

April 2018

**Seafood Ethics Common Language Group e-alert**  
(amalgamation of news alerts issued to SECLG circulation list by email in April 2018)

**Seafood Ethics Common Language Group**

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

**Seafish news**

**[New Seafish briefing note. Social responsibility in seafood – Seafish role.](#)** April 2018.

**UK news**

**[Implementation of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention 2007 \(ILO 188\) into UK Law.](#)** 4 April 2018.

The ILO 188 Consultation Outcome and detail on the feedback received is now online. The MCA notified more than fifty organisations and companies that the public consultation was underway. Many of the organisations represent many fishermen/fishing vessel owners and sent the information to their membership. Twenty-five written responses were received. Having considered the responses, MCA is developing its proposals. As proposals are agreed on each of the areas which attracted comments, the “consultation outcome” document will be updated.

**[Ghanaian men in possible trafficking case are in State care.](#)** 16 April 2018.

Four men each paid €1,187 to an agent to get them placed in fishing jobs in the UK. The four Ghanaian men, whom gardaí believe may have been trafficked to work in the fishing industry, have been taken into the care of the State. If gardaí feel they have sufficient evidence to pursue a case, they will be given leave to remain as witnesses, and will be allowed to work.

**[2nd International Maritime Human Rights Conference 2018.](#)** 29 October 2018, Fishmongers’ Hall, London.

This year’s conference theme will focus on the timely and topical theme of ‘Maritime Business and Human Rights’, with a particular focus on providing companies with up-to-date background business and human rights information triggering pertinent business discussions and highlighting voluntary tools for further achieving ongoing and lasting change supporting Return on Investment.

**Asia**

**[Thai fishermen on strike over EU regulations.](#)** 10 April 2018.

More than a thousand fishing boats went on strike in protest against what they called overburdening laws introduced by their government to ensure Thai fishing operators comply with EU regulations. The European Union gave Thailand a 'yellow card', or a final warning, in 2015 for its failure to effectively stop illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) and threatened to stop importing of processed seafood to Europe.

**[UN examines rights in Thai workplaces.](#)** 5 April 2018.

UN experts have presented their preliminary observations on the state of human rights in Thailand's private sector and provided recommendations to the government and businesses to improve corporate respect for human rights and strengthen access to effective remedies. A delegation from the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, who arrived in Thailand on March 26, said that despite the far-reaching general political restrictions imposed by the military regime, they were given full autonomy in conducting their 10-day analysis and thanked the government for its cooperation. During the visit, the experts consulted government officials, the business sector, and a

wide range of civil society actors, including representatives of groups particularly at risk from business-related human rights abuses, such as migrant workers, human rights defenders and community activists.

**[The seafood sector has come under intense scrutiny.](#) 4 April 2018.**

Thailand's fishing industry has made significant progress in curbing abuse, but measures to prevent rights violations must now be adopted in other sectors, and by Thai firms operating overseas, United Nations experts said. The government must also allow activists to speak up without fear of retribution and better protect migrant workers, said the U.N. working group on business and human rights. "We recognise that a lot has been done to stamp out abusive practices in the fishing industry, but the glass is half empty, and a lot remains to be done," Dante Pesce told reporters at the end of a 10-day visit.

**[Thailand prepares fisheries sector for EU inspection this week.](#) 3 April 2018.**

The Commander of the Royal Thai Navy has ordered all relevant agencies to work to their utmost to prepare for an inspection by the European Union set to take place on April 4 and has asked members of the fishing industry to heed any suggestions for change.

**[Fishing sector 'shipshape' ahead of EU scrutiny.](#) 3 April 2018.**

In a bid to get the European Union's yellow card lifted from the lucrative fishery sector, Thai authorities have completed the registration of migrant workers ahead of a visit by an EU inspection team.

**[EU officials take fact-finding trip on Taiwanese efforts to curb IUU.](#) 14 March 2018.**

European Commission officials will visit Taiwan to gain a better understanding of the efforts to curb illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and decide whether to lift a "yellow card" warning imposed in 2015. It has been two and a half years since the EU placed Taiwan on its "yellow card" warning list in October 2015 for insufficient cooperation in combating IUU fishing. Officials from the commission are slated to take a fact-finding trip to Taiwan from March 13-21 to assess whether Taiwan's fisheries management and far sea fishing practices have improved, the Fisheries Agency said, adding that they are scheduled to submit a report after the visit.

**[Reports and new initiatives](#)**

**[Can a new app more safely identify human trafficking victims?](#) 9 April 2018.**

In northern, central, and southern Thailand, several groups fighting forced labor and sex trafficking are testing out a new way to identify potential victims. A mobile app dubbed Apprise seeks to provide a cost-efficient platform to interview those who may be trafficking victims — and to disrupt the often biased or unsafe measures by which many groups conduct interviews. The app, which will be free to use and is currently being piloted in Thailand, has been designed with targeted question lists that address forced labor in the fishing industry and in manufacturing settings, as well as lists addressing sex trafficking and forced begging. An eight-question emergency list, meanwhile, provides a quicker way to prescreen a potential victim without focusing on a particular setting. The power of the app is in the 14 languages the questions lists have now been translated into, including several dialects.

**[Council of Europe report. Modern-day slavery on the rise in Europe.](#) 4 April 2018.**

The number of identified victims of labor trafficking has increased in every European country monitored twice by the Strasbourg-based human rights body Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), according to the [report](#). In some countries — including Belgium, Cyprus, Georgia, Portugal, Serbia and the U.K. — labor exploitation has overtaken sex trafficking as the primary form of human trafficking. Men working in agriculture, hospitality and fisheries are most at

risk of exploitation. Migrant workers are particularly at risk of exploitation, according to the report, which also points to recruitment via the internet and social media as a growing trend. The report calls on national authorities in European countries to improve their monitoring of the practice and to prosecute traffickers. It recommends working with NGOs and businesses, as well as collecting data and introducing comprehensive legislation to tackle the issue”.

**[BHRRC Modern Slavery Reporting: Case Studies of Leading Practice. April 2018](#)**

This [briefing](#) provides examples of good practice found in the thousands statements made under the UK Modern Slavery Act. It aims to inform government and investor engagement with companies around modern slavery. The briefing provides examples of good practice found in the thousands of compliance statements now available on our Modern Slavery Registry and our benchmarking of the FTSE 100 companies’ statements. The briefing also highlights serious gaps where few or no companies are performing well. We hope that the best practice and gap analyses will encourage informed engagement with companies by investors, civil society, and governments; and facilitate informed reflection within companies regarding their next steps to eliminate modern slavery from their operations and supply chains.

**[Consultants Sought to Assess Social Impact of BAP Certification. 2 April 2018. Deadline for applications is 20 April 2018.](#)**

The Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA) has announced a call for proposals to assess the social impact of the Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) certification. GAA is calling for an independent team of consultants to evaluate the social impact of the BAP certification. The goal of the study is to better understand how BAP’s social and labor standards are applied and how they impact practices among seafood farmers, processors and buyers. Currently, there are more than 2,000 BAP-certified processing plants, farms, hatcheries, and feed mills in 33 countries and six continents. This study will focus on a selection of countries in each continent and investigate impact through data analysis and stakeholder interviews. Interested consultants should submit applications to E: [Avery Siciliano](#)

**[Developing a financially viable ethical recruitment model: Prospects for the Myanmar-Thailand recruitment channel. April 2018.](#)**

A new Issara Institute report on labour recruitment from Myanmar to Thailand proposes a viable, sustainable financial and partnership model for getting ethical recruitment off the ground in locations such as Thailand where existing practice is 'worker pays' rather than 'employer pays'. The research provides insight regarding the current Myanmar-Thailand recruitment channel, prospects for ethical recruitment, and risks and solutions for business and workers that have not previously come to light. Recruitment practices including first-mile debt bondage are a major cause of labour risk and migrant worker vulnerabilities in Thai supply chains, and impacts almost every export-oriented supply chain. In conjunction with this report, Issara has also developed an [ethical recruitment program](#) and diagnostic tool to help interested suppliers (and brands/retailers/importers) get on a more ethical recruitment track. We are embedding this program into our core Inclusive Labour Monitoring (ILM) work.

**[Researching Modern Slavery in the UK. A survey of research about UK modern slavery by UK-based researchers. April 2018.](#)**

A research report from the Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and the University of Nottingham’s Rights Lab the report [Modern Slavery Research: the UK Picture](#) aimed: to improve estimates on the number of people in modern slavery and the underlying methodology to obtain these; to further understand the risks and vulnerabilities to modern slavery in the UK; to continue to understand the experience of modern slavery among different victim groups, including those from different social, cultural and economic backgrounds; to continue to examine the differential impact of modern slavery on different groups demarcated by age, gender, ethnicity, national origin, religion

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or sexual orientation or practice; and to build on ongoing research efforts, including by IASC on offenders.

**[UN Global Compact: Business: it's time to act. Decent work, modern slavery and child labour. About the role of business. April 2018.](#)**

This brief guide, developed as part of the Decent Work in Global Supply Chains Action Platform, offers a quick overview of the steps businesses can take to help eliminate modern slavery, while highlighting key resources, initiatives and engagement opportunities to support business action. It identifies a five step approach for businesses to help eliminate modern slavery and has a useful list of key resources, initiatives and opportunities to engage.

**[Notes on Innovation Forum conference. How business can tackle modern slavery and forced labour. From legislation to real practice: How to manage risk and eradicate slavery from operations and supply chains. 7-8 March 2018, London.](#)**

*This is an amalgamation of the news alerts issued in April 2018.*