



September 2017

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

Seafood Ethics Common Language Group

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

News on the Seafish Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS)

Responsible Fishing Scheme marks certification milestones. 28 September 2017.

The Seafish Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS) has certified its 100th vessel, marking a significant milestone for the scheme. The 'Alison Kay' from Shetland owned by skipper James Anderson has met the strict standards set by the RFS, which is independently audited and backed by major supermarkets. The RFS has also welcomed its first entire fleet into the scheme. Plymouth-based fleet owner and fish processor Interfish now has all ten vessels in its fleet certified as following best practice in their fishing operations. To date, 28 leading UK seafood processors, value-added manufacturers, retailers and food service suppliers have committed to incorporate the RFS into their sourcing policies.

Seafish seek new organisation to manage and operate the Responsible Fishing Scheme. 4 October 2017. Tender open until 1 November 2017.

Seafish is seeking to appoint a new not-for-profit entity to manage, operate and deliver the Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS) as part of its commitment to grow the scheme internationally. An Invitation to Tender (ITT) has been published by Seafish in line with EU public procurement rules and regulations with the aim of having the new entity in place early next year. The successful entity will have the right to generate income through the operation of the RFS but will be required to operate under a not-for-profit mandate. Any surplus generated must be reinvested in growing the scheme or lowering costs to the benefit of its customers. Seafish will remain as the RFS standard owner and hold a seat on the board of the new entity, ensuring the original ethos of the Scheme is not lost. The Invitation to Tender (ITT) remains open for a 30 day period from 2 October. A clear evaluation and award process will be undertaken, with the contract award made in early December 2017. The ITT can be found on [Public Contracts Scotland portal](#).

RFS Newsletter. October 2017.

New resources and initiatives

ALP, IHRB and IOM issue new toolkit for business: Eliminating Recruitment and Employment Fees Charged to Workers in Supply Chains. October 2017.

The new 'Eliminating Recruitment and Employment Fees Charged to Workers in Supply Chains' Toolkit has been developed by the Association of Labour Providers in partnership with the Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and has been written in straightforward language to support brands, retailers, employers and labour providers to implement the standards and necessary systems to eradicate the charging of fees to workers in their operations and supply chains. The [Toolkit](#) is available to download for free. The Toolkit provides a framework and pragmatic steps to eradicate fee-charging to worker. The Toolkit has been issued as a public draft for consultation to stimulate debate and to inform where more detail and clarity is required. [Feedback](#) is invited.

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for [Eliminating Recruitment and Employment Fees Charged to Workers in Supply Chains Toolkit](#)

[US Government launches app to guide development of social compliance systems to address forced and child labour. 22 September 2017.](#)

Child and forced labor in supply chains present serious and material risks to companies and industries. To help mitigate these risks, the U.S. Department of Labor presents Comply Chain: Business Tools for Labor Compliance in Global Supply Chains. The app targets companies and industry groups seeking to develop robust social compliance systems for their global production. Comply Chain provides practical, step-by-step guidance on eight critical elements of social compliance, and is designed for companies that do not have a social compliance system in place or those needing to strengthen their existing systems.

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for [ComplyChain](#)

[Launch of Social Responsibility Alliance. 20 September 2017.](#)

The Social Responsibility Alliance (SRA) is an initiative focused on providing companies with the open-source tools, resources, and support they need to build socially responsible supply chains through the collection of responsible sourcing data. The initiative seeks to more broadly facilitate the collection of human and labour rights data to spark change in global supply chains and improve the lives of those impacted by human rights violations.

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for [Social Responsibility Alliance](#)

[Slavery & Trafficking Risk Template \(STRT\)](#)

The Slavery & Trafficking Risk Template (STRT), which replaces the Human Trafficking Risk Template (HTRT) is a free, open-source industry standard template used to assist companies in their efforts to comply with human trafficking and modern slavery legislation and improve their supply chain-related public disclosures. The STRT helps companies and their suppliers work together to build socially responsible supply chains by facilitating accurate data collection. The template is a self-assessment questionnaire, in Excel format, used to collect data on human trafficking and modern slavery-related risks in the supply chain. Companies can utilise the data collected to improve supply chain visibility, assess and mitigate risk, improve human trafficking-related public disclosures, and ensure their compliance with human trafficking and modern slavery related legislation.

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for [Slavery & Trafficking Risk Template \(STRT\)](#)

[ETI guide: Addressing barriers to decent work: new company guide on responsible purchasing practices informed by global supplier survey. 7 September 2017.](#)

A new free guide for companies on responsible purchasing practices has been produced by the Joint Ethical Trading Initiatives of Denmark, Norway and the UK (Joint ETIs). The Guide to Buying Responsibly includes examples of best practice and gives companies the tools needed to meet their commitments to better business as outlined in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. It draws on a collaborative survey run in partnership with the ILO. This includes guidance for companies on purchasing practices, drawing on the findings of a collaborative supplier survey run in partnership between the joint ethical trading initiatives and the ILO, with support from SEDEX. The guide includes best practice examples and outlines the five key business practices that influence wages and working conditions.

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for [Ethical Trading Initiative](#)

[Alliance 8.7](#)

Alliance 8.7 is a global partnership that provides strategic coordination towards the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7 against forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour. The Alliance will focus on accelerating timelines, conducting research and sharing knowledge, driving innovation, and increasing and leveraging resources. The 2017 Global Estimates can be found [online](#)

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for [Alliance 8.7](#)

Reports

[US Department of Labour: 2016 Annual findings on the worst forms of child labor.](#) 26 September 2015.

The Department of Labor's annual Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor focuses on the efforts of certain U.S. trade beneficiary countries and territories to eliminate the worst forms of child labor through legislation, enforcement mechanisms, policies and social programs. The report presents: findings on the prevalence and sectoral distribution of the worst forms of child labor in each country; country-specific suggestions for government action (since 2009); individual country assessments that identify where Significant, Moderate, Minimal, or No Advancement has been made (since 2011).

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for [List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor](#)

[North Atlantic Fisheries Intelligence Group and Interpol report. Chasing Red Herrings: Flags of Convenience, secrecy and the impact on fisheries crime law enforcement.](#) 25 September 2017.

Secrecy, or the ability to keep ones identity hidden behind a corporate veil, is a key facilitator of fisheries crime, including tax crime and other ancillary crimes in the fisheries sector. Secrecy means that investigators “don’t know what they don’t know” and is a fundamental challenge to fisheries crime law enforcement. The focus of this report is the jurisdictions that facilitate secrecy in fisheries, the flags of convenience, and particularly those that are contracted out to private companies, the so-called private flags, and the impact flags of convenience and secrecy has on effective fisheries crime law enforcement. **Human rights are mentioned throughout** - fishing is regarded as one of the most dangerous occupations in the world and, at sea, fishers’ safety and wellbeing are at the mercy of senior officers and the protection afforded by the flag state. A number of investigations in recent years have uncovered forced labour and human trafficking of fishers of a severity that prompted UNODC to describe the practice as ‘cruel and inhumane treatment in the extreme’. Law enforcement officers uncovering these practices are mainly notified when vessels come to port. Internationally accepted rules for decent working conditions for fishers would set an industry standard and assist law enforcement officers to detect and prevent labour exploitation and forced labour in fisheries.

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for [INTERPOL](#)

[40 million in modern slavery and 152 million in child labour around the world.](#) 19 September 2017.

New research developed jointly by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Walk Free Foundation, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), show more than 40 million people around the world were victims of modern slavery in 2016. The ILO have also released a companion estimate of child labour, which confirms that about 152 million children, aged between 5 and 17, were subject to child labour. The new estimates also show that women and girls are disproportionately affected by modern slavery, accounting almost 29 million, or 71% of the overall total. Women represent 99% of the victims of forced labour in the commercial sex industry and 84% of forced marriages. The research reveals that among the 40 million victims of modern slavery, about 25 million were in forced labour, and 15 million were in forced marriage. The data is published in two reports:

[Global estimates of modern slavery: Forced labour and forced marriage](#)

[Global estimates of child labour: Results and trends, 2012-2016](#)

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for [Global Slavery Index](#)

[Human Rights at Sea publishes third annual report.](#) 27th September 2017.

The 40-page report comprehensively lays out the development and achievements of the UK-based charity’s third year of operation. Founded in April 2014 by CEO David Hammond, the charity raises awareness and accountability for human rights in the maritime environment.

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for [Human Rights at Sea](#)

[ILO fact sheet. Purchasing practices and working conditions in global supply chains: Global Survey results. June 2017.](#)

The ILO has released a Policy Brief which evidences the impact of purchasing practices on wages and working conditions. It confirms that tight price negotiations have a definite impact on suppliers' ability to pay appropriate wages.

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for [ILO](#)

[Thailand](#)

Update on ILO's EU-funded Ship to Shore Rights Project. October 2017.

The EU-funded Ship to Shore Rights Project is charged with a revision and expansion of the 2012 Good Labour Practices Programme (GLP) which taught workplace labour standards in the Thai shrimp-peeling industry.

[Industry Agrees to New GLP Principles.](#) October 2017.

Leaders of seafood and fishing associations, government, unions, and civil society organizations pledged publicly to act out nine core elements of credible industry labour programmes. These include clear workplace standards, CEO-level commitment and dedicated labour staff, industry internal due diligence and remediation, engagement with workers and civil society, accountability mechanisms for high- and low-performers, and independent due diligence with public reporting on labour practices. Finally, the revised GLP will look for sourcing choices by downstream buyers--including overseas retailers--that reward good labour practices.

Forced Labour in Thai law. Forced Labour is not yet defined in Thai law but the Government's commitment to ratify the ILO Forced Labour Protocol (P. 29) has produced a draft Forced Labour Act. The ILO has offered comments on the draft and the tripartite drafting committee will take up a second version before the end of the year. The Project's gap analyses for P. 29 and C. 188 are available [here](#).

Working conditions report (due Oct 2017) in the Thai fishing and seafood industry—data on wages, hours, recruitment, safety, and more—are detailed in the forthcoming baseline study from Ship to Shore Rights. Highlights from the survey of 434 fishing and seafood workers in 11 provinces include little evidence of child labour (1%) and an increase from 6% to 42% since 2013 in fishers who recall getting written contracts. The survey also reveals a tangle of wage payment issues in fishing: 24% report receiving less than the legal minimum wage, 24% report withholding of wages, 52% have pay deducted, and 52% report receiving advances from employers.

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for [Ship to Shore](#)

[Thai fishing fleet fights for survival amid EU pressure.](#) 25 September 2017.

New technology and other improvements have been introduced in the Thai fishing fleet in an effort to get Thailand removed from the EU's "watch list" for illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. All Thai fishing vessels that operate in international waters have had satellite communication systems, fishing vessel improvements and the introduction of onboard observers imposed to enhance monitoring of fishing activities and improve supply chain transparency for seafood products.

[New report on Thailand: Not in the same boat.](#) 21 September 2017.

The International Justice Mission (IJM) and the Bangkok-based Issara Institute surveyed Burmese and Cambodian current and former fishermen living in Thailand. Of the 260 fishermen from Myanmar and Cambodia the research showed 38% were clearly trafficked and another 49% possibly trafficked. Only 13% reported fair labour conditions at sea and no exploitative recruitment, it said. Three-quarters reported working at least 16 hours a day, and only 11% said they were paid more than 9,000 baht (US\$272) per month, the legal monthly minimum wage in Thailand. 14.1% were

physically abused, and 31.5% witnessed a crewmate's abuse at sea; and 76.2% accrued debt prior to even beginning work (either to an employer, broker, or net supervisor).

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for the [Issara Institute](#) and the [International Justice Mission](#)

[Trafficking in persons from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar to Thailand](#). 15 September 2017.

The report, "Trafficking in persons from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar to Thailand" is the result of a partnership between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ). This report, while emphasising the way forward in preventing and combating trafficking to Thailand, also explores the many facets of the trafficking phenomenon itself, including the profiles of victims and traffickers, the contemporary push and pull factors for trafficking, the routes taken by regular and irregular migrants to Thailand, the fees paid to smugglers and traffickers and the modi operandi of traffickers and their networks. Fishing is mentioned extensively throughout the report. In the fishing industry, labour migration appears to take place largely outside regulated migration channels. Interviews conducted in Cambodia for the purpose of this report also revealed many migrants have a general understanding of the risks and dangers associated with irregular migration to Thailand but frequently decide that these risks and dangers are greatly outweighed by the perceived benefits of migration.

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for [published reports](#)

[UK news](#)

[Criminal Finances Act](#). 30 September 2017.

The United Kingdom Criminal Finances Act (CFA) will enter into force on September 30, 2017, enhancing the ability of law enforcement officers to freeze and seize assets alleged to be connected to gross human rights abuses. All companies that have a presence in the UK (even if headquartered abroad) must comply with the legislation. This Act therefore has significant implications for companies and individuals doing business both inside and outside the UK, especially in areas where human rights violations are common.

LOOK AT [TESS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION: record for [Criminal Finances Act](#)

Westminster Report on the first 12 months of Modern Slavery Act compliance (19 September 2017) presentations. Headlines:

- UK-wide Modern Slavery helpline has received 3,000 calls in the first year, 500 online reports, 4,000 potential victims identified, 1,000 referrals to police and safeguarding.
- There are **4,916** Transparency in Supply Chain (TISC) statements on [tiscreport.org](#) (website is now saying 5,361) but **50.6%** of companies that should have complied by now have no locatable statements. There are 3,059 on [modernslaveryregistry.org](#).
- It is estimated there are **18,945** active UK organisations with a reported turnover over £36m (website is now saying 19,153).
- Next steps was highlighted as key – 'joining the dots', strong datasets, what action you take if a risk is identified, how to mitigate, how to make the statements work.
- Government has said it will not establish a central registry for TISC statements, however, it does agree that such a resource would be valuable. There are two TISC registers: [tiscreport.org](#) and the [modern slavery registry](#).

['Name and fame' good practice in fight against slavery](#). 20 September 2017.

Justine Currell, executive director of anti-slavery charity Unseen and one of the key influences behind the supply chain transparency clauses in MSA, said companies needed to be lauded for good practice and that naming and shaming discouraged firms from putting their heads above the parapet. Currell's comments summed up the general sentiment at an event where the latest compliance figures for the MSA were revealed.

SECLG news summary. September 2017.

[A Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. 19 September 2017.](#)

UK Prime Minister Theresa May hosted an event at the United Nations during which 37 governments committed to a Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. Also see: **[Theresa May's speech to the UN General Assembly. 20 September 2017.](#)**

In the UK, I am setting up the first ever government taskforce for modern slavery, bringing together every relevant department to co-ordinate and drive all our efforts in the battle against this cruel exploitation. We are also using our aid budget to create a dedicated fund focused on high risk countries where we know victims are regularly trafficked to the UK. We need our law enforcement agencies to work together, with joint investigation teams working across multiple countries. UK Government has also committed £20 million (\$27 million) to the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery, for transformational programs around the world to reduce the prevalence of human trafficking, child labour and other forms of modern slavery.

[Third of firms fail to comply with slavery law. 6 September 2017.](#)

One third of businesses have failed to complete a modern slavery statement despite being required by law to do so, according to the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS).

[Forthcoming events](#)

[Issara Global Forum: Innovation in Human Rights and Responsible Sourcing, 8-10 November 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand. Registration is now open. Early bird discount extended to 13 October 2017.](#)

This three-day multi-stakeholder forum intends to be an in-depth immersion and exchange for all participants - including global buyers, Southeast Asian suppliers and recruitment agencies, development donors, NGOs from around the world, and Asian government officials - on innovation and emerging good practice in ethical sourcing.

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