



March 2022

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

**[Seafood Ethics Common Language Group](#)**

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

### **Consultations**

**[MSC labour policy review consultation](#) (Closes 4 April 2022)**

Following the implementation of distinct labour policies in recent years, the Marine Stewardship Council is reviewing its policy on labour. This will include simplifying the way they present labour requirements for fishery and supply chain partners. The requirement will be to either undertake a third-party audit or complete a self-assessment and allow MSC to commission an audit. Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the proposal for third-party audits and self-assessments for Chain of Custody certificate holders via an online survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CR78C3L>

**[Public consultation on measures to strengthen the response to modern slavery and human trafficking in Northern Ireland](#) (13 March 2022. 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.

### **Legislation**

**[ILO, OECD & OHCHR welcome EU Commission draft due diligence directive and urge stronger alignment with international standards](#) (7 March 2022)**

The International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) have welcomed the European Commission's commitment to advancing the protection of human rights and the environment through due diligence.

**[Proposal for an EU Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence](#) (23 February 2022)**

The European Commission has unveiled a proposal to make large companies operating in the European Union check that their suppliers from around the world do not use slave or child labour, do not exploit workers and have adequate workplace health and safety considerations.

**[More than 100 companies and investors call for effective EU corporate accountability legislation](#) (8 February 2022)**

Over 100 companies, including investors, business associations and initiatives, have released a joint statement urging the EU to swiftly adopt a legislative proposal on mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence (mHREDD), within the Sustainable Corporate Governance initiative. This was unveiled on 28 February.

### **Resources**

**[FLEX releases guidance for police and labour inspectors working with migrants](#) (February 2022)**

Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX) and the Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS) have published guidance entitled 'Preventing and Addressing Abuse and Exploitation: A Guide for Police and Labour Inspectors Working with Migrants' demonstrating the case for safe reporting mechanisms to help prevent and address abuse and exploitation.

**[New Human Rights at Sea \(HRAS\) website](#) (23 February 2022)**

It sets out the HRAS vision and mission, and how they prevent, detect and remedy human rights abuses at sea internationally.

**[RightShip Crew Welfare Self-Assessment Tool fails public transparency, accountability, and remediation review](#) (16 February 2022)**

According to HRAS the RightShip Crew Welfare Self-Assessment Tool as part of the Seafarers Code of Conduct initiated by the Sustainable Shipping Industry (SSI) does not meet basic tests for public transparency, accountability, or remediation, while the flawed self-certification process includes the failure to identify and report egregious abuse and abusers through transparent public disclosure.

**UK and Ireland news**

**[ITF claims migrant fishers' injuries linked to flawed work permit scheme](#) (12 March 2022)**

The International Transport Workers Federation are claiming that a number of injuries sustained by migrant fishers are linked to a culture of excessive hours underpinned by a controversial work permit scheme currently under review.

**[ITF calls for Irish Government to bring in clear pathway for undocumented migrant fishers, end exploitation](#) (2 February 2022)**

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) has made a [submission](#) in response to the Irish Government review of the Atypical Work Permit Scheme for non-EEA fishers. ITF claims that over the six years the Scheme has existed it has failed to regularise undocumented migrant fishers working onboard Irish vessels, and has not ended abuses in terms of overwork and poverty pay.

**General news**

**[Labour campaign groups call for embargo on Thai net-makers, citing unpaid prisoners](#) (25 February 2022)**

A group of campaigners is calling on the US government to ensure US companies do not import fishing nets made by Thai companies allegedly using forced prison labour. This follows [an expose](#) by Thai journalist Nanchanok Wongsamuth (December 2021) which profiled prisoners who said they and hundreds of other inmates were forced to make nets for less than Thailand's minimum wage, and were often not paid at all. The prisoners also alleged beatings and torture if they refused to work.

**[IUF signs ground-breaking agreement with Tesco](#) (25 January 2022)**

Tesco and the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations (IUF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The agreement commits Tesco and the IUF to work collaboratively to support workers to access effective representation. This is in response to the shared recognition of the challenges faced by workers in global food supply chains, including workers exercising their rights to be in a trade union and to negotiate collectively.

**[Amendments to FisheryProgress Human Rights and Social Responsibility Policy \(HRSRP\)](#) (1 March 2022)**

FisheryProgress has released an amendment to the HRSRP, that includes changes concerning the Code of Conduct and Fisher Awareness of Rights of the policy. There are also updates to the phased implementation timeline.

**[New fund to help support FIPs comply with FisheryProgress social requirements](#) (15 March 2022.  
**First funding window opens 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.

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