

## SOUTH AFRICA PROFILE

### **Main seafood products and exports**

According to government figures, total fisheries production is around 680,000 tonnes per year. The main commercial species are Cape hake, sardine and anchovy, horse mackerel, rock lobster, tuna, shark, squid, and a variety of line fish. Approximately 150,000 tonnes of fishery products are exported.

The hake industry accounts for more than half of South Africa's commercial fisheries. Over 95% of the trawling industry's catch is landed in Western Cape province. The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) reports that hake is by far the most valuable fish resource in South Africa. The main export markets are frozen fish to Spain; frozen fillets to Australia, France, Italy, Portugal and Spain; and fresh chilled hake to France, Germany and Spain.

Canned sardines are a traditional fish export. Anchovies are a further important export, mostly processed into fishmeal. Horse mackerel are frozen whole on factory freezer ships. Lobsters and tuna are mainly exported to China, Japan and other Asian countries.

Aquaculture output is largely from mariculture production of abalone, mussels, oysters, prawns, finfish and seaweed<sup>1</sup>.

### **Seafood exports to the UK**

In 2014 the UK imported 56,661 kg from South Africa. The two imported species by value were warm water shrimps and prawns (£293,335) and monkfish (£46,825). A small amount of 367 kg. of tuna was imported in the first quarter of 2015.

### **Employment in seafood**

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) cites 2002 figures of 18,854 persons employed in the primary sector, including aquaculture; and 27,730 employed in the secondary sector. More recent government figures state that 27,000 people are employed in the commercial fisheries sector.

The South African Deep Sea Trawling Industry Association (SADSTIA) reports on its website that the industry is labour intensive, and creates an estimated 65 jobs for every thousand tonnes of hake landed. A total of 6,653 people are employed by the fishery, either on fishing vessels or at land-based processing plants.

### **Human trafficking and forced labour: indicators, rankings and reports**

South Africa is ranked in Tier 2 in the U.S. Government's 2015 Trafficking in Persons<sup>2</sup> (TIP) report. The report observes that, for the third consecutive year,

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<sup>1</sup> Data taken mainly from World Fishing and Aquaculture, "South Africa to promote fisheries growth", 19 July 2013.

foreign male forced labor victims were discovered aboard fishing vessels in South Africa's territorial waters; in 2014, NGOs reported an increased number of victims — 10 to 15 victims each month — disembarking in Cape Town.

South Africa is ranked at No. 126 (a favourable ranking) in the Australia-based Walk Free Foundation's 2014 *Global Slavery Index*<sup>3</sup>, with an estimated 106,000 persons (0.2% of the total population) in modern slavery.

As regards labour abuse in seafood, the main focus of attention has been on foreign-flagged vessels in South African waters. In January 2014, at the request of South Africa, INTERPOL issues "Purple Notices" (used to seek information on modi operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by suspected criminals) on two fishing vessels suspected of subjecting their crews to labour and human rights abuses.

Furthermore, a 2014 publication documented in detail the trafficking of Cambodian fishers in South African waters<sup>4</sup>. The study discusses the trafficking of Cambodian men for fishing out of South Africa or in South African waters, how they were recruited and transported, as well as their trafficking experiences at sea. It also discusses how these trafficked fishers were (or, more commonly, were not) identified as trafficking victims in South Africa. The report is critical of South African procedures in this respect observing that failures and gaps in the anti-trafficking response in South Africa led to trafficked fishers being unidentified, and instead being sent back to sea and suffering continued exploitation on fishing vessels or months and even years. It also urged that recruitment agencies in the fishing industry that engage in private employment practices in South Africa should be subject to the standards set forth in South Africa's legislation.

### **Ratification of international human rights instruments**

#### **United Nations treaties and procedures**

South Africa has ratified the main international human rights instruments of the UN system. These include, with their date of ratification by South Africa:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1995)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (1995)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1998)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1998)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1998)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2015).

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<sup>2</sup> United States Trafficking in Persons Report 2015 <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/>

<sup>3</sup> Global Slavery Index 2014 [http://d3mj66ag90b5fy.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Global\\_Slavery\\_Index\\_2014\\_final\\_lowres.pdf](http://d3mj66ag90b5fy.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Global_Slavery_Index_2014_final_lowres.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> *In African waters: The trafficking of Cambodian fishers in South Africa*, International Organization for Migration (IOM)/Nexus Institute, 2014. <http://un-act.org/publication/view/in-african-waters-the-trafficking-of-cambodian-fishers-in-south-africa/>

South Africa has also accepted a number of country visits under the UN's special procedures, an example being a 2011 visit by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants.

#### International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions<sup>5</sup>

South Africa has ratified 27 ILO Conventions (of which 23 are in force) and all of the eight core human rights Conventions. In 2013, it ratified the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, and became one of only five countries worldwide to ratify the ILO's Work in Fishing Convention, 2007.

#### **Fisheries management and recent policy trends**

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is responsible for managing the development of marine and coastal resources, and for maximising the potential of the fisheries sector.

In March 2013 the Government launched a large scale aquaculture development programme, seeking to create more jobs in the sector. In May that year Cabinet approved a National Aquaculture Policy Framework (NAPF), providing a unified framework for an industry that contributes to sustainable job creation and increased investment.

South Africa has also declared a strategic goal of ensuring long-term fishing access in the Atlantic Ocean for South African fishing companies in the tuna pole fisheries and the developing large pelagic fisheries.

#### **Overall risk assessment**

Despite the incidents of labour abuse against Asian migrants in South African waters, the risk for UK companies in South Africa would appear to be low. The main export products to the EU region emanate from a hake industry in the Western Cape region, from there no ethical concerns have come to light. At present the UK has a small number of imports from South Africa, primarily shrimps and prawns, The signs are that the Government will promote more investment in this industry, As in other countries, if there is to be a trend towards more imports from the South African aquaculture sector, it will be important to exercise due diligence with regard to contractual arrangements and conditions.

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<sup>5</sup> The International Labour Organization's Fundamental Conventions  
[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/--ed\\_norm/--declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_095895.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/--ed_norm/--declaration/documents/publication/wcms_095895.pdf)

#### For further information

- **United States Trafficking in Persons Report 2015**  
<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/>  
The Department places each country in this Report onto one of four tiers, as mandated by the Trafficking Victims Prevention Act (TVPA). This placement is based more on the extent of government action to combat trafficking than on the size of the country's problem. The analyses are based on the extent of governments' efforts to reach compliance with the TVPA's minimum standards. Tier one is the best ranking and Tier 3 the worst.
- **Global Slavery Index 2014**  
[http://d3mj66ag90b5fy.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Global\\_Slavery\\_Index\\_2014\\_final\\_lowres.pdf](http://d3mj66ag90b5fy.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Global_Slavery_Index_2014_final_lowres.pdf)  
The Global Slavery Index estimates the prevalence of modern slavery country by country, the absolute number by population, how governments are tackling modern slavery, and what factors explain or predict the prevalence of modern slavery. Rankings range from 1 to 167 - with 1 the worst and 167 the best, in terms of the prevalence of the population in modern slavery. This is based on three factors: estimated prevalence of modern slavery by population, levels of child marriage and levels of human trafficking into and out of the country. This gives a 'weighted measure'.
- **The International Labour Organization's Fundamental Conventions**  
[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_095895.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_095895.pdf)  
Ratifications of fundamental Conventions and Protocols by country  
[http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:10011:0::NO::P10011\\_DISPLAY\\_BY,P10011\\_CONVENTION\\_TYPE\\_CODE:1,F](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:10011:0::NO::P10011_DISPLAY_BY,P10011_CONVENTION_TYPE_CODE:1,F)

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#### For further information contact:

Karen Green, Industry Issues and Communications, Seafish

E: [karen.green@seafish.co.uk](mailto:karen.green@seafish.co.uk)

T: 01480 431500

M: 07515 993499