



January 2019

**Seafood Ethics Common Language Group e-alert
(amalgamation of news alerts issued to SECLG circulation list by email in January 2019)**

Seafood Ethics Common Language Group
<https://www.seafish.org/article/ethics-in-seafood>

UK news

UK Gov't publishes 2nd interim report from Independent Review of UK Modern Slavery Act. 23 January 2019.

In July 2018, the Home Secretary, at the request of the Prime Minister, announced a review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (Act) including Section 54. The transparency in supply chains provisions set out in section 54 of the Act require large commercial organisations supplying goods or services, and carrying on a business in the UK, to prepare a slavery and human trafficking statement for each financial year. The company must state the steps it has taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in its business or its supply chains, or it must state it has taken no such steps. The report principally addresses the question: "how to ensure compliance and drive up the quality of slavery and human trafficking statements produced by eligible companies". The review panel sought evidence from civil society, Parliamentarians, government bodies, business and international organisations. The main recommendations cover: clarifying the companies in scope; improving the quality of statements; embedding modern slavery reporting into business culture; increasing transparency; monitoring and enforcing compliance; Government and the public sector; and consumer attitudes.

[Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act. Second interim report: Transparency in supply chains. January 2019](#)

[Consultation. BRC Ethical Trade and Responsible Sourcing Standard Issue 1 Draft Consultation. Closing date 10 February 2019.](#)

The International Advisory Board of BRC Global Standards wishes to extend its portfolio to include a Global Standard for Ethical Trade and Responsible Sourcing that users can implement alongside other standards. This Standard can also be used on its own for sites that are not currently certificated by BRC Global Standards. BRC wants to achieve the Consumer Goods Forum's Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative Benchmark Criteria. As well as developing the Global Standard for Ethical Trade and Responsible Sourcing in alignment with the SSCI Benchmark Criteria, they have also included the requirements of the Ethical Trading Initiative's Base Code, the relevant International Labour Organisation's Conventions and the United Nations Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights. [See the Consultation here](#)

Latest news and reports

[Seafood suppliers must tackle slavery risk, say campaigners. 8 January 2019.](#)

This is a perspective on how companies should look to new tools and technologies to help reduce the potential for industrial abuse given the pressure on companies to remove abuse from seafood supply chains has risen in recent years. Growing numbers have accepted that tackling environmental and social problems in their supply chains is part of managing risk and being a responsible business. It flags up the Sustainability Incubator Labor Safe Screen; work by the Marine Stewardship Council to develop certification and labelling programmes that identify products sourced from sustainable fisheries or processors; the Pew Charitable Trusts work with its Ending Illegal Fishing Project was originally launched with an exclusively environmental focus but has expanded its remit; as well as

technological advances could make it easier for companies to monitor their seafood supply chains such as Blockchain. Through its Working Capital venture fund, Humanity United is investing in start-ups that are developing tracking technologies.

[Under fire after lifting threat to ban Thai seafood imports over illegal fishing.](#) 10 January 2019.

The EU has been accused of sending out the wrong message after removing Thailand from a list of countries failing to tackle illegal fishing. Campaigners claim that the European Commission's decision this week to lift Thailand's "yellow card", in place since April 2015, gives consumers an "illusion that violations of fishers' rights are not still occurring. It's not clear what data the European commission is using to base its decision to lift the yellow card," said Johnny Hansen, chair of fisheries at the International Transport Workers' Federation. "[But] reports we have from fishers on the ground in Thailand are telling us that there's still illegal fishing happening and, more importantly, there is still

[EU to evaluate Taiwan's efforts in fighting illegal fishing in March.](#) 10 January 2019.

A new round of evaluations on Taiwan's efforts to combat illegal fishing is expected to take place in March, according to a spokesperson for the European Union (EU). It is not clear if the March evaluation will lead to the removal of Taiwan's name on the IUU watch list.

Risk assessment

[Almost every brand of tuna on supermarket shelves shows why modern slavery laws are needed.](#)

9 January 2019.

What is the chance the last tin of tuna you ate was made using slave labour? If it came from Thailand, the odds may be a lot higher than you imagine. A University of Melbourne study has tracked the journey of tuna from the seas around Thailand to Australian supermarket shelves. This included interviewing more than 50 people, including people entrapped into forced labour. In doing so, we have been able to assess whether brands can say their supply chains are slave-free. They believe just one brand of tinned tuna can confidently claim slavery is not involved in its supply.

This is an amalgamation of the news alerts issued in January 2019.