



October 2020

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

Seafish summary of fishing references in **2020 Trafficking in Persons Report**. 25 June 2020.

190 countries are mentioned in the TIP report. Fish or fishing is mentioned in association with forced labour in 50 of the 190 countries in 2020 (49 countries in 2017 – 2019, 51 in 2016). Countries that have been singled out specifically with regards to fishing include Burma, Cambodia, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Korea (Republic of), Taiwan and Thailand.

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.

COVID-19

SeaBOS calls on governments to support boat crews and ocean workers. 23 September 2020.

Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship (SeaBOS), an organization made up of CEOs of 10 of the world's largest seafood companies, has called on governments to address ongoing humanitarian issues vessel crews are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Crew members in the seafood and shipping industry have faced humanitarian, safety, and economic crises due to restrictions of movement onto and off of vessels. The organization is calling for government to intervene and help facilitate the movement of vessel crews to alleviate the crisis.

The COVID-driven humanitarian crisis of seafarers: A call for action under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. 5 October 2020.

A joint statement by the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), the UN Global Compact, and the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights calls on relevant business enterprises to identify the impacts of the pandemic, and of governments' response to it, on the human rights of seafarers and other marine personnel and to actively use their leverage to mitigate those impacts as much as possible.

Risk assessment reports

2020 Flag States and Human Rights Report Published. 5 October 2020.

Human Rights at Sea has published the 2020 Flag States and Human Rights Report: An evaluation of Flag State Practice in Monitoring, Reporting and Enforcing Human Rights Obligations on board Vessels. This year, the project focused on three flag States, the UAE, India and Malta. The aim of the project was to reveal deficiencies in human rights protections and offer informed recommendations.

[Reports of human rights abuse towards Indonesian fishers increasing. 21 September 2020.](#)

Increasing numbers of cases of human and labour rights abuse towards Indonesian fishers on foreign flagged vessels are coming to light. This has been highlighted by Human Rights at Sea and [Greenpeace](#), with evidence highlighting the fishers' plight, the poor working conditions in which they are forced to work and allegations of ill-treatment resulting in deaths at sea.

US Department of Labor List of Goods Produced by Child Labour or Forced Labour 2020. September 2020.

https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/child_labor_reports/tda2019/2020_TVPRAListOnlineFinal.pdf

This year, ILAB has added fish from China and Taiwan to the list for reports of adults forced to work in the production of fish on their Distant Water Fleets. The 2020 edition shows fish caught outside of territorial waters will be listed by the country that has flagged that vessel. This is the first time a country has been added to the list for flagging DWF fleets using forced labour.

Resources

[UK Government publishes transparency in supply chains consultation response. 22 September 2020.](#)

A number of changes will be introduced as a result of this consultation, including extending section 54 to public bodies, an online registry for modern slavery statements, a single annual reporting deadline of 30 September and mandatory reporting topics.

[Updated version of Stronger Together Tackling Modern Slavery in UK Businesses Toolkit now available. September 2020.](#)

This provides a comprehensive toolkit for UK employers and labour providers to inform, equip and resource them to tackle modern slavery. Includes practical advice on the specific steps to take across different areas of the businesses to effectively deter, detect and deal with modern slavery.

Consultations and funding opportunities

[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. The criteria covers social and scheme management requirements specifically for third-party social compliance programmes evaluating land-based agricultural and aquaculture activities. All stakeholders involved in aquaculture value chains are invited to take part in the consultation.

[FisheryProgress Proposes Changes to Social Policy. 13 October 2020. Feedback by 6 November 2020.](#)

Earlier this summer, FisheryProgress asked for feedback on its draft permanent social responsibility policy. One of the biggest points of feedback was concern about the time and costs required to implement the policy. Based on that feedback, FisheryProgress has suggested [some changes](#) and is asking for feedback.

[MSC funding opportunity – fishery observers. 8 October 2020.](#)

Expressions of interest must be submitted by 9 November 2020. Shortlisted proposers advised by 23 November 2020. Full proposal submitted by 29 January 2021.

In 2020, the MSC dedicated £100,000 of the Ocean Stewardship Fund to support global efforts to identify and improve best practice approaches, ensuring fishery observers around the world can carry out their work safely. This year's theme contributes to global efforts to identify best practice

approaches and improvements, ensuring fishery observers around the world can carry out their work safely. MSC are looking for innovative research that has the potential to make a practical difference for the safety of observers at-sea.

[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.

[FishWise project manager opportunity](#)

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