



April 2022

**Seafood Ethics Common Language Group e-alert
(amalgamation of news alerts issued to SECLG circulation list by email in April 2022)**

[Seafood Ethics Common Language Group](#)

See also: <https://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/social-responsibility-in-seafood/>

Get involved

[Public consultation on measures to strengthen the response to modern slavery and human trafficking in Northern Ireland \(Closing date for responses is 27 May 2022\)](#)

The Department of Justice in Northern Ireland is seeking input on the development of new legislation to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking.

[New fund to help support FIPs comply with FisheryProgress social requirements \(First funding window opened on 1 April 2022\)](#)

The Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) has launched a new phase of funding to provide support for Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) worldwide that address social responsibility through implementation of the FisheryProgress Human Rights and Social Responsibility Policy (HRSRP). The Sustainable Fisheries Fund is designed to support for the creation and launch of new FIPs, and support for existing FIPs now required to implement the HRSRP in addition to existing workplans. There are two windows to apply in 2022 - window 1: 1 April – 8 May and window 2: 1 September – 1 October. Match funding will be required, but SFF will consider in-kind effort as part of the required match on a case-by-case basis.

[Free webinar. Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence \(mHREDD\): Key challenges facing companies. Wednesday 27 April 2022. 12.30pm to 1.30pm BST.](#)

This webinar by Ardea International will cover the existing and forthcoming mHREDD legislation across Europe, and how it impacts individual organisations.

Reports and scientific papers

[Worker-less social responsibility: How the proliferation of voluntary labour governance tools in seafood marginalise the workers they claim to protect \(May 2022\)](#)

This scientific paper highlights the use of voluntary tools in response to labour abuses in fisheries is growing, but that workers are often excluded from the development of these tools. The tools fail key tests when compared to worker-centric processes. Future initiatives should instead use worker-driven principles and monitoring.

[Global impact of illegal fishing and human rights abuse in China's vast Distant Water Fleet revealed \(5 April 2022\)](#)

This new report by the Environmental Justice Foundations shows that China's state subsidies have allowed the grossly overcapacity fleet to exploit the waters of developing nations that rely on marine resources for livelihoods and food security.

[Revealing global risks of labor abuse and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing \(5 April 2022\)](#)

A new study conducted by Academics from Stanford University, Lancaster University and Stockholm University's Stockholm Resilience Centre with partners, has provided insights into the extent of labour abuse and illegal fishing risks among fishing fleets around the world. Of more than 750 ports assessed around the world, nearly half are associated with some risk of one or both practices.

[Oxfam Global Supermarket Scorecard \(April 2022\)](#)

Through their Behind the Barcodes scorecard (their fourth and final scorecard) Oxfam analyses leading supermarkets' policies and practices on human rights in their supply chains. This focuses on whether supermarkets are transparent and accountable in the ways they ensure that workers' rights are respected, small-scale farmers are prosperous and the women who produce our food are treated fairly. [Blog. Tesco leads on human rights in supply chains](#)

[ALDI Human Rights Impact Assessment Report: Wild catch fish and seafood with a focus on tuna \(January 2022\)](#)

The assessment includes an extensive desk-based analysis of existing human rights issues, value chain context and international regulatory framework of the fish and seafood supply chains, internal and external stakeholder engagement, an impact assessment and the development of recommendations to mitigate, prevent and/or remedy identified impacts

News

[UK inquiry struck by government failure to grasp labour issues \(7 April 2022\)](#)

The UK's Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee has concluded it has been "struck by the government's failure to grasp the labour issues faced by the food and farming sector" in the UK, and to understand the actual experience of businesses on the ground. The UK's fisheries, aquaculture and seafood processing value chains fall under the inquiry's remit.

[Ireland faces possible sanctions from US due to fisheries labour issues \(24 March 2022 – this story has re-surfaced. It originally appeared in December 2021\)](#)

Ireland's fishing industry is facing sanctions by U.S. authorities after a U.S.-based human rights campaign group filed a report with American authorities alleging exploitation of migrant workers aboard Irish fishing vessels.

[FisheryProgress.org shifts focus from gathering information to driving impact on the water \(18 March 2022\)](#)

Building on its efforts to support the seafood industry by providing a comprehensive fishery improvement project (FIP) reporting website, FisheryProgress.org is now aiming to increase the impact of FIPs by aligning buyers with high-performing FIPs.

[Migrant fishers' injuries linked to 'excessive hours culture'. Fishing News. March 2022.](#)

The International Transport Workers' Federation has compiled a dossier of x-rays, photographs and medical reports to support this claim.

[Commission sets out strategy to promote decent work worldwide and prepares instrument for ban on forced labour products \(23 February 2022\)](#)

The EU Commission has presented its Communication on Decent Work Worldwide to champion decent work both at home and around the world, and eliminate child labour and forced labour. As part of this approach, the Commission is preparing a new legislative instrument to effectively ban products made by forced labour from entering the EU market.

Resources

[Migrant worker guidelines for employers \(April 2022\)](#)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has produced practical guidance for business enterprises on how to recruit and employ international migrant workers ethically and responsibly. The guidance offers concrete steps employers across various sectors can take to run their businesses in a manner that respects human and labour rights of migrant workers

[E-Learning course - Introduction to the Management of Fair and Ethical Recruitment and Employment of Migrant Workers \(April 2022\)](#)

The new IOM e-learning course helps businesses learn how to recruit and employ migrant workers responsibly within their operations and supply chains. It introduces key concepts of the relevant international human and labour rights standards, as well as guiding frameworks on international migration. It further provides practical steps businesses can take to safeguard the rights of migrant workers day to day.

[New handbook on grievance mechanisms \(April 2022\)](#)

Published by the Dutch Fund for Responsible Business (FVO) and researched by Ergon, this Handbook provides a step-by-step approach to building a GM, including key concepts, the business case, common challenges, and practical recommendations. It also contains five detailed case studies from different sectors (fisheries, electronics, palm oil, garments and agriculture).

[The ILO focuses on coordinated efforts in realising decent work in Indonesia's fishing industry \(30 March 2022\)](#)

The ILO held a coordinated consultation meeting for its fishery sector to strengthen support to realise decent working conditions for Indonesian fishers within the country and abroad. The meeting combined three ongoing, complimentary fishery projects: the EU-funded Ship to Shore Rights in South East Asia, the 8.7 Accelerator Lab programme and the USDOL-funded Improving Workers' Rights in Rural Sectors of the Indo-Pacific with a focus on Women.

This is an amalgamation of the news alerts issued in April 2022.