

July 2017

**Seafood Ethics Common Language Group e-alert
(amalgamation of news alerts issued to SECLG circulation list by email in July 2017)**

Seafood Ethics Common Language Group

<http://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/discussion-forums/the-seafood-ethics-common-language-group>

New reports

US Government Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2017. 27 June 2017.

The 2017 U.S. Department of State 454 page report on human trafficking, the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, was published on 27 June. This year, the theme of the TIP report is increasing criminal accountability of human traffickers and addressing challenges in prosecution. The TIP report annually measures government efforts across the 3P paradigm of prosecuting traffickers, protecting victims, and preventing the crime. **Key points:**

- Of the 187 countries assessed under the minimum standards, 36 countries were placed on Tier One, 80 on Tier Two, 45 were placed on the Tier Two Watch List, and 23 countries were on Tier Three. In all, there were 21 downgrades, meaning a country moved down a level, and 27 upgrades.
- A country can be on the Watch List for two years without a waiver. And then for two years a waiver is required to remain on the Watch List. And to be eligible for that waiver, a country must submit a national action plan that if it were fully funded would lead toward significant efforts to eliminate trafficking. So that decision is made every year that a country needs that waiver.
- The report sorts countries into three groups – Tier 1, which signifies compliance with minimum U.S. standards; Tier 2, which indicates the country is making significant efforts at compliance; and Tier 3, those not in compliance and making no effort to improve. The report also lists a Tier 2 Watch List, a list of nations deserving of special scrutiny. A Tier 3 rating can result in sanctions limiting access to U.S. and international aid, but such action is rarely taken and the annual list is released primarily to increase public awareness of the problem of human trafficking globally, according to Reuters.
- China was listed as a Tier 3 country in 2013 but was moved onto the Tier 2 Watch list for the past three years. In the 2017 report, China was lowered back onto the Tier 3 list.
- Myanmar and Iraq rose in the rankings from a Tier 3 country onto the Tier 2 Watch List.
- Last year, Thailand was elevated from the Tier 3 list to the Tier 2 Watch List, and it maintained that ranking in this year's report, despite limited progress the Government response has not yet improved situation for migrant workers.

A quick analysis of the 2017 TIP report will follow in the next SECLG newsletter showing how fish or fishing is mentioned.

ITUC Global Rights Index 2017: The world's worst countries for workers. 13 June 2017.

The 2017 ITUC Global Rights Index provides an insight into workers' rights violations around the world. It covers internationally recognised core labour standards, specifically civil rights, the right to bargain collectively, the right to strike, the right to associate freely and access to due process rights. The ten worst countries for workers are Qatar, the UAE, Egypt, the Philippines, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Guatemala, Turkey and Bangladesh. In addition, other countries have seen their ranking rise this year, including Ecuador and Myanmar (from category 3 to 5), Argentina (from category 3 to 4) and Brazil (from category 2 to 4). There is no mention of seafood.

[Shrimp traceability breakthrough. 24 May 2017.](#)

Farmed shrimp from Thailand, Vietnam, and India could be traced back to their countries of origin with more than 98% confidence through a process known as elemental profiling, according to a new [World Wildlife Fund \(WWF\) report](#). With greater refinement, elemental profiling may help importers, customs officials, retailers, and others trace globally traded seafood back to its source, which can shed light on production practices with critical environmental and social implications.

New initiatives

Seeking your views on the Labour Market Enforcement Introductory Strategy

Sir David Metcalf, Director of Labour Market Enforcement, had intended to publish his Labour Market Enforcement Introductory Strategy in spring of this year. The recent election has delayed both the publication and the consultation that was to follow. In the meantime the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has chosen to give interested parties early notice of the overarching themes and questions to gather evidence and views to inform the full labour market enforcement strategy. An informal consultation document is attached. If you would like to respond E: [Labour Market Enforcement](#).

Launch of the Food Network for Ethical Trade (FNET). 27 June 2017.

The Network was developed throughout 2016 with a group of large food suppliers and retailers with the goal of establishing a common approach to managing ethical trade in food supply chains, responding to the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act and in line with the UNGPs. This involves 20 supplier members across a broad range of sectors and four retailer members (the Co-op, Marks and Spencer, Tesco and Waitrose). Suppliers involved include: 2 Sisters Food Group, Bakkavor, Icelandic Seachill, Lyons, CP Foods, Princes, ABP, Kerry, LDH and World Wise Foods. During a 12 month foundation phase, supplier and retail members will be part of a collaborative network that offers: access to the FNET topline ethical trade risk assessment tool and supplier guidance for managing ethical trade risks, expert support in developing suppliers' ethical trade strategies and opportunities to collaborate with other suppliers and retailers in mitigating ethical trade risks. FNET responds to supplier requests to move beyond ethical audits and to use the collective leverage of the food industry to improve working conditions in global food supply chains. It is intended to be complementary to other ethical trade initiatives in existence not to duplicate work being done. To find out more have a look at the launch presentation.

TESS

[Free resource helps address social responsibility in the global supply chain. 29 June 2017.](#)

A new free resource launched by Seafish is set to help seafood companies around the world address social responsibility challenges in their supply chains. Tools for Ethical Seafood Sourcing (TESS) is a comprehensive online signposting tool that directs users to a host of other resources that can be used to help understand, manage, and mitigate social risks in seafood supply chains. All the information is publicly available on external websites, and TESS takes users directly to the source. "We do not provide ratings or rankings of the information provided. The benefit of TESS is that it brings everything together in one place, and saves businesses both time and money in their efforts to understand the issues and be socially responsible," said Libby Woodhatch, head of advocacy for Seafish. The aim of TESS is to help managers to better understand the "complex landscape" of labour issues in the global seafood supply chain.

UK news

[Irish fishing industry is still plagued by abuse of migrants, senators hear. 6 July 2017.](#)

[Widespread abuse and exploitation](#) of Asian and African migrant fishermen continues to plague the Irish fishing industry, according to evidence presented to the jobs committee of the Irish senate. The

Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation is investigating a permit scheme introduced by the Irish government in response to a Guardian exposé of working conditions on its trawlers in 2015. The scheme was meant to regularise the status and give employment rights to the large numbers of undocumented workers on whom the industry depends for labour. The International Transport Federation's coordinator Ken Fleming told the committee however that the permits had not had the intended effect but had instead "legalised slavery" and were no better than "dog licences". The senator Ged Nash told the committee that he was aware of "really egregious problems" in the Irish fishing industry. He described meeting 42 Egyptian migrant fishermen in his Drogheda constituency last year of whom only two had managed to obtain the new permits and said he had heard of "wilful abuse". He condemned the enforcement agencies for failing to protect workers from illegal conditions, which he believed were putting the reputation of the whole industry at risk.

[Video of the hearing of a joint committee in the Irish Parliament on the abuse of migrant fishers in the Irish Republic.](#) This ends with reference to an MOU being agreed between EU supermarkets and ITF to help bring about change.

[National survey to give a voice to UK fishing communities. 27 June 2017.](#)

Over the summer maritime charities Seafarers UK and Cornwall Rural Community Charity (CRCC) are working together to carry out a UK-wide project to survey fishermen, their families and fishing communities. The survey aims to understand community and individual needs and challenges better, and to identify examples of projects or activities that are working to tackle these. UK fishing communities have been in a process of gradual decline and increasing social isolation over the last 40 years, with many suffering profound deprivation. Although there are extensive published papers on many aspects of the industry, there is little by way of a detailed understanding of the welfare need on the ground and the contemporary challenges facing fishing communities across the UK. This collaborative project will undertake face-to-face interviews with a wide range of people to identify what clear themes and issues need support and resourcing. CRCC will be visiting ports around the UK over the coming months and is keen to identify projects or groups that they should be meeting with. Those interested in having their views captured via a personal interview - or who would like to complete a survey - should [email](#) the project team or phone 01872 243559.

Other news

[Thai Govt delays new migrant labour law implementation. 6 July 2017.](#)

Thailand's military Government has decided to delay parts of a new labour law regulating migrant workers. The decision was taken after considering the complaints from fishing and construction businesses, in particular, who argued the new regulations had caused a shortage of workers due to the mass migrant exodus (estimated 60,000 foreign workers left between 23 and 28 June). After the news on the migrant workers' exodus, authorities promised a 120-day delay in the implementation of the new regulations.

[Human Rights at Sea publishes new case of seafarer abuse. 4 July 2017.](#)

New case: MT Ocean Pride IMO 8520989 Panama Flagged. Crew comprise: One Pakistani, six Indian, one Bangladeshi, one Sri Lankan.

[New Issara Publication. From Trafficking to Post-Rescue: Insights from Burmese fishers on coercion and deception in \(anti\) trafficking processes. July 2017.](#)

This research brief focuses on the experiences of Burmese men who, having been trafficked into Thailand's offshore fishing industry, are in the process of reintegrating into Burmese society. Discussions with 15 of these men highlight how they were coerced or deceived.

SECLG news summary. July 2017.

Reports from the International Labor Affairs Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor.

- Funded project [Thailand in the shrimp and seafood processing](#) sector from 2010-2016, implemented by the ILO.
- Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor ([TDA Report](#)). To be updated autumn 2017.
- List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor ([TVPRA List](#))
- List of Products Produced by Forced or Indentured Child Labor ([EO List](#))
- [A Toolkit for Responsible Business](#). To be updated autumn 2017.

This is an amalgamation of the news alerts issued in July 2017.