

## Analysis of fishing references in 2019 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report

The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report is the U.S. Government's principal diplomatic tool to engage foreign governments on human trafficking. It is also the world's most comprehensive resource of governmental anti-human trafficking efforts. The U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report 2019 was published on 20 June 2019. <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/>

The report ranks states on their perceived efforts to acknowledge and eliminate human trafficking within their jurisdictions. In doing so, the TIP report offers important insights for companies assessing their supply chains for risks of human trafficking and slavery. This year the TIP Report looks at 'the national nature of human trafficking: Strengthening Government responses and dispelling misperceptions.' It encourages governments to address all forms of human trafficking with a special emphasis on when it takes place exclusively within the borders of one country. The report stresses the need for a balanced response that challenges the presumption that human trafficking requires movement or some cross-border element. It is estimated that 77% of trafficking victims are trafficked within their countries of residence. The report refers to the United Nations' **Palermo Protocol** (an international framework to tackle trafficking, established in 2000), which does not include language implying or stating that a victim must be trafficked across international borders to be considered a trafficking victim. The report serves as a call to action for governments to embrace the full meaning of the Palermo Protocol and implement their domestic laws in a manner that protects all victims and punishes all traffickers. There is also a whole section on **labour recruitment** covering recruitment initiatives and new resources, and the definition of recruitment fees.

### Seafish Insight: A quick analysis of the 2019 TIP report shows:

- Fish or fishing is mentioned in association with forced labour in 49 countries in 2019 (same as 2018 and 2017, 51 in 2016).
- Countries that have been singled out specifically with regards to fishing include Cambodia (downgraded from Tier 2 to Tier 2 Watch), Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, South Korea, Marshall Islands (downgraded from Tier 2 to Tier 2 Watch), Papua New Guinea, Taiwan and Thailand.
- Specifically NGOs continue to report instances of Burmese men transiting Thailand en route to Indonesia and Malaysia, where traffickers subject them to forced labour, primarily in fishing and other labour-intensive industries. Senior crew aboard Thai-owned and flagged fishing vessels subject some Burmese men to forced labour through debt-based coercion, passport confiscation, threats of physical or financial harm or fraudulent recruitment. They also subject some to physical abuse and force them to remain aboard vessels in international waters for years at a time without coming ashore.
- In Ghana, where forced child labour is prevalent in the fishing industry on Lake Volta, NGOs have worked to change community perceptions so that many now view the use of children in fishing as an illegal activity.

**Fishing references by country in 2019 TIP report (alphabetical and verbatim)**

**Bangladesh – Tier 2 Watch List (same as 2018, downgraded from Tier 2 in 2016)**

Rohingya girls and boys are recruited from refugee camps to work as shop hands, **fishermen**, rickshaw pullers, and domestic workers in Bangladesh. Some Bangladeshi **fishermen** use debt-based coercion to exploit Rohingya men if they place their shelter on the **fishermen's** land. Some Rohingya men who fled to Bangladesh from Burma decades ago have been trapped in forced labor through debt-based coercion to Bangladeshi **fishermen** for 20 years.

- Traffickers further exploit children in forced labor in **fisheries**, aluminum and garment factories, and dry **fish** production

**Burma – Tier 3 (same as 2018, downgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2017).**

Traffickers force men to work abroad in fishing, manufacturing, forestry, agriculture, and construction, and they subject women and girls primarily to sex trafficking or forced labor in garment manufacturing and domestic service.

- NGOs continue to report instances of Burmese males transiting Thailand en route to Indonesia and Malaysia, where they are subjected to forced labour, primarily in **fishing** and other labour-intensive industries. Senior crew aboard Thai-owned and flagged **fishing** vessels subject some Burmese men to forced labor through debt-based coercion, passport confiscation, threats of physical or financial harm, or fraudulent recruitment; they also subject some to physical abuse and force them to remain aboard vessels in international waters for years at a time without coming ashore.
- Local traffickers use deceptive tactics to recruit men and boys into forced labour on palm oil and rubber plantations, in jade and precious stone mines, and in riparian **fishing**.

**Burundi – Tier 3 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

Both economic necessity and coercion pushed children and young adults into labour, including forced labour on plantations or small farms throughout Burundi, in gold mines in in several provinces around the country, in informal commerce in the streets of larger cities, and in the **fishing** industry.

- NGOs reported that some boys in the Lake Tanganyika **fisheries** are subjected to forced labour and that some girls and young women are exploited in domestic servitude and sex trafficking by **fishermen**.

**Cambodia – Tier 2 Watch List (downgraded from Tier 2 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

Cambodian adults and children migrate to other countries within the region and increasingly to the Middle East for work; many are subjected to forced labour on **fishing** vessels, in agriculture, in construction, in factories, and in domestic servitude, often through debt based coercion, or to sex trafficking.

- **Traffickers continue to recruit significant numbers of Cambodian men and boys in Thailand to work on fishing boats and subject them to forced labor on Thai-owned and operated vessels in international waters. Cambodian victims escaping from their traffickers have been**

**identified in Malaysia, Indonesia, Mauritius, Fiji, Senegal, South Africa, and Papua New Guinea. Cambodian men working on Thai-owned and operated fishing vessels report deceptive recruitment tactics, severe physical abuse, underpayment or non-payment of wages, restrictions on access to medical care, and confinement at sea for years at a time without permission to come ashore.**

**Cameroon – Tier 2 (same as 2018) upgraded from Tier 2 Watch list in 2017 and 2016)**

Traffickers exploit Cameroonian children in domestic service, restaurants, begging or vending on streets and highways, artisanal gold mining, gravel quarries, **fishing**, animal breeding, and agriculture (on onion, cotton, tea, and cocoa plantations), as well as in urban transportation assisting bus drivers and in construction as errand boys, laborers, or night watchmen.

**Chad – Tier 2 (upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2018)**

In the Lake Chad region, traffickers exploit children in catching, smoking, and selling **fish**.

**China PRC – Tier 3 (no mention of fishing in 2018)**

African and Asian men reportedly experience conditions indicative of forced labor aboard Chinese flagged **fishing** vessels operating in the Atlantic Ocean; men from other regions may be in forced labor aboard these vessels as well.

**Comoros – Tier 3 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

Children on Anjouan, some of whom were abandoned by parents who left to seek economic opportunities in other countries, are vulnerable to forced labor, mostly in domestic service, roadside and market vending, baking, **fishing**, and agriculture.

**Congo – Tier 3 (same as 2018 and 2017, downgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2016)**

Traffickers subject some child trafficking victims to forced labor in market vending, bakeries, and the **fishing** and agricultural sectors, including in cocoa fields in Sangha department, sugar cane fields in the Bouenza department, and, among indigenous populations, harvesting manioc in the Lekoumou department.

**Ecuador – Tier 2 (same as 2018)**

Traffickers exploit Ecuadorian men, women, and children in sex trafficking and forced labor within the country, including in domestic service, begging, banana and palm plantations, floriculture, shrimp farming, **fishing**, sweatshops, street vending, mining, and other areas of the informal economy.

**Fiji – Tier 2 Watch List (same as 2018, downgraded from Tier 2 in 2017 and 2016)**

Family members, taxi drivers, foreign tourists, businessmen, crew on foreign **fishing** vessels, and other traffickers have allegedly exploited Fijian women and children in sex trafficking.

- **Traffickers subject workers from South and East Asian countries to forced labor in small and informal farms and factories, construction, and on fishing vessels that transit through Fiji or board fishing vessels (mainly China and Taiwan flagged) from Fiji ports and waters.**

**Gabon – Tier 2 Watch List (upgraded from Tier 3 in 2018, Tier 2 Watch List in 2017 and 2016)**

Boys are forced to work as street vendors, mechanics, or in microbus transportation assistants, and as laborers in the **fishing** sector.

**Ghana – Tier 2 (same as 2018, Tier 2 Watch List in 2017 and 2016)**

**As reported over the past five years, human traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims in Ghana, and traffickers exploit victims from Ghana abroad. Traffickers subject Ghanaian boys and girls to forced labor within the country in fishing, domestic service, street hawking, begging, portering, artisanal gold mining, quarrying, herding, and agriculture, including cocoa. Donor funded research focused on the fishing industry on Lake Volta indicated that more than half of the children working on and around the lake were born in other communities and many of these children are victims of forced labor; not allowed to attend school; given inadequate housing and clothing; and controlled by fishermen through intimidation, violence, and limited access to food.**

**Guinea– Tier 2 (upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2018, Tier 3 in 2017/2016)**

Traffickers exploit boys in begging, street vending and shoe shining, forced labour in gold and diamond mines, and in herding, **fishing**, and agriculture, including farming and on coffee, cashew, and cocoa plantations.

**Haiti – Tier 2 (upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2018 and 2017, and Tier 3 in 2016)**

Haitian children working in construction, agriculture, **fisheries**, domestic work, and street vending in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

**Honduras – Tier 2 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

Children, including from indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, particularly Miskito boys, are vulnerable to forced labor in the **fishing**, mining, construction, hospitality, and service industries.

**India – Tier 2 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

Traffickers exploit children in forced labor agriculture; construction; domestic service; garment, steel, and textile industries, including tanneries and zari factories; begging; biscuit factories; carpet making; floriculture; **fish** and ginger farms.

**Indonesia – Tier 2 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

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The MMAF reportedly continued to implement its regulations on human rights certification in the **fisheries** business, including the requirement that Indonesian **fishery** businesses comply with international human rights standards in order to obtain a permit for **fish** capture.

- The MMAF also continued to implement a 2016 regulation on work agreements by taking steps to standardize work contracts for Indonesian **fishermen** to decrease the power a boat owner or captain has over the crew's working conditions. NGOs commented the government did not effectively implement the regulations.
- During the reporting year, the MFA negotiated with the governments of Mauritius, South Korea, and Taiwan to expand its pilot program to assist Indonesians working on foreign **fishing** vessels through dedicated centers to collect data and provide services to **fishermen** in distress; at the end of the reporting period, the new centers had not yet been implemented
- In Indonesia, labor traffickers exploit women, men, and children in **fishing**, **fish** processing, and construction; on plantations, including oil palm; and in mining and manufacturing.
- Labor traffickers exploit a significant number of Indonesians through force and debt-based coercion in Asia and the Middle East, primarily in domestic work, factories, construction, and manufacturing, on Malaysian oil palm plantations, and on **fishing** vessels throughout the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and the Middle East host a large number of Indonesian domestic workers who are unprotected under local labor laws and often experience indicators of trafficking including excessive working hours, lack of formal contracts, and unpaid wages.
- **Indonesian fishermen working on Taiwan, Thai, Malaysian, and Philippines-flagged fishing vessels operating in Indonesian, Thai, Sri Lankan, Mauritian, and Indian waters reported boat captains perpetrated pervasive abuse, forced labor, unpaid salaries, and, in some cases, murder. Dozens of recruitment agencies in Burma, Indonesia, and Thailand hire fishermen, assign them fake identity and labor permit documents, and force them to fish long hours in waters for low or unpaid salaries while incurring severe physical abuse. Boat captains and crews prohibit fishermen from leaving their vessels and reporting these abuses by threats of exposing their fake identities to the authorities or by detaining them on land in makeshift prisons. More than 7,000 Indonesian fishermen per year sign in and out of foreign vessels at the port in Cape Town, South Africa, reportedly facing dire working conditions, particularly on vessels owned by citizens of Taiwan, Korea, and Japan.**

**Ireland – Tier 2 (same as 2018, downgraded from Tier 1 in 2017 and 2016)**

NGOs reported the number of victims in the **fishing** industry grew from 12 victims in 2017 to 23 in 2018, 16 of which the government identified as trafficking victims in 2018.

- NGOs reported only foreign embassies provided interpretation services to non-EEA national victims of labor exploitation in the **fishing** industry. An NGO provided sea **fishers** it assessed as victims of labor trafficking with material support and assistance, as well as legal advice and representation, without public funding.
- Four UN Special Rapporteurs (on contemporary forms of slavery, trafficking in persons, racial discrimination, and human rights of migrants) sent a letter to the Irish government warning the government that its atypical working scheme for sea **fishers** was not in line with international human rights law and standards related to trafficking in persons and the human rights of migrants, making undocumented workers particularly vulnerable to trafficking and serious abuse on Irish fishing vessels. An NGO sought and was denied an immediate injunction requesting the government stop granting or reviewing further permissions under the scheme. The government took no concrete action during the reporting period to address a 2017 parliamentary committee report recommending changes to the scheme, including a moratorium on issuing permits to out-of-country non-EEA foreign nationals until the permit could be decoupled from a single employer and until the position of all in-country non-EEA nationals could be regularized. The committee also recommended a single department be given overall responsibility for the **fishing** industry. Mediation between the government and the NGO to address the atypical working scheme was ongoing at the end of the reporting period.

**Jamaica – Tier 2 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

Traffickers subject foreign nationals to forced labor in Jamaica and aboard foreign-flagged **fishing** vessels operating in Jamaican waters.

**Japan – Tier 1 (same as 2018)**

Cases of forced labour occur within the TITP, a government-run program originally designed to foster basic technical skills among foreign workers that has effectively become a guest-worker program. TITP participants from Burma, China, Cambodia, and Vietnam pay sending organizations in their home countries up to \$10,000 in excessive fees, deposits, or vague “commissions”—despite new international agreements aimed at curbing the practice—to secure jobs in **fishing**, construction, and manufacturing.

**Kenya – Tier 2 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

Within the country, children are subjected to forced labor in domestic service, agriculture, **fishing**, cattle herding, street vending, and begging.

**Korea (Republic of) or South Korea – Tier 1 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

The government did not operate a hotline specifically for reporting potential trafficking crimes, but MOGEF continued to operate hotlines in 13 languages that were accessible to trafficking victims, and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) continued to operate a hotline for foreign crew members on South Korean **fishing** vessels; nonetheless, observers reported interpreters were sometimes not

available when migrants called government hotlines, and the government did not report how many trafficking-related calls these hotlines received.

- **Approximately 400,000 migrant workers, many employed under the government’s Employment Permit System, work in fishing, agriculture, livestock, restaurants, and manufacturing; some of these workers face conditions indicative of forced labor. Traffickers exploit foreign workers on fishing vessels registered and operated by South Koreans. South Korea is a transit point for Southeast Asian fishermen subjected to forced labor on fishing ships bound for Fiji and other ports in the Pacific. Foreign fishermen aboard small fishing vessels operating beyond the purview of the government or owners’ cooperatives are vulnerable to exploitation, including forced labor.**

**Laos – Tier 2 Watch List (upgraded from Tier 3 in 2018, Tier 2 Watch List in 2017 and 2016)**

Traffickers exploit Lao men and boys in forced labor in Thailand’s **fishing**, construction, and agricultural industries.

**Madagascar – Tier 2 (upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2018 and 2017, Tier 2 in 2016)**

Traffickers exploit Malagasy children, mostly from rural and coastal regions, and from impoverished families in urban areas, in child sex trafficking, domestic servitude, and forced labor in mining, **fishing**, and agriculture across the country.

**Malawi – Tier 2 Watch List (downgraded from Tier 2 in 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

Traffickers exploit children in forced labor in begging, small businesses, and potentially in the **fishing** industry.

**Maldives Tier 2 Watch List (no fishing mentions in 2018)**

Migrant workers on **fishing** and cargo boats in Maldivian waters were vulnerable to forced labor.

**Marshall Islands Tier 2 Watch List (downgraded from Tier 2 in 2018, Tier 3 in 2017)**

**As reported in the past five years, human traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims in the Marshall Islands, and traffickers exploit Marshallese victims abroad. Hotel and bar staff and family members recruit and transport women and girls and exploit them in sex trafficking with foreign construction workers and crew members of foreign fishing and transshipping vessels that dock in Majuro. Observers report commercial sexual activity involving foreign fishermen has increasingly moved from fishing vessels to local bars and hotels. Traffickers also exploit some of these foreign fishermen in conditions indicative of forced labor on ships in Marshallese waters.**

**Mauritania – Tier 3 (same as 2018 and 2017)**

Children of Haratine and Afro-Mauritanian descent working in the **fisheries** sector are vulnerable to forced labor.

**Micronesia – Tier 2 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

Sex traffickers exploit Micronesian women and girls through commercial sex with the crew members of docked Asian **fishing** vessels and on vessels in FSM territorial waters, or with foreign construction workers. Foreign migrants from Southeast Asian countries report working in conditions indicative of human trafficking on Asian **fishing** vessels in FSM or its territorial waters.

**Mongolia – Tier 2 (upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2018, Tier 2 in 2017 and 2016)**

North Korean and Chinese workers employed in Mongolia are vulnerable to trafficking as contract labourers in construction, production, agriculture, forestry, **fishing**, hunting, wholesale and retail trade, automobile maintenance, and mining.

**Namibia – Tier 2 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

Children from less affluent neighbouring countries may be subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour, including in street vending in Windhoek and other cities as well as in the **fishing** sector.

**New Zealand – Tier 1 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

Foreign workers aboard foreign-flagged **fishing** vessels in New Zealand waters are vulnerable to forced labour.

**Pakistan – Tier 2 (same as 2018, upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2017 and 2016)**

Bonded labor is concentrated predominately in Sindh province in agriculture and Punjab province in brick kilns but also occurs in other sectors in those provinces and in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces in agriculture and brick-making and, to a lesser extent, in **fisheries**, mining, and textile-, bangle-, and carpetmaking.

**Palua Tier 2 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

Foreign workers on **fishing** boats in Palauan waters also experience conditions indicative of human trafficking. Official complicity plays a role in facilitating trafficking.

**Papua New Guinea Tier 3 (same as 2018, Tier 2 Watch List in 2017, Tier 3 in 2016)**

Officials did not seize any foreign vessels for trafficking or illegal **fishing** for the second consecutive year, despite reported prevalence of the crime.

- Observers reported a law allowing officials to apprehend foreign **fishermen** for desertion in port may have dissuaded some victims of forced labor from escaping and reporting their abuses.
- Traffickers also reportedly subject foreign children to sex trafficking in Papua New Guinea. Chinese, Malaysian, and local men are subjected to forced labor at commercial mines and logging camps, as well as on **fishing** vessels operating in Papua New Guinea’s exclusive economic zone, where some receive little pay and are compelled to continue working for the companies indefinitely through debt bondage. **Traffickers also subject Vietnamese, Burmese, Cambodian, and local men and boys to forced labor on**

**fishing vessels; they face little to no pay, harsh working conditions, and debt bondage.** Often with direct government support, companies reportedly compel some of these workers to carry out illegal logging and fishing activities, making them vulnerable to arrest.

**Philippines – Tier 1 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

An estimated 10 million Filipinos reside or work abroad and the government processes approximately 2.3 million new or renewed contracts for Filipinos to work overseas each year. A significant number of these migrant workers become victims of sex and labor trafficking, predominantly via debt-based coercion, in the **fishing**, shipping, construction, manufacturing, education, home health care, and agricultural industries, as well as in domestic work, janitorial service, service industry, and other hospitality related jobs, particularly in the Middle East and Asia, but also in all other regions.

- Forced labor and sex trafficking of men, women, and children within the country remains a significant problem. Women and children from rural communities, conflict- and disaster-affected areas, and impoverished urban centers are most vulnerable to sex trafficking, domestic servitude, and other forms of forced labor around the country, while men become victims of forced labor and debt bondage in the agricultural, **fishing**, and maritime industries.

**Seychelles – Tier 2 (upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2018, Tier 2 in 2017, Tier 2 Watch List in 2016)**

Migrant workers, including from Bangladesh, India, China, Kenya, Madagascar, and countries in South Asia, make up 20 percent (21,000) of the working population in Seychelles and are primarily employed in **fishing**, farming, and construction; credible reports indicate traffickers subject migrant workers to forced labor in these sectors. NGOs report migrant workers also face exploitative conditions in **fish** processing plants, and **fishermen** aboard foreign-flagged **fishing** vessels in Seychelles’ territorial waters and ports are subjected to abuses indicative of forced labor, including non-payment of wages and physical abuse.

- Labor recruitment agents based in Seychelles will exploit migrant workers in labor trafficking, oftentimes with the assistance of a local Seychellois accomplice. Migrant workers often sign their employment contracts upon arrival in the Seychelles and frequently cannot read the language, which increases their vulnerability to fraudulent recruitment tactics. There were reports of employers routinely retaining migrant workers’ passports to prevent them from changing jobs prior to the expiration of their two-year contracts, increasing their vulnerability to forced labor.

**Sierra Leone – Tier 2 Watch List (same as 2018, Tier 2 in 2017 and 2016)**

Traffickers exploit victims in **fishing** and agriculture, and sex trafficking or forced labour through customary practices, such as forced marriages.

**Singapore – Tier 2 (same as 2017 and 2016)**

Some **fishing** vessel captains engage in forced labor by using physical abuse to force men to perform labor on long-haul boats that transit or dock at Singaporean ports.

**Solomon Islands – Tier 2 (same as 2018 and 2017, Tier 2 Watch List in 2016)**

**Men from Indonesia and Malaysia are subjected to forced labor in the logging, fishing, and mining industries. Fishermen from Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, and Fiji have reported situations indicative of labor trafficking, including non-payment of wages, severe living conditions, violence, and limited food supply, on Taiwan-flagged fishing vessels in the Solomon Islands’ territorial waters and ports.**

**South Africa – Tier 2 Watch List (same as 2018, Tier 2 in 2017 and 2016)**

Although the majority of trafficking victims in South Africa are labour trafficking victims, the government did not comprehensively monitor or investigate forced child labour or the labour trafficking of adults in the agricultural, mining, construction, and **fishing** sectors.

- **Traffickers exploit foreign male victims aboard fishing vessels in South Africa’s territorial waters; NGOs estimated 10 to 15 victims of labor trafficking disembark each month in Cape Town.**

**Suriname – Tier 2 (upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2018 and 2017, Tier 3 in 2016)**

Migrant workers in agriculture and on **fishing** boats off Suriname’s coast are highly vulnerable to forced labour.

**Taiwan – Tier 1 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

**Although Taiwan met the minimum standards, separation of purview between the Ministry of Labor (MOL) and the Fisheries Agency (FA), coupled with insufficient inspection protocols, continued to impede efforts to address forced labor on Taiwan-flagged and -owned fishing vessels in the highly vulnerable Distant Water Fleet (DWF). Authorities detained, investigated, and in some cases charged dozens of Taiwan individuals formally designated by a foreign government as victims of forced criminality**

- **Authorities reported 2,827 inspections of recruitment brokers in 2018 (up from 2,701 in 2017, 2,429 in 2016, and 1,822 in 2015). In August, the Yilan District Court sentenced an employment broker to five months’ imprisonment for illegally deducting food and lodging fees from the wages of eight foreign fishermen—the first conviction of its kind. However, civil society groups continued to decry systemic shortcomings in Taiwan’s maritime anti-trafficking law enforcement, exacerbated by DWF ships’ ability to operate without using standard international call signs and by the absence of a single electronic database containing vessel names, licenses, crew manifests, and authorized areas of operation.**

- **The FA reported conducting random inspections on 139 fishing vessels at domestic ports, foreign ports, and for the first time, on the high seas (unreported in 2017). Inspectors uncovered 120 violations relating to contract issues, excessive overtime, and wage discrepancies; although these inspections detected possible trafficking indicators, authorities only referred one wage violation incident to prosecution and issued administrative warnings for the remaining cases. Despite the reported prevalence of forced labor on Taiwan-owned and -flagged fishing vessels, authorities initiated only three formal trafficking investigations into cases involving fishermen.**
- **Documented and undocumented Chinese, Indonesian, Filipino, and Vietnamese fishermen working on Taiwan-owned and -flagged fishing vessels experience non- or under-payment of wages, long working hours, physical abuse, lack of food or medical care, denial of sleep, and poor living conditions while indebted to complex, multinational brokerage networks.**
- **Migrant fishermen have reported senior crew members employ such coercive tactics as threats of physical violence, beatings, withholding of food and water, and wage deductions to retain their labor. These abuses are particularly prevalent in Taiwan’s DWF, comprising over 2,000 Taiwan-owned and -flagged fishing vessels operating thousands of miles from Taiwan and without adequate oversight. Senior crew force migrant workers to fish illegal stock, including threatened, endangered, and protected species, placing them at higher risk of criminal repercussions. Many ships remain at sea for years at a time, selectively disabling their transponders and stopping at “refrigeration mother ships” or remote, uninhabited islands to resupply, transfer victims to other ships, and offload illegally caught fish while avoiding detection by law enforcement. Men and women from Taiwan engaged in telephone scams overseas reportedly present indicators of trafficking.**

**Tanzania – Tier 2 Watch List (downgraded from Tier 2 in 2018)**

Last reporting period, multiple NGOs reported the identification of 14 Indonesian trafficking victims aboard a Malaysian-flagged **fishing** vessel and 12 Tanzanian trafficking victims aboard a Chinese-flagged **fishing** vessel, both in Tanzanian territorial waters; there were no further reports indicating whether these victims were assisted and the government did not report undertaking law enforcement efforts to address these cases of trafficking

**Thailand – Tier 2 (same as 2018, Tier 2 Watch list in 2017 and 2016)**

Weaknesses in Thailand’s labor laws preventing migrant workers from forming labor unions may have contributed to exploitation. The lack of a requirement that employment contracts be written in both Thai and workers’ languages, lack of clear guidance to measure work and rest hours for workers aboard **fishing** vessels, and difficulty for workers to change employers heightened the risk of trafficking. In addition, NGOs and international organizations widely reported the

government did not adequately enforce minimum wage laws and lacked legislation mandating minimum wages in sectors with high employment of migrant workers, such as seasonal agriculture. A UN report found the median monthly wage for seasonal agricultural workers was 6,000 baht (\$185), which was below the minimum wage in Thailand, which ranged from 8,008-8,580 baht (\$248-\$265) per month.

- Officials inspected 7,497 adult entertainment businesses in 2018, leading to the prosecution of seven trafficking cases and the five-year suspension of licenses of 97 businesses for unspecified violations of law. In 2018, the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare conducted 1,906 inspections at high-risk workplaces, including sugarcane farms, garment factories, **shrimp** and **fish** processing facilities, pig farms, and poultry farms, finding 388 workplaces operating in violation of labor laws. In 2018, the government conducted 259 labor inspections at on-land seafood processing workplaces and found 88 cases of labor law violations.
- Labor traffickers exploit migrant workers in commercial **fishing** and related industries, the poultry industry, manufacturing, agriculture, domestic work, and street begging. Traffickers exploit some migrants in labor trafficking often through debt-based coercion and fraudulent promises of well-paid employment; brokers and other recruitment agencies impose excessive fees on workers before they arrive in Thailand. Thai-based brokers and employers administer additional fees after arrival—in some cases causing debt bondage.
- **Labor traffickers subject Thai, Burmese, Cambodian, Vietnamese, and Indonesian men and boys to forced labor on Thai and foreign-owned fishing boats. Some are paid little or irregularly, incur debts from brokers and employers, work as much as 18 to 20 hours per day for seven days a week, and without adequate food, water or medical supplies. Some boat captains threaten, beat, and drug fishermen to work longer hours. Some trafficking victims in the fishing sector had difficulty returning home due to isolated workplaces, unpaid wages, and the lack of legitimate identity documents or safe means to travel.**

**Timor Leste – Tier 2 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

Traffickers exploit foreign **fishing** crews as forced labor on foreign-flagged vessels that transit Timor-Leste waters.

**Uganda – Tier 2 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

Ugandan children as young as seven are exploited in forced labour in agriculture, **fishing**, forestry, cattle herding, mining, stone quarrying, brick making, carpentry, steel manufacturing, street vending, bars, restaurants, and domestic service.

**United Kingdom – Tier 1 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

Most identified victims are subjected to labour trafficking, forced to work in agriculture, cannabis cultivation, construction, food processing, factories, domestic service, nail salons, food services, the hospitality industry, car washes, and on **fishing** boats.

**United State of America – Tier 1 (same as 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

DOJ launched an interagency task force to address legal and jurisdictional issues related to human trafficking in **fishing** in international waters.

**Uruguay – Tier 2 (same as 2018 and 2017)**

Foreign workers, particularly from Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and Argentina, are subjected to forced labour in construction, domestic service, cleaning services, elderly care, wholesale stores, textile industries, agriculture, **fishing**, and lumber processing.

- Foreign workers aboard Taiwan and Chinese-flagged **fishing** vessels in Uruguay’s waters and docked at the Montevideo port may be subjected to abuses indicative of forced labor, including unpaid wages, confiscated identification, and physical abuse, and rumours of murder at sea were common.

**Vietnam – Tier 2 Watch (downgraded from Tier 2 2018, 2017 and 2016)**

Traffickers subject victims to forced labor in construction, **fishing**, agriculture, mining, logging, and manufacturing, primarily in Angola, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Taiwan, and the United Arab Emirates; there are increasing reports of Vietnamese labor trafficking victims in the United Kingdom and Ireland (including on cannabis farms), continental Europe, the Middle East, and in Pacific maritime industries.

**About the TIP rankings**

The TIP report is released annually by the U.S. Department of State, and offers a summary of the laws and enforcement efforts of various countries with respect to human trafficking. Specifically, it ranks countries based on a ‘3P paradigm’ of prosecuting traffickers, protecting victims and preventing crime. Scoring on these elements is then collated to give each country a ranking:

- **Tier 1:** Countries whose governments fully meet the TVPA’s minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.
- **Tier 2:** Countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA’s minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.
- **Tier 2 Watch List:** Countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA’s minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards, and for which:
  - a) the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing;
  - b) there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year, including increased investigations, prosecution, and convictions of trafficking crimes, increased assistance to victims, and decreasing evidence of complicity in severe forms of trafficking by government officials;

- c) or the determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional steps over the next year.
- **Tier 3:** Countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA's minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so. No tier ranking is permanent. Every country, including the United States, can do more. All countries must maintain and continually increase efforts to combat trafficking.
- Countries on the Tier 2 Watch List for two consecutive years may be downgraded to Tier 3 automatically if no improvements are demonstrated. This could result in restrictions on non-humanitarian and non-trade-related foreign assistance from the U.S., at the discretion of the President.

### Seafish social responsibility work

**Seafish is actively engaged in this area and has introduced a series of work areas to help the industry achieve the goal of eliminating unethical practices from UK seafood supply chains.**

**For further information on Seafish work on seafood ethics see:**

- **Seafish ethics in seafood web page.**  
**See:** <https://www.seafish.org/article/ethics-in-seafood>
- **Seafish fact sheet. Social responsibility in seafood – Seafish role. April 2019.**  
**See:** [https://seafish.org/media/SeafishRole\\_SocialResponsibilityinSeafood\\_201904.pdf](https://seafish.org/media/SeafishRole_SocialResponsibilityinSeafood_201904.pdf)
- **Tools for Ethical Seafood Sourcing (TESS).** TESS is an online tool signposting users to numerous online resources and initiatives that support socially responsible business practices.  
**See:** <http://www.seafish.org/tess/>
- **Assessment of ethical issues in UK seafood supply chains.**  
**See:** <https://www.seafish.org/article/assessment-of-ethical-issues>

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**August 2019**

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