



August 2022

Seafood Ethics Common Language Group e-alert

[Seafood Ethics Common Language Group](#)

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

UK news and reports

[Further pressure to abolish transit visas in fishing \(3 and 10 August 2022\)](#)

There have been two articles in Fishing News calling for the transit visa scheme to be abolished and replaced with a scheme that provides better legal protection for foreign fishing crews. The first call was from Nusrat Ghani MP, a former maritime minister within the Department of Transport. She gave details of a case of abuse of a Ghanaian fisherman. The second article refers to an open letter from the Merchant Navy Welfare Board (MBWB) to Home Secretary, Priti Patel.

[UK House of Lords Committee disappointed with UK Government's response to extensive human rights at sea recommendations \(21 July 2022\)](#)

The UK House of Lords International Defence and Relations Committee Inquiry into whether the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982 is 'Fit for Purpose in the 21st Century' continues to challenge the UK Government for its failures to respond to the Inquiry's recommendations, including explicit coverage of issues pertaining to human rights at sea.

[We are stronger together \(5 July 2022\)](#)

Fast Forward, the Responsible Recruitment Toolkit (RRT) and Clearview have all transferred to Stronger Together ownership, creating a not-for-profit organisation with a wider mission and vision. All businesses will continue to be able to access our free guidance and resources and receive the benefits they are entitled to.

[John Lewis Partnership Human Rights Report and Modern Slavery Statement 2021/2022 \(July 2022\)](#)

This has in-depth supply chain 'deep-dive' assessments including one on understanding working conditions for migrant workers in the UK fishing sector. This covered the processes in place for workers to voice grievances by undertaking desk-based research, stakeholder interviews and semi-structured interviews with randomly selected non-European Economic Area (EEA) fishers working on transit visas. As a result JLP now states "We're now working collaboratively with the industry – including with bodies such as the Seafood Ethics Action (SEA) Alliance – to develop the recommendations from the study into meaningful action and we hope to share an update in future reports".

[Report on women in Scottish fishing industry published \(22 June 2022\)](#)

A new report explores the real-life experiences, challenges and opportunities of women working in the Scottish fishing industry. The 'Women in Scottish Fisheries' review was carried out last year by PhD student Katja Hržić. The review centres on the perceived and lived challenges for women in Scottish fisheries, and what opportunities have supported women in fishing communities in Scotland and beyond. It also examines other factors that contribute to the experiences of women in fisheries.

Other industries - Debt bondage in UK produce sector

[Revealed: Indonesian workers on UK farm 'at risk of debt bondage' \(14 August 2022\)](#)

Indonesian labourers picking berries on a farm that supplies Marks & Spencer, Waitrose, Sainsbury's and Tesco say they have been saddled with debts of up to £5,000 by unlicensed foreign brokers to work in Britain for a single season.

[Why UK farms are recruiting fruit pickers from 7,000 miles away \(14 August 2022\)](#)

Farms rely on seasonal workers from overseas. In 2019 about 2,500 workers came to Britain on a pilot of the seasonal worker visa. This year the number is expected to be 40,000, with many coming from distant countries and little funding or infrastructure to investigate the circumstances of their recruitment.

Global news and reports

[NGOs accuse US of playing geopolitics in Trafficking in Persons \(TIP\) national rankings \(1 August 2022\)](#)

Non-governmental organizations and fishing industry groups have reacted to the latest edition of the US government's TIP report, which kept Taiwan at Tier One status while upgrading Thailand and Ireland to Tier Two, despite claims of labour abuse in the fishing industries of all three states. Those rankings dismayed some fisheries-focused NGOs, who said geopolitical considerations are blunting Washington's ability to curb labour abuses in global fisheries.

[Modern Slavery in Global Supply Chains: The state of evidence for key government and private approaches \(July 2022\)](#)

This study from Justice and Care summarises the evidence on supply chain interventions—including government-, corporate- and worker-led initiatives—and reviews their effectiveness on combatting modern slavery. Justice and Care is a global partnership of charities working to prevent slavery. They are based in the UK, Romania, India, Bangladesh, Thailand and the United States.

[GSA releases update to Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard \(25 July 2022\)](#)

The Global Seafood Alliance (GSA) has published an update of the Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard (RFVS), part of the GSA Best Seafood Practices (BSP) certification program. There are a number of new requirements in the new RFVS Issue 2.0 including the development and incorporation of a zero-tolerance policy for managing instances of serious human rights atrocities affecting crew members, as well as zero tolerance for the use of illegal child labour. Lastly, support/tender vessels can be included, audited, and certified as part of the group/fleet assessment process. Currently, 27 vessels that cover 610 crew members across the world are RFVS-certified under the RFVS Issue 1.1 and will not be subject to the new requirements until their certifications expire, three years after initial certification date.

[Human Rights at Sea, WWF raise joint concerns on human rights to WCPFC \(25 July 2022\)](#)

Human Rights at Sea (HRAS) and the WWF have raised joint concerns about ongoing legal and human rights challenges through a joint letter to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

[NOAA Fisheries announces new initiative to end illegal labour practices in the seafood industry \(19 July 2022\)](#)

NOAA Fisheries has announced a new public-private initiative—the Collaborative Accelerator for Lawful Maritime Conditions in Seafood, also called CALM-CS—which will promote legal and safe working conditions, including combating forced labour, in the fishing and seafood industry.

[Regional fisheries bodies and their role in improving safety and decent work on fishing vessels \(July 2022\)](#)

In 2021/2022, FAO studied the role of regional fishery bodies (RFBs) in promoting safety and decent work in fisheries under their mandates. Secretariats of thirty-seven regional fisheries management organizations and regional fishery advisory bodies representing inland and marine small-scale and industrial fisheries across the globe participated in a survey. The research showed that safety at sea is a priority for 51% of the RFBs, and 35% regard safety as important, but not a priority. Moreover, 38% of the RFBs surveyed consider decent working conditions a priority. Decent working conditions are important, but not a priority for almost 30% of the RFBs.

[Indonesian migrant fishers declare victory in new regulation that ensures their protection and rights \(17 June 2022\)](#)

Indonesian migrant fishers have welcomed a recently ratified regulation that ensures their rights, protection, and employment on-board foreign fishing vessels. The Indonesian government has officially signed on to Government Regulation no. 22/2022 on the Placement and Protection of Migrant Trading Vessels Crew and Fishing Vessels Crew.

[What happens on board fishing vessels blog and infographic \(1 June 2022\)](#)

This blog is one of a series from the Global Seafood Alliance (GSA) to highlight each stop along the production chain. This one covers fishing vessels.

[Get involved](#)

[Ardea International webinar. Human Rights Due Diligence: The Role and Process of Procurement. 7 September 2022. 12.30pm to 1.30pm.](#)

This webinar, run by Ardea International, will cover the role and process of procurement in supporting organisations to manage their human rights and environmental compliance risks, and demonstrate how a responsible business approach delivers for all supply chain stakeholders.

The content of this email is provided as an information service for the UK seafood industry and key stakeholders. The views expressed in linked content on external sites are not necessarily those of Seafish.