



November 2020

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

**Events and Consultations**

**SSCI Public Consultation on Primary Production Social Benchmarking Criteria. 29 September 2020.  
Closing date 1 December 2020.**

The development of a seafood-specific social benchmark tool by the Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative (SSCI) of The Consumer Goods Forum (CGF) and the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) continues with a 60-day public consultation to review Primary Production criteria

**Fair Trade USA. Draft Capture Fisheries Standard 2.0.0. Open for Public Consultation. 5 October 2020. Closing date is 5 December 2020.**

Fair Trade USA® has announced a 60-day public consultation on its Draft Capture Fisheries Standard (CFS) 2.0.0.

**Ardea International Ethics in Business webinars**.

There are a number of free webinars on offer.

**International Maritime Organization webinars put fishing vessel safety high on the agenda. 24 October 2020.**

A series of regional IMO webinars will promote the importance of ratifying the Cape Town Agreement on fishing vessel safety which was adopted by IMO in 2012. The first covers Latin America and the Caribbean. IMO has also launched a [new easy guide to the Cape Town Agreement](#).

## **Reports**

### **Two Pacific fisheries observer safety, security and well-being reports published. 15 November 2020.**

Human Rights at Sea has issued two new international peer-reviewed reports focusing on fisheries observer safety, security and well-being in the Western and Central Pacific region. The reports are part of an on-going and dedicated series to advocate for greater public international awareness.

- [Developing Recommendations and Policy in Support of Fisheries Observers' Safety, Security and Well-being.](#)
- [Understanding the Working Conditions of Western and Central Pacific Ocean Fisheries Observers: A Baseline Survey.](#)

### **White paper reveals the value and impact of supplier codes of conduct. 12 November 2020.**

This White Paper by Ardea International and the Westminster Business School covers what a code of conduct is and its role in delivering accountability and transparency. It also explains how to use a code of conduct and finally provides suggestions on how to use a code of conduct.

### **EU Draft report. Fishers for the future: Attracting a new generation of labour to the fishing industry and generating employment in coastal communities. 5 November 2020.**

The report addresses important difficulties faced by the EU fishing industry owing to the ageing of the workforce, high rate of accidents at sea, absence of harmonized training standards, poor image of the sector, lack of recognition of fishers' qualifications at EU level, low women's employment rate and lack of attractiveness of the sector for young fishers.

### **Research paper. The Intersection Between Illegal Fishing, Crimes at Sea, and Social Well-Being. 12 October 2020.**

This literature review looked at the empirical evidence of the association between illegal fisheries activities and organized crimes with the predominant associated crime being violations of worker's rights, forced labor and/or modern slavery.

### **Sedex guide to human rights risk assessment in supply chains. October 2020.**

This covers the practical steps to take – starting with mapping supply chains, identifying risks within countries, sectors and at site level, and finally determining the significance of those risks in order to focus resources on the most important.

### **The Outlaw Ocean. An Exploration of Policy Solutions to Address Illegal Fishing and Forced Labour in the Seafood Industry. October 2020.**

Stanford Law School, working with Global Fishing Watch, looks at how to incentivise data sharing. The report also highlights two case studies in Fiji and Indonesia on translating international labour rights mechanisms into national legislation to prevent forced labour.

### **A new roadmap for sustainable shrimp production. 1 October 2020.**

'The Blueprint for Future Proofing Shrimp Supply Chains', published by the World Wildlife Fund, calls for better social and environmental practices in global farmed shrimp supply chains by 2025 including secure human and labour rights throughout the value chain.

### **United States Department of Labor 2020 List of Goods produced by Child Labour or Forced Labour. October 2020.**

This is a biennial list of major goods produced with child or forced labour covering more than 145 countries and territories.

### **Child labour**

**Fish** – from Brazil, Ghana (incl tilapia), Kenya, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Uganda, Vietnam, Yemen

**Shellfish** – from El Salvador

**Shrimp** – from Bangladesh, Cambodia

### **Forced labour**

**Fish** – from China

**Shrimp** – from Burma

### **Both**

**Dried fish** – from Bangladesh

**Fish** – from Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan, Paraguay

**Shrimp** – from Thailand

### **News**

#### **[ISSF announces first conservation measure addressing social and labour standards.](#) 29 October 2020.**

The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) has announced the adoption of a new conservation measure requiring ISSF participating companies to develop and publish a public social and labour standards and/or sourcing policy that applies to the company and its entire supply chain. This will effect processors, traders, importers, transporters marketers and others involved in the seafood industry associated with ISSF and includes production facilities and fishing and supply vessels.

#### **[Rights Groups, Unions and Companies Urge EU to Make Labor Rights a Precondition of Resuming Thai Trade Negotiations.](#) 28 October 2020.**

A group of 45 organizations composed of NGOs, trade unions, companies, and multi-stakeholder initiatives including the SEA Alliance have sent a letter to the European Commission, urging the European Union to require labour reform in Thailand as a precondition to the resumption of trade negotiations with the Government of Thailand.

#### **[EJF: Ghanaian workers report abuse aboard Chinese-owned fishing vessels.](#) 26 October 2020.**

An investigation carried out by the Environmental Justice Foundation has uncovered illegal fishing practices used by Chinese trawl vessels operating in Ghana.

### **UK fishers**

#### **[Breakthrough in sight for foreign crew permits.](#) 5 October 2020.**

The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) has recommended classifying deckhands on over-9m vessels as skilled worker and therefore eligible to be sponsored for a work permit. It also recommends adding them to the 'shortage occupation list' (SOL), if accepted by the Home Office, could make it easier for UK vessel owners to recruit foreign crews.

**Home office response:** Home Secretary, Priti Patel, has responded to the MAC review of the shortage occupation lists (SOLs stating 'the Government has decided not to immediately accept any of the recommendations contained in the MAC's SOL report.' The Home Secretary stated that, before changing the SOLs, there should be an assessment of the development and recovery of the UK labour market after the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis and in response to the new Points-Based Immigration System.

**A fishers response:** Orkney fishermen turn on Boris Johnson over crew visas. 11 November 2020. Boris Johnson has been accused of ignoring the needs of Scotland's fishermen by an Orkney crabbing crew he met earlier this year.

***This is an amalgamation of the news alerts issued in November 2020.***