ‘impossible’ Home Office rules that he claims could drive him out of business. Terry Jack – and others – say their livelihoods are at risk because they are not allowed to operate within 12 miles of the UK mainland if they take on crew from outside the European Union. They say Border Force staff stop non-EU crew members from working on vessels if they are within this limit. As a result, local boats have to travel further afield for their catches with no guarantee of success. Skippers maintain there is a ‘major shortage’ of locally skilled men and, if the ruling isn’t changed, they could be forced to sell their boats. And Highland politicians are backing the fishermen’s concerns. Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil is calling on Brandon Lewis, the UK government’s Minister of State for Immigration, to step in and help.

Guides, reports and new resources

PAS 1550:2017 Exercising due diligence in establishing the legal origin of seafood products & marine ingredients. 31 July 2017. [Now available for free download until week commencing 21 August](#)

As a code of practice, this PAS takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It incorporates labour issues and considers illegal treatment of crew on fishing vessels to be linked with illegal fishing. One of the aims of this PAS is to help enable decent working conditions to be provided not only on board vessels but at all factories, work stations and during all activities throughout supply chains. The PAS builds on the BRC Advisory Note for the UK supply chain on how to avoid Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishery products, which was published in February 2015, by including in addition, aspects of traceability as well as social elements. The PAS is aimed at processors and importers and gives recommendations on: the considerations within a due diligence system in order to minimise the risk of IUU seafood in the supply chain; the considerations to minimise the risk of a lack of decent conditions at work in the supply chain; and what traceability systems are used to deliver the ability to verify the claim. The PAS was published on 31 July 2017. This free download is BSI copyright and has been paid for by WWF (UK), EJF Ltd and the associated consortium.

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: [record for PAS 1550:2017](#)

[RUSI Occasional Paper: Below the Surface: How Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Threatens our Security. 18 July 2017.](#)

This paper argues that large-scale illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing takes place on an organised, systematic scale across multiple jurisdictions, and must therefore be recognised as transnational organised crime. Such IUU fishing endangers food security, threatens livelihoods, undermines the rule of law and deprives states of revenues. It also intersects with other crimes, further amplifying the threat to security. IUU fishing is often small in scale and conducted by artisanal fishers out of ignorance of laws, or opportunism. Yet there is also evidence that much of today’s IUU fishing activity takes place on an organised, systematic scale across multiple jurisdictions. Testament to this are the volumes involved. The result is the plunder of the world’s oceans, threatening not only marine ecosystems, but also the security of human populations. Large-scale IUU fishing endangers food security, threatens livelihoods, undermines the rule of law and deprives states of revenues. It also intersects with other crimes, further amplifying the threat to security. Yet research on these security dimensions is limited and fragmented; our understanding of their dynamics remains partial. Policy and practical responses, meanwhile, remain ill-suited, failing to keep pace with the complexity of the threat posed. The paper makes 10 recommendations for

governments, NGOs and international agencies looking to address the security dimensions of large-scale IUU fishing.

LOOK AT [TESS FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for published reports on ethical issues in seafood supply chains](#)

[New case of seafarer abuse exposed on UAE flagged vessel. 13 July 2017.](#)

Human Rights at Sea has published a further detailed case study and investigatory report into the abuse of seafarers provided by first-hand crew testimony onboard a UAE flagged vessel moored offshore the UAE coast owned by Alco Shipping Services. Notable concerns raised are crew allegations of ship owner threats towards them for publicly exposing their plight, and their continued deprivation of liberty onboard having had their passports confiscated.

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

[ETI free guides help firms tackle child labour and slavery. 7 July 2017.](#)

The [first manual](#) on child labour lists tools, tips and techniques for reducing and mitigating child labour risk in four stages.

The [second manual](#) on modern slavery advises companies negotiating with suppliers to set clear red lines that are consistent with the highest international standards.

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

TIP Report 2017 summary

The 2017 U.S. Department of State Department 454 page report on human trafficking, the [Trafficking in Persons \(TIP\) report](#), was published on 27 June.

[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.'

LOOK AT [TESS FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for Trafficking in Persons \(TIP\) reports](#)

Consumer Goods Forum update

The Consumer Goods Forum (CGF) is a global, parity-based industry network driven by its members. The CFG brings together the CEOs and senior management of some 400 retailers, manufacturers, service providers, and other stakeholders across 70 countries. Member companies have combined sales of EUR 3.5 trillion. The retailer and manufacturer members directly employ nearly 10 million people with a further 90 million related jobs estimated along the value chain. They are governed by a Board of Directors, which includes 50 manufacturer and retailer CEOs and Chairpersons. In January 2016 CGF members signed a [Social Resolution on Forced Labour](#). There are three priority industry principles:

- **Every worker should have freedom of movement.** The ability of workers to move freely should not be restricted by their employer through abuse, threats and practices such as retention of passport and valuable possessions.

SECLG news summary. August 2017.

- **No worker should pay for a job.** Fees and costs associated with recruitment and employment should be paid by the employer, not the employee.
- **No worker should be indebted or coerced to work.** Workers should work freely, aware of the terms and conditions of their work in advance, and paid regularly as agreed.

[Business Actions Against Forced Labour booklet](#). June 2017.

The CGF are actively promoting responsible business actions to help eradicate forced labour in global supply chains. One of the ways in which this is achieved is through tools such as the Business Actions Against Forced Labour booklet, where members are showcasing best practices on how they are tackling forced labour.

The [Tesco case study](#) focusses on seafood (the Mars and Nestlé case studies also mention seafood)

The issue: A 2014 investigation by The Guardian, as well as reports by NGOs and the US State Department, identified cases of modern slavery in the Southeast Asian farmed prawn supply chain. These reports focussed on the trafficking and exploitation of migrant workers on vessels catching fish used to produce fishmeal – an ingredient used in prawn feed. The fishing operations are six steps “up” the supply chain from Tesco and other retailers, however the seriousness of the abuses made it clear that we needed to work closely with our suppliers, other businesses, relevant authorities and NGOs to address these risks and ensure they had no place in any part of our supply.

Tesco actions: We started by mapping the entire Thai prawn supply chain, including the prawn feed, and joined two multi-stakeholder initiatives; the Issara Institute and the Seafood Task Force to accelerate collaborative efforts. As a result of what we have learnt in Thailand, our prawn supplier requirements now include traceability of all Southeast Asian prawn feed back to the fishing vessel and use of independent NGOs in the monitoring of high-risk areas of the supply chain. We will continue to review and strengthen these requirements as we learn more.

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for [Consumer Goods Forum](#)

News

[Thai Union, Greenpeace Partnership Ushers in New Era for Seafood Industry](#). 11 July 2017.

The [Greenpeace and Thai Union agreement](#) states that labour and human rights abuses have no place in the seafood supply chain and should be eliminated as soon as possible. The agreement includes a commitment to develop a comprehensive code of conduct for all vessels in its supply chains, to complement the existing and strengthened Business Ethics and Labor Code of Conduct, to help ensure workers at sea are being treated humanely and fairly and third party independent audits with publically accessible results and clear timelines to ensure its requirements are being met.

Events

[Issara Global Forum: Innovation in Human Rights and Responsible Sourcing, 8-10 November 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand](#).

This three-day multi-stakeholder forum intends to be an in-depth immersion and exchange for all participants - including global buyers, Southeast Asian suppliers and recruitment agencies, development donors, NGOs from around the world, and Asian government officials - on innovation and emerging good practice in ethical sourcing. Together, guided by key voices and feedback from exploited and non-exploited workers in Issara supply chains (‘keynote speakers’ who will be sharing their messages via video mini-documentaries and testimonies), participants will deep dive on emerging lessons learned and promising models for more ethical sourcing, as well as examine the partnership structures and KPIs underpinning these models. The three key areas of focus include: new policies and partnerships in ethical sourcing; ethical sourcing technology solutions, especially worker voice tools that are having an impact on the ground; ethical recruitment in global supply chains - practical challenges, solutions, and lessons learned. Online registration opens at the end of August.

Proposals

[U.S. Department of Labor Notice of Intent \(NOI\). Combatting Forced Labor and Human Trafficking on Fishing Vessels in the Asia-Pacific Region.](#) Closing date for applications is 30 September 2017.

The U. S. Department of Labour has published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to award, through a competitive process, a cooperative agreement to organizations to implement a project to combat forced labor and human trafficking on fishing vessels in the Asia-Pacific region (NOI-ILAB-17-04).

Request for Proposal: EU Market Scoping for Fair Trade Certified™ Seafood Fair Trade USA Seafood Program. The submission deadline is August 15, 2017.

The Fair Trade USA Seafood Team is seeking submissions from qualified consultants to conduct an analysis of market opportunities for Fair Trade USA Certified seafood (wild capture and aquaculture) in Europe. The purpose of this project is to understand the EU market in terms of trade flows of seafood imports into the EU, consumer demand for environmentally sustainable and socially responsible seafood, sustainable seafood commitments of European importers and retailers, and the landscape of comparable schemes in the EU marketplace. Deliverables for this project include a set of recommendations about how and where to further promote Fair Trade USA certified seafood in the EU. The project will culminate in a white paper, consisting of market analysis and recommendations for the successful expansion of Fair Trade USA Certified seafood products in the European market. Proposals to [Julie Kuchepatov](#)

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