



May 2022

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

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

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

#### **Get involved**

**[Maritime & Coastguard Agency \(MCA\) consultation on the future of the UK seafarer medical examination \(ENG1\) fee \(19 May 2022 to 11 August 2022\)](#)**

This consultation seeks stakeholder views on removing the statutory set fee for the seafarer medical and allowing the fee to be set by market forces.

**[New fund to help support FIPs comply with FisheryProgress social requirements \(Next funding window opens on 1 September 2022\)](#)**

The Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) Sustainable Fisheries Fund is designed to support for the creation and launch of new FIPs, and provide support for existing FIPs now required to implement the FisheryProgress Human Rights and Social Responsibility Policy (HRSRP). The next funding is 1 September – 1 October 2022. Match funding will be required, but SFF will consider in-kind effort as part of the required match on a case-by-case basis.

**[Webinar. Worker-Driven Social Responsibility. Wednesday 8 June 2022. 5pm to 6.15pm BST.](#)**

This free webinar, run by the Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions, will look at what social responsibility in seafood looks like when it is truly worker-driven, with examples of what the seafood movement can learn from best practice in other sectors.

#### **UK news and reports**

**[University of Nottingham study to understand working conditions across the UK fishing fleet \(17 May 2022\)](#)**

The report [Letting exploitation off the hook? Evidencing labour abuses in UK fishing](#) focuses on all crew working in the UK fishing fleet, including the local workforce and those from overseas, share fishers, and contracted employees.

**[International Transport Workers Federation \(ITF\) report A One Way Ticket to Labour Exploitation \(16 May 2022\)](#)**

This report focusses on the transit visa system for recruiting foreign fishers and is aimed at immigration and fisheries policymakers.

#### **Media coverage and statements**

- [Migrant workers 'exploited and beaten' on UK fishing boats Guardian newspaper](#)
- [Addicted to Exploiting Migrant Labour' The Hidden Hostile Environment in the Fishing Industry](#). Byline Times
- [The Seafarers' Charity stands ready to support migrant workers in UK fishing](#)
- [Seafish statement on transit visas and migrant worker concerns in the UK fishing industry](#)
- [Full statement from the Fishermen's Welfare Alliance](#)
- [Statement from the Seafood Ethics Action \(SEA\) Alliance](#)

### [\*\*Seafish report. 2021 Employment in the UK Fishing Fleet \(9 May 2022\)\*\*](#)

This report presents a snapshot of employment in the UK fishing fleet from a sample of 788 workers taken in summer 2021.

- [\*\*Employment report reveals crewing fears \(Fishing News 20 May 2022\)\*\*](#)

The identified that 55% of deckhands in the vessels surveyed were of non-UK origin, the majority from Ghana or the Philippines. 10% of the 372 respondents said that crewing issues had already affected business performance in the year prior to being surveyed. Two fleet segments in particular reported the largest crewing concerns, with 25% of demersal under-10m trawler owners and 23% of Nephrops vessel owners surveyed reporting having already experienced negative impacts.

### [\*\*Modern Slavery Reporting Practices in the UK \(May 2022\)\*\*](#)

The Financial Reporting Council (FRC) has published findings from research on the extent to which companies are including modern slavery in their disclosures. This report summarises evidence on how companies listed on the London Stock Exchange's Main Market report on modern slavery. It has identified significant shortcomings in the quality of companies' modern slavery reporting. One in ten companies do not provide a modern slavery statement despite it being a legal requirement. Where companies did comply, only one third of these statements were considered clear and easy to read.

### [\*\*UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner publishes third and final Annual Report \(2021-22\) \(May 2022\)\*\*](#)

This covers progress towards stated priorities of improving victim care and support, supporting law enforcement and prosecution, focussing on prevention and getting value from research and innovation.

### [\*\*International news and reports\*\*](#)

#### [\*\*European Parliament moves to end forced labour with updated resolution \(17 May 2022\)\*\*](#)

The European Parliament's Trade Committee yesterday approved a draft resolution with an overwhelming majority calling on the EU to ban products made by forced labour reaching EU markets.

#### [\*\*First fleets complete FISH Standard for Crew audits \(19 May 2022\)\*\*](#)

Three fishing fleets (in Namibia; Seattle, Washington, USA; and Papua New Guinea) have become the first organizations to complete the Fairness, Integrity, Safety, and Health (FISH) Standard for Crew.

#### [\*\*Rights for aquaculture workers move forward at the International Labour Organization \(ILO\) \(9 May 2022\)\*\*](#)

The ILO will be stepping up its work on the aquaculture sector. The ILO has endorsed a specific set of action steps which include (among other steps) research and support for building the capacity of labour inspectorates in aquaculture; and research on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) risks with a view to developing a Code of Practice on OSH in aquaculture.

#### [\*\*Survivors' perspectives on labour abuse in the fishing industry \(May 2022\)\*\*](#)

A report by Winrock International has tried to understand the exploitation taking place in the distant water fishing industry from survivors' perspective, by deploying a qualitative and participatory approach. The report: Valuing Victims Voices is based on 26 narratives shared by men working as crew in distant water fisheries from Fiji and Indonesia. The study revealed how violence and inhuman treatment were often determined by racial discrimination. Severe work-

related injuries were common, and exploitations were rarely formally reported or resulted in remedy for the survivors.

**[Campaigners demand Taiwan be downgraded in US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report \(15 April 2022\)](#)**

Global Labor Justice – International Labor Rights Forum (GLJ-ILRF) and Greenpeace Taiwan, on behalf of the Seafood Working Group (SWG), are demanding Taiwan be named a Tier 2 country in the annual TIP, set to be published this summer due to claims the country has failed to address abuses in its fishing fleet.

**Resources**

**[Grievance Mechanism Maturity Framework and Guidance \(27 April 2022\)](#)**

AIM-Progress has released an open-source Grievance Mechanism framework. This provides an introduction to grievance mechanisms and details on how to use the framework. This is then split up into four steps for implementing grievance mechanisms.

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