



April 2021

**Seafood Ethics Common Language Group e-alert  
(amalgamation of news alerts issued to SECLG circulation list by email in April 2021)**

**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/>

### **Events**

**[Free webinar. The nexus between modern slavery and environmental destruction.](#) Tuesday 20 April 2021. 2pm to 3:15 pm BST.**

This free webinar, organised by The Freedom Fund, will explore how modern day slavery and environmental destruction weave together, and how by better understanding the interlinkages, we have a possible route to protecting vulnerable people and the world's most vulnerable ecosystems.

**[Free webinar. Human Rights due diligence.](#) Wednesday 28 April 2021. 12.30pm to 1.30pm BST.**

This free webinar, organised by Ardea International, will look at how the new binding EU due diligence rules will oblige companies to identify, address and remedy aspects of their value chain that could or do infringe on human rights, the environment and good governance.

**[Free webinar. Supply chain due diligence.](#) Wednesday 19 May 2021. 12.30pm to 1.30pm BST.**

This free webinar, organised by Ardea International, will look at how the forthcoming EU mandatory human rights due diligence (mHRDD) legislation, and other drivers underpinning the shift to global human rights due diligence, will impact your business.

### **News**

**[First UK-based Vessels Certified to Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard \(RFVS\).](#) 14 April 2021.**

Global Seafood Assurances (GSA) has announced that several vessels in the UK have successfully certified to RFVS. These initial United Kingdom-based vessels include 80-meter vessels in Scotland belonging to the Lunar Fishing Company and the Klondyke Fishing Company and single-handed vessels based in Norfolk. There are currently 10 additional pilots under way around the globe, and the standard is open for applications.

**[The Seafarers' Charity and Commsave Credit Union announce new financial support for fishing families.](#) 14 April 2021.**

This will provide access to a range of affordable financial services for fishing families.

**[Taiwan responds to reports on forced labour within its fishing fleet.](#) 2 April 2021.**

Noting the recent media attention on the abuse of foreign workers aboard Taiwanese fishing vessels, the Taiwan Fisheries Agency has said in a statement it has "endeavoured to improve the protection of the rights and benefits of the crew members through institutional guarantees." It has also amended its Standard Operation Procedures for the reporting and processing of cases of foreign crew members employed overseas onboard Distant-Water Fishing vessels suspected of violating the Human Trafficking Prevention Act.

**[Thai labour ministry and industry groups sign deals to improve anti-slavery efforts.](#) 1 April 2021.**

The Thailand Department of Labour Protection and Welfare is partnering with seafood industry groups on an effort to eliminate the use of forced labour in the sector. It has signed a non-binding memoranda of understanding with several industry associations, under which the companies will make public their policies to combat forced and child labour, establish mechanisms to deal with complaints, and undergo audits on the quality and effectiveness of their labour standards.

**[US steps up enforcement of labour rules on imports.](#) 22 March 2021.**

A ramp-up on enforcement of rules designed to prevent forced labour by the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is expected to continue. The US Department of Labour has added Taiwan on its list of goods produced by child labour or forced labour, and the CBP has adopted International Labour Organization Convention 188 standards.

**[Seafarers UK becomes 'The Seafarers' Charity' as part of new strategy.](#) 15 March 2021.**

Seafarers UK is now The Seafarers' Charity and it has released a new strategy 'Thrive', to identify and tackle the root causes of hardship and disadvantage to seafarers.

**[Reports and briefings](#)**

**[Issara Institute report: Repayment of labour recruitment fees.](#) April 2021.**

Many global brands and retailers are adopting ethical recruitment policies stipulating, among other things, that all costs and fees related to labour recruitment are paid by the employer and not by the workers being recruited. Issara has been looking at large-scale recruitment fees reimbursement and this report includes a 10-point checklist the mechanics of ethical repayment of recruitment fees to workers

**[New report highlights risks to workers employed on Seasonal Workers Pilot.](#) March 2021.**

The Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX) report highlights the risk of human trafficking for forced labour based on research carried out over the past year on workers' experiences of the Seasonal Workers Pilot (SWP), the temporary labour migration programme into UK agriculture.

**[Tuna brands slammed for "glacial" progress in addressing labour abuses.](#) 23 March 2021.**

A new report All at sea: [An evaluation of company efforts to address modern slavery in Pacific supply chains of canned tuna](#) by the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre highlights labour abuses in the tuna-fishing industry and points to "sustained abuse of workers" aboard vessels.

**[Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship \(SeaBOS\) briefing. Slavery in marine fisheries.](#) March 2021.**

This briefing provides an outline of the nature of modern slavery and how it is sustained.

**[SeaBOS briefing. Reporting and benchmarking of human and labour rights reporting.](#) March 2021.**

This brief provides background on why there is a demand for corporate social reporting and how it can be done. This briefing demonstrates that there is a demand for human rights reporting and that there is scope for SeaBOS companies to provide leadership in this area.

**Policy**

**[European Parliament adopts key report with recommendations to EU Commission on mandatory due diligence & corporate accountability.](#) 11 March 2021.**

The European Parliament adopted with a large majority the Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee legislative own-initiative report on corporate due diligence and corporate accountability with recommendations for the European Commission on necessary next steps to be taken. The proposal is expected to be tabled in June 2021.

**[Strong signal from European Parliament, but the Commission will have to go further.](#) 11 March 2021.**

Civil society organisations are asking for the legislation to mandatorily apply to all businesses; as well as a stronger and harmonized due diligence obligation covering the entire value chain.

***This is an amalgamation of the news alerts issued in April 2021.***