



December 2020

**Seafood Ethics Common Language Group e-alert
(amalgamation of news alerts issued to SECLG circulation list by email in December 2020)**

Seafood Ethics Common Language Group

<https://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/seafood-issues-groups/the-seafood-ethics-common-language-group/>

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

Seafish news and publications

Background briefing on fishery observers. November 2020.

This literature review looks at the role of a fishery observer and the rules governing fisheries observer programmes; the issues being raised; the most recent prominent cases; the repeated calls for reform; the current situation in 2020 and the impact of COVID-19.

Seafish summary of fishing references in 2020 Trafficking in Persons Report. 25 June 2020.

Seafish Social risk assessment information. This reference document provides an overview of the metrics and scoring methodologies of different open and closed sources of information that offer insight on the social risks posed to UK businesses by seafood trading partners in third countries.

Country profiles. To understand the social risk landscape of countries supplying into the UK seafood market, a series of profiles covering main supply regions are available. There are currently 19 profiles.

UK news

Seafarers UK announces supports for Safety Folder for fishers. 20 November 2020.

Seafarers UK is supporting the Safety Folder as it embarks on a campaign to increase its use by fishing boat owners, skippers and crew across the UK. Safety Folder is a free online resource that aims to support behavioural change to improve safety culture on board fishing vessels of all sizes.

UK government publishes annual modern slavery report. October 2020.

The UK government details the activity led and delivered by the UK Government set out under a number of key themes including pursue, prevent and protect.

Stronger Together report. The impact of the new UK immigration system on human trafficking into the UK. October 2020.

This paper explains how the new immigration system could open up the potential for increased human trafficking and exploitation of individuals with the removal of a general immigration route for lower skilled workers which could push recruitment channels 'underground'; heightened risk of debt bondage linked to visa application and 'associated fees'; and no measures to protect undocumented workers.

Reports and initiatives

GSA spotlights 'worker voice' in fight to ensure fair labour standards. 14 December 2020.

A new white paper, Worker Voice on Fishing Vessels, commissioned by Global Seafood Assurances (GSA) offers a comprehensive look at the tools and resources that exist to ensure social welfare on

board the world's fishing vessels. The paper documents the initiatives, organisations, and projects available globally and identifies common definitions and terms used to describe these concepts.

[New Collaboration between Global Fishing Watch and Human Rights at Sea for aligning human rights and technology.](#) 10 December 2020.

This new collaboration aims to ensure that policy and satellite technology solutions are aligned and information is available to all stakeholders.

[IOM launches global policy network to promote ethical recruitment.](#) 3 December 2020.

The new International Organization for Migration (IOM) Global Policy Network will address shortcomings in regulation and enforcement and bring together policy makers, regulators, and practitioners together to collectively identify solutions.

[Business & Human Rights top 10 Issues for 2021.](#) December 2020.

The Institute for Human Rights & Business (IHRB) has published its top 10 Business and Human Rights Issues for 2021. At number three is: Stranded at Sea - Resolving a Humanitarian Crisis. 2020 is culminating in a humanitarian crisis at sea, with over 400,000 seafarers 'stranded' aboard ships. Many have worked nine months straight, beyond their contracts end and unable to return home. A similar number of workers urgently need to join ships to replace them

[The fishing sector joins forces with the international community to call for wide ratification of ILO C188.](#) 20 November 2020.

At a webinar, hosted by European Social Partners in the Sea Fisheries Sector (European Transport Workers Federation and Européche), panellists widely called for the ratification and implementation of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (C188) and its EU equivalent, EU Directive 2017/159. It is currently only ratified by 18 nations worldwide, including the UK and seven EU Member States,

[34 NGOs and Trade Unions Worldwide demand Taiwan eliminate forced labour in DWF Industry.](#) 19 November 2020.

Greenpeace is among 34 NGOs and trade unions from around the world, including Indonesia, Australia, South Korea and the US demanding that Taiwan address issues of forced labour in its distant-water fishing fleet.

[Global Tuna Alliance \(GTA\) releases Tuna 2020 social responsibility toolkit.](#) 21 October 2020.

The aim of these toolkits is to provide support to Tuna 2020 Traceability Declaration signatories in meeting their commitment to a socially responsible tuna supply chain.

[Raising awareness, and funds, for women in the seafood sector.](#) 17 November 2020.

The Seafood and Gender Equality (SAGE) initiative has been launched to raise awareness of the women who make up the vast majority of workers in the seafood processing sector.

[Fisheries observers](#)

[World Wildlife Fund for Nature \(WWF\) position statement for WCPFC region.](#) 19 November 2020.

Amongst the WWF recommendations are:

- Ensure continuing and robust interim alternative monitoring, control, and surveillance methods until the full reinstatement of the observer programme is appropriate
- Support the adoption of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) COVID-19 Operating Protocols as best practice guidelines
- Establish requirements for comprehensive and transparent reporting of all life threatening injuries or deaths that occur on fishing vessels operating in the WCPFC CA
- Adopt a formal, binding resolution on labour standards for crew on fishing vessels.

[Model proposal for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission \(WCPFC\). 18 November 2020.](#)

This is the fourth in a series of papers published by Human Rights at Sea to advocate for greater public international awareness on fisheries observer safety, security and well-being in the WCPFC region.

[Pacific fisheries observer suspensions extended, WCPFC says health of observers a priority. 3 November 2020.](#)

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) has extended the suspension of total fisheries observer coverage in the region until February 2021, amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

Events

[Follow up to All Party Parliamentary Group on Fisheries \(APPG\) webinar on safety at sea. 3 December 2020.](#)

The most recent event explored the issue of safety onboard fishing vessels, and how the efforts of communication, legislation, technology and industry uptake can help make fishing a safer profession.

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