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Seafish Insight: Fishing references by country in 2023 TIP report

Source: 2023 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report

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2023 Trafficking in Persons report.

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This is an analysis of the fishing references in the 2023 Trafficking in Persons report. It is not necessarily the view of Seafish. It is an information service provided by Seafish for industry and key stakeholders.

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Overall highlights

The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report is the US Government's principal diplomatic tool to engage foreign governments on human trafficking. The US Department of State Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report 2023 was published on 15 June 2023.

The TIP report is an annual report issued by the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. It ranks governments based on their perceived efforts to acknowledge and combat human trafficking. It is a standard-bearer for the principles enshrined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) and the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol (Palermo Protocol - an international framework to tackle trafficking, established in 2000).

The 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report provides a comprehensive overview of the state of human trafficking around the world and the tools we are using to strengthen our response and coordination. It also highlights the stories of survivors and emerging tactics used by traffickers, and provides recommendations on how we can work better together to address this crime. The report recognises that partnerships are the essential foundation for sustainable and successful anti-trafficking work, and recognises the powerful partnerships taking root across the world to address human trafficking.

A quick analysis of the 2023 TIP report shows:
- 188 countries are mentioned in the TIP report.
- Each country is ranked according to a number of criteria (see description on page 5). The narrative for each country looks at prosecution, protection and prevention and describes how a government has or has not addressed the relevant TVPA minimum standards during the reporting period.
  - Tier 1 – 30 countries (30 in 2022)
  - Tier 2 – 105 countries (99 in 2022)
  - Tier 2 Watch List – 26 countries (34 in 2022)
  - Tier 3 – 24 countries (22 in 2022)
  - Special case – 3 (3 in 2022)
- Fish or fishing is mentioned is association with forced labour in 65 of the 188 countries in 2023. This is an increase of 7 countries (58 countries in 2022, 54 in 2021, 50 in 2020, 49 from 2017 – 2019, 51 in 2016).
- Of the 65 countries where fishing is mentioned:
  - Tier 1 – 7 countries (7 in 2022, 9 in 2021)
  - Tier 2 – 38 countries (34 in 2022, 24 in 2021)
  - Tier 2 Watch – 13 countries (12 in 2022, 18 in 2021)
  - Tier 3 – 6 countries (5 in 2022, 3 in 2021)
  - Special case – 1 country
- The United Kingdom entry makes specific reference to the transit visa scheme.
- Countries that have been singled out specifically with regards to fishing include: Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China PRC, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Ireland, Korea (Republic of), Marshall Islands, Papa New Guinea, Philippines, Soloman Islands, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. Of these countries please note (in this report):
  - Indonesia has been upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2.
  - Marshall Islands has been downgraded from Tier 2 to Tier 2 Watch List.
  - Papa New Guinea downgraded from Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 3.
  - Solomon Islands has been downgraded from Tier 2 to Tier 2 Watch List.
  - Vietnam upgraded from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List.
  - Despite calls for downgrading Taiwan stays at Tier 1 and Thailand at Tier 2.

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About the TIP rankings

The TIP report is released annually by the US Department of State. It 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.

The Department places each country into one of four tiers, as mandated by the TVPA. This placement is based not on the size of a country's problem but on the extent of government efforts to meet the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking (see page 58-61), which are generally consistent with the Palermo Protocol. While Tier 1 is the highest ranking, it does not mean that a country has no human trafficking problem or that it is doing enough to address the crime. Rather, a Tier 1 ranking indicates that a government has made efforts to address the problem that meet the TVPA's minimum standards. To maintain a Tier 1 ranking, governments need to demonstrate appreciable progress each year in combating trafficking. Tier 1 represents a responsibility rather than a reprieve.

- **Tier 1:** Countries whose governments fully meet the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) 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 US, 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 (and who would otherwise be ranked Tier 2 Watch List for the next year) will instead be ranked Tier 3 in that third year. The Secretary of State is authorised to waive this automatic downgrade only once, in that third year, based on credible evidence that a waiver is justified because the government has a written plan that, if implemented, would constitute making significant efforts to meet the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is devoting sufficient resources to implement the plan. Tier 3 could result in restrictions on non-humanitarian and non-trade-related foreign assistance from the US at the discretion of the President.

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Fishing references by country (alphabetical and verbatim)

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	**Previous**	
Angola	Tier 2	Tier 2 same as 2021 and 2022	• Traffickers exploit Angolans, including children as young as 12 years old, in forced labour in the brick making, domestic service, construction, agriculture, fisheries, and artisanal diamond mining sectors.
Australia	Tier 1	Consistently Tier 1.	• Traffickers exploit men in forced labour in the fishing and maritime industries; some fishing vessels that transit or dock at Australian ports use physical abuse to force men to perform labour.
Bangladesh	Tier 2	Tier 2 since 2020. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2018 and 2019	• Traffickers use coercive debts to force Bangladeshi families and Indian migrants to work in the shrimp and fish processing industries, aluminium, tea, garment factories, brick kilns, dry fish production, and shipbreaking. A study estimated that approximately 40,000 children are forced to work at dry fish processing units while their parents receive money advances against the children's salaries. • Rohingya girls and boys are recruited from camps and forced to labour as shop hands, fishers, rickshaw pullers, and domestic workers. • Some Rohingya men who fled to Bangladesh from Burma decades ago have been trapped in forced labour through debt-based coercion to Bangladeshi fishermen for years.
Belize	Tier 2	Same as 2022	• People's Republic of China nationals may be vulnerable to forced labour on fishing vessels registered in Belize.
Brunei	New entry	Tier 2 Watch List	• Allocate resources and develop the capacity to proactively screen for trafficking at People's Republic of China (PRC) worksites and on fishing vessels in Brunei's exclusive economic zone. • The Government of Brunei increasingly issued contracts to PRC construction companies, including through the Belt and Road Initiative, and commercial fishing vessels that employed tens of thousands of migrant workers

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Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	**Previous**	
Burma	Tier 3 ⟷	Tier 3 since 2018, downgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2017	• Burma does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so, even considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its anti-trafficking capacity; therefore Burma remained on Tier 3. • Most vessel owners continued to staff their crews through unregulated and unlicensed Thai and Burmese intermediaries, charging high recruitment fees that continued to place Burmese fishermen at risk of debt-based coercion into forced labour. • Local traffickers use deceptive tactics to recruit men and boys into forced labour on palm oil and rubber plantations; in bamboo, teak, and rice harvesting; and in riparian fishing. • Traffickers subject Burmese males transiting Thailand en route to Indonesia and Malaysia to forced labour, primarily in fishing and other labour-intensive industries. • Recruitment agencies in Burma and other Southeast Asian countries lure fishermen with promises of high wages, and then charge fees, and curtailment deposits to assign them fake identities and labour permit documents while sending them to fish long hours in remote waters on vessels operating under complex multinational flagging and ownership arrangements • Senior crew aboard vessels in the Thai and Taiwanese fishing fleets subject some Burmese men to forced labour through debt-based coercion, passport confiscation, contract switching, wage garnishing and withholding, 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. • Informal brokers also lure Burmese men onto offshore fishing and shrimping rafts in Burmese waters, where traffickers confine and physically abuse them to retain their labour for months at a time. • There are some reports of boys subjected to forced labour in Burma's fishing industry. Companies operating under the auspices of the Japanese government's "Technical Intern Training Program" have exploited Burmese nationals in forced labour in food processing, manufacturing, construction, and fishing.
Burundi	Tier 2 ⟷	Same as 2022. Improved from Tier 2 Watch List in 2021, Tier 3 2016 - 2020	• An NGO noted children are forcefully employed in the agriculture, forestry, fishery, and charcoal sectors. • NGOs report that fishermen exploit some boys in the Lake Tanganyika fisheries in forced labour.

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Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
Cabo Verde	Tier 2 ⟷	Same as 2022. New entry in 2022.	• Cabo Verdean children engaged in begging, domestic work, street vending, car washing, construction, garbage picking, fishing, and agriculture are vulnerable to trafficking.
Cambodia	Tier 3 ⟷	Same as 2022. Downgraded from Tier 2 Watch List 2019 - 2021, and Tier 2 2016 – 2018	• The government continued to cooperate with an NGO to provide services to male victims exploited in the Thai commercial fishing industry. Service provider NGOs noted an acute lack of reintegration services and cultural stigma surrounding the experience of forced labour at sea catalysed re-trafficking of fishermen returning home. • Cambodian adults and children migrate to other countries within the region and increasingly to the Middle East for work; traffickers force many – often through debt-based coercion – to work on fishing vessels. • Traffickers continue to recruit significant numbers of Cambodian men and boys in Thailand to work on fishing boats and exploit them in forced labour on Thai-owned and -operated vessels in international waters. • Cambodian men working on Thai-owned and -operated fishing vessels report deceptive recruitment tactics, severe physical abuse, underpayment or non payment of wages, restricted access to medical care, and confinement at sea for years at a time without permission to come ashore.
Cameroon	Tier 2 ⬆	Improved from Tier 2 Watch List (2020 to 2022). Downgraded from Tier 2 in 2018 and 2019. Tier 2 Watch List in 2016 and 2017	• Media reporting indicates exploitation in Cameroon's fishing sector is widespread.
Chad	Tier 3 ⬇	Down from Tier 2 Watch List 202 to 2022. Downgraded from Tier 2 in 2019 but Tier 2 Watch List in 2018	• In the Lake Chad region, community members exploit some children in catching, smoking, and selling fish.
China PRC (People's Republic of China)	Tier 3 ⟷	Since 2019. No mention of fishing in 2018	• The government did not report any measures to screen for, or identify, forced labour indicators among the thousands of vulnerable migrant seafarers employed on PRC national-owned DWF vessels, nor within its extensive coastal offshore fishing fleet. • PRC fishermen subjected to forced labour generally could not report abuses to local authorities or access protection services when returning to the PRC.

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	**Previous**	
			• The PRC government did not report continuing to implement or expand pilot programs initiated in prior years to reduce trafficking vulnerabilities among foreign seafarers hired informally or illegally to work onboard vessels in the PRC's global fishing fleet. • African and Asian men reportedly experience conditions indicative of forced labor aboard PRC-flagged and PRC national-owned, foreign-flagged fishing vessels operating worldwide in the PRC's DWF; men from other regions may be in forced labour aboard these vessels as well. • Companies operating under the auspices of the Japanese government's "Technical Intern Training Program" have subjected PRC nationals to forced labour, often through debt bondage, in food processing, manufacturing, construction, and fishing. • Traffickers also subject PRC seafarers to forced labour on board fishing vessels in Taiwan's highly vulnerable DWF, in Papua New Guinea's exclusive economic zone and surrounding maritime territories, and on foreign-flagged cargo vessels operating in the Pacific Ocean. • Many men from countries in Africa, Asia (especially Indonesia and the Philippines), and other regions employed on many of the 2,900 PRC-flagged DWF fishing vessels operating worldwide experience contract discrepancies, excessive working hours, degrading living conditions, severe verbal and physical abuse, sexual abuse, denial of access to healthcare, restricted communication, document retention, arbitrary garnishing or non payment of wages, and other forced labour indicators, often while being forced to remain at sea for months or years at a time.
Comoros	Tier 2 ⬆	Improved from Tier 3 since 2016	• Traffickers on Anjouan may subject children, some of whom were left behind by parents in pursuit of economic opportunities in other countries, to labour trafficking in domestic service, roadside and market vending, baking, fishing, and agriculture.
Congo, Republic of the Dominion Republic	Tier 2 Watch ⬇ List	Downgraded from Tier 2 in 2021 and 2022. Re-entry. No mention of fishing in 2020	• Foreign business owners and Congolese exploit most foreign victims in forced labour in domestic service, market vending, and the fishing sector. • Individuals in the fishing industry and market shop owners were the primary exploiters of victims within the country.
Ecuador	Tier 2 ↔	Tier 2 since 2018	• Traffickers exploit Ecuadorian adults and children in sex trafficking and forced labour within the country, including in domestic service; begging; banana, abaca hemp, and palm plantations; floriculture; shrimp farming; fishing; sweatshops; street vending; mining; and other areas of the informal economy. • Workers in illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing are vulnerable to forced labour. Operators of foreign-flagged vessels often subjected workers to forced labour and coerced them to illegally cross into sovereign territories, risking criminalization.

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Fiji	Tier 2 ⟷	Same as 2021 and 2022. Improved from Tier 2 Watch List 2018 to 2020, downgraded from Tier 2 in 2016 and 2017	• Family members, taxi drivers, foreign tourists, businessmen, crew on foreign fishing vessels, and other traffickers have allegedly exploited victims from Thailand and the People's Republic of China (PRC), as well as Fijian women and children in sex trafficking. • Recruitment agencies operating in victims' home countries, vessel owners, and other crew exploit migrant fisherman from Southeast Asian countries, especially Indonesia, in forced labour on Fijian-flagged fishing vessels or foreign-flagged fishing vessels (mainly PRC- and Taiwan-flagged) transiting Fijian ports and waters.
France	Tier 1 ⟷	New entry in 2021. Same as 2021 and 2022.	• Labour trafficking most frequently occurs in domestic work, followed by construction, small commerce, agriculture, fishing, and livestock;
Gabon	Tier 2 Watch List ⟷	Same as 2022. Downgraded from Tier 2 2020 to 2021. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2019. Tier 3 in 2018. Tier 2 Watch List 2016 & 2017	• Traffickers exploit girls in forced labour in domestic service, markets, or roadside restaurants; force boys to work as street vendors, mechanics, microbus transportation assistants, and labourers in the fishing sector
Ghana	Tier 2 ⟷	Tier 2 since 2018. Tier 2 Watch List in 2016 and 2017	• Traffickers reportedly bribed law enforcement officials and government-appointed monitors in charge of inspecting Ghanaian-flagged fishing vessels for illegal practices, including forced labour. • The government did not adequately inspect Ghanaian-flagged fishing vessels for indicators of forced labour; while government-appointed monitors inspected some vessels for illegal fishing practices and indicators of forced labour, they were often threatened or bribed to issue false reports. • Traffickers exploit Ghanaian children in forced labour in inland and coastal fishing, domestic service, street hawking, begging, portering, artisanal gold mining, quarrying, herding, and agriculture, especially in the cocoa sector. • Traffickers exploit children as young as four in forced labor in Lake Volta's fishing industry and use violence and limited access to food to control victims. Traffickers force boys to work in hazardous conditions, including in deep diving, and girls perform work onshore, such as preparing the fish for markets. Women and girls working in the fishing sector are vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation, including sex trafficking.

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			• An NGO estimated 90% of fishing vessels operating in Ghana are owned by PRC-based companies. Traffickers operating fishing vessels flagged to Ireland and the United Kingdom also exploit Ghanaian workers in forced labour, allegedly in cooperation with some Ghanaian recruitment agencies. PRC nationals working in Ghana may be in forced labour in the formal and informal mining sectors and in fishing.
Guinea	Tier 2 ⬆	Improved from Tier Watch List 2020 to 2022. Downgraded from Tier 2 in 2019, Tier 2 Watch List in 2018, Tier 3 in 2016 and 2017	• Traffickers exploit boys in forced labour in begging, street vending, shoe shining, mining for gold and diamonds, herding, fishing, and agriculture, including farming and on coffee, cashew, and cocoa plantations.
Guinea-Bissau	Tier 3	New entry	• Children placed in apprenticeships by their families in fishing, construction, and mechanical shops are vulnerable to labour trafficking.
Haiti	Tier 2 Watch List ⬌	Same as 2021 and 2022. Downgraded from Tier 2 in 2019 and 2020. Tier 2 Watch List in 2017 and 2018, and Tier 3 in 2016	• Traffickers also target children in private and NGO-sponsored residential care centres; Haitian children working in construction, agriculture, fisheries, domestic work, begging, and street vending; IDPs, including those displaced by natural disasters.
Indonesia	Tier 2 ⬆	Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2022. Downgraded from Tier 2 2016 - 2020	• The government also operated two centres in Indonesia to receive complaints from and assist exploited fishermen. For the second year, the government did not report whether the centres received any complaints or whether it assisted fishermen through any other mechanisms. The government last reported repatriating 589 Indonesian fishermen from abuse or exploitation on 98 People's Republic of China- (PRC) flagged fishing vessels in 2020. • Although a 2020 regulation of the 2017 migrant worker law defined and exempted Indonesian migrant workers from placement fees, including fees for flights, visas, passports, job training, and accommodation, many workers still reported paying these fees, including 89% of Indonesian fishermen surveyed from 2021-2022. • The government did not effectively implement labour regulations for the fishing sector. Civil society groups noted many Indonesian and migrant fishermen were unaware of their rights and responsibilities and unprepared for work in the absence of standardized, employer-paid pre-departure and post-arrival orientation and training. • The government issued Regulation No. 22 of 2022, as required by the 2017 migrant worker law, and it required the provision of pre-departure orientation to Indonesian

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Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
			migrant workers in fishing, including information on labour rights and safety at sea, but it did not specify whether the government or employers should fund and provide the orientation.
			• The government continued to implement a 2020 ban on Indonesian fishermen working aboard PRC-flagged vessels, vessels operated by PRC-state owned companies, and South Korean- and Taiwanese-flagged vessels operating outside of their Exclusive Economic Zones. Some traffickers target Indonesian fishermen from Java, including poor farm workers, fraudulently recruit them with promises of high salaries and good working conditions, provide illicit travel documents, and make them sign contracts so hard to break that experts call them "slavery contracts."
			• In Indonesian waters and elsewhere, some senior vessel crew force fishermen to engage in illegal practices, making them vulnerable to criminalization. Some senior vessel crew on PRC, Korean, Vanuatuan, Taiwan, Thai, Malaysian, Italian, UK, and Philippines-flagged and/or owned fishing vessels operating in Indonesian, Thai, Sri Lankan, Mauritian, Namibian, and Indian waters subject Indonesian fishermen to forced labour. Most Indonesian fishermen work aboard vessels in Taiwan and Korea's secluded distant water fleets, impeding their ability to report abuse and exploitation.
			• Recruitment agencies in Burma, Indonesia, and Thailand similarly lure fishermen with promises of high wages but then charge fees, curtail deposits, assign them fake identity documents and labour permits, and force them to fish for long hours on vessels that operate under complex multinational flagging and ownership arrangements and sometimes do not return to shore for months or years at a time, which permits abusive senior crews to exploit workers with impunity.
			• Fishermen on these vessels have reported low or unpaid salaries; coercive tactics such as contract discrepancies, document retention, restricted communication and movement, poor living and working conditions; physical violence; and severe physical and sexual abuse.
			• In a survey of 35 fishermen on Indonesian-flagged vessels, 71% reported they did not have possession of their identity documents, and more than 88%reported substantial salary deductions and irregular wages – indicators of forced labour. Indonesian fishermen have reported persistent physical violence, 20-hour shifts, and lack of food on PRC fishing vessels – indicators of forced labour – and authorities have removed hundreds of exploited Indonesians from such vessels and recorded the deaths of 12 others between from 2019- 2020.
			• Some PRC-, Korean-, and Taiwanese-flagged vessels keep Indonesian workers after completion of their contracts until the company secures replacement workers.

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	**Previous**	
Ireland	Tier 2 ⟷	Same as 2022. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2020 and 2021. Downgraded from Tier 2 in 2018 and 2019, and Tier 1 in 2016 and 2017	• The Government of Ireland does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so. The government demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared with the previous reporting period, considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its anti-trafficking capacity, if any; therefore Ireland remained on Tier 2. These efforts included increasing funding for victim care and awareness raising efforts. The government also terminated the Atypical Working Scheme (AWS) for non-European Economic Area (EEA) sea fishers, which inadvertently increased worker vulnerabilities to trafficking. • Only two of the 41 identified victims in 2022 were sea fishers, a decrease from the prior year. Identification of trafficking victims in the fishing sector has been uneven, with seven trafficking victims formally identified in 2021, zero in 2020 and 2019, and 20 in 2018. • Despite the government formally identifying 33 sea fisher victims since the establishment of the AWS in 2016 and police finding sufficient evidence of trafficking to refer at least nine cases to the ODPP, there have been no prosecutions of trafficking in the fishing sector. Officials from the Department of Justice (DOJ) continued to deny the existence of trafficking within the industry. Furthermore, of the formally recognized trafficking victims, 18 participated in the AWS, which has had 455 participants from 2016 to 2021, resulting in approximately four percent of participants exploited in trafficking. • A civil society organization expressed concern it had become more difficult for sea fisher trafficking victims to obtain admittance into the NRM. • The AWS was initially established in 2016 in response to reports of labour exploitation of sea fishers outside the EEA; however, subsequent consistent reports from civil society and media have concluded the AWS failed to address worker vulnerabilities and exploitation, and instead often exacerbated them. The AWS was established outside of the normal regulatory framework for the recruitment of non-EEA nationals and was therefore not subject to the same salary requirements, labour market tests, and other provisions. Furthermore, unlike other industry sectors, the AWS did not qualify non-EEA sea fishers to receive a stamp 4 visa after five years, the receipt of which would allow non-EEA sea fishers to work in Ireland without being tied to a specific employer. • In 2021, a university published a report, which featured in-depth interviews with 24 male non-EEA sea fishers in the Irish fishing industry; the report concluded labour exploitation, and in some cases trafficking, was still prevalent in the Irish fishing industry and the overall conditions in the sector had worsened since the

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
			implementation of the AWS, echoing the conclusions of another NGO report published in 2017.
			• In its 2022 report, GRETA expressed concern that despite the high number of vessel inspections by WRC, law enforcement authorities were investigating cases as employment-related violations instead of labour trafficking and the current conditions of the AWS did not appear to be sufficient to prevent abuse of sea fishers – a sentiment also echoed in the national rapporteur's 2022 report.
			• In 2022, a review group, consisting of senior government officials, published a comprehensive review of the AWS and recommended it be discontinued. Officials instead recommended non-EEA sea fishers be required to apply for work permits under the Departments of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) employment permit scheme. Following the recommendation from the review group, the DOJ closed the permission system for fishers for new online applications on December 31, 2022, to transition from the AWS system to the Employment Permit system. While the government had not begun issuing work permits to non-EEA sea fishers under the DETE permit scheme by the close of the reporting period, it did issue stamp four visas to all sea fishers with valid permission under the AWS at its closure.
			• Migrant workers from Ghana, Egypt, and the Philippines are vulnerable to forced labor on fishing vessels. In December 2022, the media reported instances of sea fishers paying significant fees to recruitment companies in the Philippines prior to arrival in Ireland, which increases their vulnerability to debt bondage and exploitation.

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	Current (2022)	**Previous**	
Jamaica	Tier 2 ⟷	Same as 2016 - 2022	• There have been reports of forced labour of foreign nationals aboard foreign-flagged fishing vessels operating in Jamaican waters.
Japan	Tier 2 ⟷	Same as 2020 - 2022. Downgraded from Tier 1 in 2018 and 2019	• Cases of labour trafficking continue within TITP, a government-run program originally designed to foster basic technical skills among foreign workers that has effectively become a guest-worker programme. TITP participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, Cambodia, the PRC, India, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam pay sending organizations in their home countries thousands of dollars in excessive worker-paid fees, deposits, or vague "commissions" – despite bilateral agreements between sending countries and Japan aimed at curbing the practice – to secure jobs in fishing, food processing, shellfish cultivation, ship building, construction, textile production, and manufacturing of electronic components, automobiles, and other large machinery.
Kenya	Tier 2 ⟷	Same as 2016 - 2022	• Workers in khat cultivation areas and near gold mines in western Kenya, truck drivers along major highways, and fishermen on Lake Victoria also exploit children in sex trafficking. • Traffickers exploit Kenyan children in labour trafficking in domestic service, agriculture, fishing, cattle herding, street vending, and forced begging. Reports indicate criminals and gang members may exploit children in forced criminal activity, including as drug couriers.
Korea (Republic of)	Tier 2 ⟷	Same as 2022. Downgraded from Tier 1 2016 - 2021	• The government identified one case in which traffickers exploited multiple ROK nationals in the fishing industry. Despite NGO concerns that traffickers exploited migrant workers in forced labour in various industries, the government did not identify any migrant workers exploited in labour trafficking and it did not report any migrant fishermen exploited in labour trafficking. • The government reported 100 percent of distant-water fishing vessels were equipped with wireless internet access, which could enable workers to report exploitation while at sea; nonetheless, NGOs reported many fishermen were unable to access their phones while on vessels. • The government amended two existing policies to protect foreign fishermen, but traffickers continued to capitalize on gaps in ROK labour laws to exploit foreign fishermen in forced labour. • NGOs continued to report many migrant fishermen still did not maintain control of their identity documents and that fines for violating this measure were inadequate to deter confiscation of seafarer documents. • NGOs reported some migrant fishermen continued to work long hours, sometimes

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Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	**Previous**	
			more than 18 hours per day. The Seafarers Act required all migrant fishermen receive 280 hours of rest a month; a seafarer and vessel captain could reach an oral agreement on how to allocate those hours over the course of a month. The MOF conducted regular labour inspections, with four inspections per year for distant-water seafarers and two inspections for coastal seafarers. The government reported conducting on-board inspections of 139 coastal fishing vessels and four distant-water fishing vessels in 2022, compared with 177 fishing vessels in 2021. The government also reported conducting paper-based inspections of approximately 720 distant-water fishing vessels. It did not mandate distant-water fishing vessels return to ports for routine labour inspections. • NGOs reported that, unless they required maintenance, distant-water vessels could avoid returning to port and many vessels remained at sea for more than a year at a time, increasing risks for forced labour. MOF distributed surveys to migrant seafarers working on fishing vessels to enable workers to report abuse and disseminated informational posters on reporting human rights abuses in lounges on distant-water fishing vessels. • The government did not adequately regulate the recruitment process for migrant fishermen, and instead a cooperative of private agencies regulated the process and charged a standard recruitment fee of approximately $5,000 to workers, and many paid more than that. The law prohibited some but not all exploitative wage deductions and worker-charged recruitment fees, which enabled traffickers to use debt-based coercion to exploit migrant fishermen, as well as workers in other industries. MOEL reported it required recruiting agencies to publicly list the costs they charged to foreign workers on their webpages. • Traffickers have forced some physically or intellectually disabled South Korean men to work on fishing vessels and fish, salt, and cattle farms. Approximately 200,000 migrant workers employed under the government's Employment Permit System work in fishing, agriculture, livestock, restaurants, and manufacturing. • The ROK is a transit point for Southeast Asian fishermen exploited in forced labour on fishing ships bound for Fiji and other ports in the Pacific. There are ongoing reports of abuse, including forced labour, of migrant workers in the South Korean fishing fleet, one of the world's largest distant water fishing fleets. Recruiters, boat owners, captains, and job brokers often use debt-based coercion to exploit migrant fisherman in forced labor on South Korean-flagged or owned vessels. Reports estimate nearly 4,000 migrant workers, mainly from Indonesia, are employed on these vessels. South Korean distant water fishing vessels frequently use at-sea trans-shipment of catches and can often stay at sea for a year or longer without visiting a port, limiting the ability

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
			of workers to report exploitation to authorities or to safely leave their exploitation. Recruitment agencies and job brokers often charge fishermen excessive recruitment fees, typically around $5,000, increasing their vulnerability to debt-based coercion. Employers often hold the first three months of wages of migrant fishermen on distant water vessels to serve as a "deposit" that they are unable to receive back until the completion of their contract. Such workers can be forced to work excessive hours, up to 18 hours per day, with limited rest hours or days off, abused physically and verbally by boat captains, subjected to salary deductions, provided inadequate food and water, or forced to live and work in unsanitary conditions. NGOs reported recruitment agencies, captains, and skippers retain coastal and distant water fishermen's passports to prevent them from leaving their employment. The use of oral agreements to determine rest days, instead of formal labour contracts, increases fishermen's vulnerability to trafficking.
Laos	Tier 2	Same as 2020 to 2022. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2019. Tier 3 in 2018. Tier 2 Watch List in 2016 and 2017	• Traffickers exploit Lao men and boys in forced labour in Thailand's fishing, construction, and agricultural industries. Lao men are also subjected to forced labor on fishing vessels operating in Indonesian territorial waters.
Madagascar	Tier 2 Watch List	Same as 2022. Downgraded from Tier 2 2019 - 2021, upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2017/2018, Tier 2 in 2016	• Malagasy children, mostly from rural and coastal regions and from impoverished families in urban areas, in child sex trafficking and labour trafficking in domestic work in homes and businesses, mining, street vending, agriculture, textile factories, and fishing across the country.
Malawi	Tier 2	Same as 2020 to 2022. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2019. Tier 2 2016 – 2019	• Traffickers exploit children in forced labour in begging, domestic servitude, small businesses, and potentially in the fishing industry; in past years, some children were coerced to commit crimes.
Maldives	Tier 2	Same as 2021 and 2022. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List 2019 & 2020. No fishing mentions 2018	• Traffickers may have targeted migrant workers on fishing and cargo boats in Maldivian waters for forced labour.
Marshall Islands	Tier 2 Watch List	Downgraded from Tier 2 in 2022. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List 2019 –	• Traffickers, including hotel and bar staff and family members, recruit and transport Marshallese and East Asian women and girls and exploit them in sex trafficking in Marshall Islands with foreign construction workers and crewmembers of foreign fishing and transshipping vessels that dock in Majuro; some of these women and girls

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	**Previous**	
	⬇	2021, downgraded from Tier 2 in 2018, Tier 3 in 2017	have also been confined and subjected to forced childbearing as part of international fraudulent adoption schemes. • Observers report commercial sexual activity involving foreign fishermen has increasingly moved from fishing vessels to local bars, hotels, and suspected commercial sex establishments. • Traffickers also exploit some of these foreign fishermen in conditions indicative of forced labour on ships in Marshallese waters. Traffickers compel foreign women, most of whom are long-term residents of Marshall Islands, into commercial sex in establishments frequented by crewmembers of People's Republic of China (PRC)-affiliated and other foreign fishing vessels.
Mauritania	Tier 2 ⬆	Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2022. Same as 2020 and 2021. Upgraded from Tier 3 2017 - 2019	• Despite reports of labour abuses, including potential indicators of trafficking, the government rarely inspected fishing vessels, processing plants, and boat factories. • Individuals of Haratine and Afro-Mauritanian descent, including children, working in the fisheries, mining, domestic work, livestock-herding, and construction sectors are vulnerable to forced labour. • Traffickers exploit Senegalese children in fishing, domestic work, drug production, and sex trafficking.
Mauritius	Tier 2 Watch List	New entry.	• Traffickers may exploit migrant workers aboard foreign-owned fishing vessels in Mauritius' territorial waters and ports using abuses indicative of labour trafficking, including non payment of wages and physical abuse.
Micronesia, Federated State of	Tier 2 ↔	Same as 2016 - 2022	• Traffickers, including family members, exploit Micronesian women and girls in sex trafficking through commercial sex with the crewmembers of docked Asian fishing vessels, crewmembers on vessels in FSM territorial waters, or 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 ↔	Same as 2019 - 2022, upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2018, Tier 2 in 2016 and 2017	• PRC national workers employed in Mongolia are vulnerable to trafficking as contract laborers in construction, manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, wholesale and retail trade, automobile maintenance, and mining.
Mozambique	Tier 2 Watch List	New entry	• Extremists lure youth to Cabo Delgado with promises of employment in the fishing sector, and then force them to fight with non-state armed groups.

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
Namibia	Tier 2 ⬇	Downgraded from Tier 1 2020 to 2022. Upgraded from Tier 2 2016 – 2019	• Identified 48 foreign male labour trafficking victims on a fishing vessel. • Traffickers bring children from Angola and neighbouring countries and subject them to sex trafficking and forced labour, particularly in agriculture, cattle herding, domestic servitude, street vending in Windhoek and other urban centres, and in the fishing industry. • An NGO noted an increase in exploitation of Namibians seeking economic opportunities abroad and an increase in labour trafficking of adult male victims in Namibia's fishing and agricultural sectors.
Norway	Tier 2 ⬌	Same as 2022.	• Reports indicated forced labour was a serious problem in the fisheries sector. Many fishers are foreign workers who are highly vulnerable to exploitation, including trafficking, aboard fishing vessels, which often operate far from shore. Labour trafficking in this sector is often associated with other criminal activities, such as illegal fishing and environmental crimes.
Pakistan	Tier 2 ⬌	Same as 2022. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List 2020 and 2021. Downgraded from Tier 2 in 2018 and 2019, Tier 2 Watch List in 2016 and 2017	• Traffickers also force men, women, and children to work to pay off exaggerated debts in other sectors in Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, and KP in agriculture and brick kilns and, to a lesser extent, in fisheries, mining, and textile-, bangle-, and carpet-making. In agriculture, traffickers force workers to labour in the agricultural sectors of wheat, cotton, and sugarcane, among other areas.
Palua	Tier 2 ⬆	Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2022. Same as 2021. Downgraded from Tier 2 2016 - 2020	• Foreign workers on fishing boats in Palauan waters also experience conditions indicative of human trafficking. Natural disasters and climate-induced displacement significantly increases Palauans' vulnerability to trafficking because of loss of livelihood, shelter, or family stability.
Papua New Guinea	Tier 3 ⬇	Downgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2021 and 2022. Tier 3 2018 – 2020, Tier 2 Watch List in 2017, Tier 3 in 2016	• In prior years, observers reported a law allowing officials to apprehend foreign fishermen for desertion in port may have dissuaded some forced labour victims from escaping and reporting their abuses. • After their arrival, many of these women – from countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the PRC, and the Philippines – are turned over to traffickers who transport them to logging and mining camps, fisheries, and entertainment sites and exploit them in sex trafficking and domestic servitude. • Burmese, Cambodian, PRC national, Malaysian, Vietnamese, and local men and boys seeking work on fishing vessels go into debt to pay recruitment fees, which vessel owners and senior crew manipulate to coerce them to continue working indefinitely through debt bondage in Papua New Guinea's exclusive economic zone and in other

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	**Previous**	
			maritime territories, particularly in tuna fishing. These fishermen may face little to no pay, contract switching, wage garnishing or withholding, harsh working and living conditions, restricted communication, and threats of physical violence as coercive tactics to retain their labour. • Often with direct government support, companies reportedly compel these workers to carry out illegal logging and fishing activities, making them vulnerable to forced criminality
Philippines	Tier 1	Same as 2016 -2022	• Traffickers exploit women and children from rural communities, conflict- and disaster-affected areas, and impoverished urban centres in sex trafficking, forced domestic work, forced begging, and other forms of forced labour in tourist destinations and urban areas around the country, and traffickers exploit men in forced labour in the agricultural, construction, fishing, and maritime industries, sometimes through debt-based coercion. • Traffickers exploit a significant number of Filipino migrant workers in sex or labour trafficking in numerous industries, including industrial fishing, shipping, construction, manufacturing, education, home health care, and agriculture, as well as in domestic work, janitorial service, and other hospitality-related jobs, particularly in the Middle East, Europe, and Asia, but also in all other regions.
Poland	Tier 2	Same as 2022.	• Traffickers exploit migrants in forced labour among Poland's growing Ukrainian, Belarusian, Filipino, and Vietnamese populations, particularly in agriculture, restaurants, construction, domestic work, and the garment and fish processing industries.
Portugal	Tier 2	New entry	• In 2021, the government reported establishing two sub-working groups focused on human trafficking in the fishing industry around the Tagus River.
Senegal	Tier 2	New entry	• PRC national-owned and operated fishing vessels flagged to Senegal may exploit West African men, including Senegalese, and PRC nationals in forced labour. North Korean nationals working in Senegal may be operating under exploitative working conditions and display multiple indicators of forced labour. The pandemic's impact on Senegal's economy, particularly the informal sector and foreign vessels' decimation of its fishing stock, caused a surge in irregular migration to Europe, including Spain; these migrants are vulnerable to trafficking.
Seychelles	Tier 1	Upgraded from Tier 2 in 2021 and 2022. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2020. Tier 2	• More than 15,000 migrant workers – primarily individuals from Bangladesh and India, and to a lesser extent the People's Republic of China, Kenya, Madagascar, Philippines, and other countries in South Asia – make up approximately 25 percent of the working population in Seychelles and are employed in fishing, farming,

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	Current (2022)	**Previous**	
	⬆	in 2019, Tier 2 Watch List in 2018, Tier 2 in 2017, Tier 2 Watch List in 2016	construction, security, caregiving, and domestic work; traffickers exploit migrant workers in these sectors. • Previous reports indicate migrant workers aboard foreign-flagged fishing vessels in Seychelles' territorial waters and ports are subject to conditions indicative of labour trafficking, including non payment of wages and physical abuse.
Sierra Leone	Tier 2 ⬌	Same as 2020 to 2022. Tier 2 Watch List in 2018 and 2019, Tier 2 in 2016 and 2017	• Traffickers exploit victims in fishing and agriculture and sex trafficking or forced labour through customary practices, such as forced marriages. • Traffickers exploit women and girls in sex trafficking on commercial fishing boats. In 2018, an NGO reported PRC national-owned companies helped to fuel child sex trafficking in Freetown, citing workers on PRC national-owned fishing vessels exploit girls in sex trafficking.
Singapore	Tier 1 ⬌	Same as 2020 to 2022. Tier 2 in 2016 - 2019	• Traffickers may exploit Asian men in labour trafficking on fishing vessels that could transit or dock at Singaporean ports.
Solomon Islands	Tier 2 Watch List ⬇	Downgraded from Tier 2 2017 to 2022, Tier 2 Watch List in 2016	• The government did not report implementing a policy framework, developed in partnership with international organizations during the previous reporting period, to set minimum terms and conditions for crewmembers working on licensed foreign and domestic-flagged fishing vessels operating in Solomon Islands' waters in an effort to address trafficking risks among crewmembers. • For the fourth consecutive year, the Labour Division did not report conducting any monitoring or inspection activities at logging operations or in the fishing or mining sectors despite continued reports of trafficking indicators in these sectors. • Labour traffickers exploit men from Indonesia and Malaysia in the logging, fishing, palm oil, and mining industries. Fishermen from Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Fiji report situations indicative of labour trafficking, including non-payment of wages, dire living conditions, violence, and limited food supply, on Taiwan-flagged fishing vessels in Solomon Islands' territorial waters and ports. • Traffickers exploit Solomon Islander children in labour and sex trafficking within the country, sometimes in exchange for money or goods, particularly near foreign logging camps, on foreign and local commercial fishing vessels, and at hotels, casinos, nightclubs, and other entertainment establishments. • Some official corruption – especially in relation to facilitating irregular migration and involvement in the fishing and forestry sectors – may facilitate trafficking. •

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Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	Previous	
Somalia	Special case	New entry	• Traffickers may exploit children in forced labour in agriculture, domestic work, herding, selling or portering khat, crushing stones, fishing, forced begging, or construction.
South Africa	Tier 2 Watch List	Same as 2021 and 2022. Downgraded from Tier 2 in 2020. Tier 2 Watch List in 2018 and 2019, Tier 2 in 2016 and 2017	• The government did not comprehensively monitor or investigate forced labour of adults or children in the agricultural, mining, construction, and fishing sectors and labour inspectors lacked necessary training to effectively identify trafficking. • Traffickers force both adults and children, particularly those from socioeconomically disadvantaged communities and rural areas as well as migrants, into labour in domestic service, mining, food services, construction, criminal activities, agriculture, and the fishing sector. • Traffickers exploit foreign male victims aboard fishing vessels in South Africa's territorial waters. Asian workers may travel to South Africa via commercial flights to disembark on fishing vessels where they are exploited.
Suriname	Tier 2	Same as 2019 - 2022, upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2017 and 2018, Tier 3 in 2016	• Adult and child migrant workers in agriculture, retail shops, construction, and on fishing boats off Suriname's coast are at risk of trafficking, as are children working in agriculture, small construction, gold mines, and informal urban sectors.
Taiwan	Tier 1	Same as 2016 - 2022	• Authorities increased protection efforts, but implementation of monitoring and referral procedures remained insufficient to adequately identify and provide services to forced labour victims among the foreign crewmembers aboard Taiwan-flagged and -owned and Taiwan-flagged, foreign-owned fishing vessels. • FA maintained guidelines on victim identification and law enforcement notification procedures for inspections of fishing vessels operating in both DWF and in Taiwan-administered waters; these included updated trafficking indicator questionnaires for migrant fishermen and senior vessel crew to detect cases of debt-based coercion, restricted freedom of movement, wage irregularities, physical abuse, retention of travel and identity documents, and other such forced labour indicators. • According to NGO observers, some migrant fishermen were hesitant to relay their experiences to FA or coast guard interviewers due to fear of reprisal and concerns over personal safety. • Some migrant fishermen previously alleged significant lags in hotline response times, and that hotline staff had relayed complaints directly back to senior vessel crew, thereby exposing callers to potential retaliation. In May 2022, MOL started using a communications app to share information with migrant workers in Taiwan and provide online assistance. In July 2022, FA launched the Taiwan Foreign Crew Interactive Service Platform to provide vessel information and a reporting channel dedicated to migrant fishers.

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	Current (2022)	**Previous**	
			- Taiwan's Labor Standards Act did not protect fishing workers hired to work aboard DWF vessels, who instead fell under the jurisdiction of FA. Civil society groups noted overlapping mandates and procedural gaps between MOL and FA continued to hinder effective oversight of labour conditions in the fishing industry. - NGOs noted the minimum compensation established in these regulations was below Taiwan's broader minimum wage, and senior vessel crew continued to delay or withhold salary remittance in violation of contractual pay schedules, leaving some foreign fishing workers vulnerable to debt-based coercion. Civil society organizations called for the elimination of all such worker-paid fees and instead advocated for their imposition on the employers of seafarers and land-based migrant workers alike. They also described FA's purview over Taiwan fishermen's associations – which played a role in the approval of labour recruitment systems – as a possible conflict of interest. - Taiwan maintained bilateral trafficking MOUs with 26 foreign countries. Some bilateral arrangements did not outline adequate screening for forced labour aboard Taiwan-owned and -flagged or Taiwan-owned, foreign-flagged fishing vessels docking at certain designated foreign vessel harbour areas. - Documented and undocumented PRC, Indonesian, Filipino, and Vietnamese fishermen working on Taiwan-owned and -flagged and Taiwan- owned, foreign-flagged fishing vessels have experienced non- or under-payment of wages, long working hours, physical abuse, lack of food or medical care, denial of sleep, substandard safety equipment, and poor living conditions while indebted to complex, multinational brokerage networks through the continued imposition of recruitment fees and deposits. Migrant fishermen have reported senior crewmembers employ such coercive tactics as threats of physical violence, beatings, withholding of food and water, retention of identity documents, wage deductions, and non-contractual compulsory sharing of vessel operational costs to retain their labour. - These abuses are particularly prevalent in Taiwan's DWF, comprising 1,140 Taiwan-owned and -flagged fishing vessels, as well as on 240 Taiwan-owned, foreign-flagged fishing vessels operating thousands of miles from Taiwan and without adequate oversight.
Tanzania	Tier 2 ⬌	Same as 2022. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List 2019 - 2021, downgraded from Tier 2 in 2018	- Traffickers exploit children in forced labour in tobacco and sea salt farming, cattle herding, mining, quarrying, and fishing. - Observers report traffickers exploit Zanzibari migrant workers in forced labour abroad, including in the fishing sector in Yemen and in domestic servitude in Oman.

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	Current (2022)	**Previous**	
Thailand	Tier 2 ⟷	Same as 2022. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2021. Downgraded from Tier 2 2018 - 2020, Tier 2 Watch list in 2016 and 2017	• A lack of clear guidance from authorities to measure work and rest hours for workers aboard fishing vessels heightened their risk of trafficking. The Ministerial Regulations on the Protection of Labor in the Marine Fisheries required employers to provide a contract in a language migrant fishermen could understand, maintain a record of payments to workers, and provide sufficient meals and drinking water to fishermen. • The government operated inspection centres at ports to verify whether fishing vessels were operating legally and reported identifying 63 vessels in violation of the law and regulations. The government revised the manual on standardized inspection practices for at-port inspections, originally introduced in 2019. Some officials did not follow existing procedures. At-port labour inspections continued to be inconsistent and ineffective at identifying potential cases of forced labour on fishing vessels. • Workers in the seafood processing and fishing sectors increasingly faced forced overtime because of an increasing demand for shelf-stable seafood during the pandemic as well as unsafe working conditions. • Vessel owners, brokers, and senior vessel crew subject Thai, Burmese, Cambodian, Vietnamese, and Indonesian men and boys to forced labour on Thai and foreign-owned fishing boats. Some are paid little or irregularly, sometimes as little as once a year, incur debts from brokers and employers, work as much as 18 to 20 hours per day for seven days a week, and are without adequate food, water, or medical supplies. Some boat captains threaten, beat, and drug fishermen to work longer and sell fishermen drugs as a means to generate additional debt. Vessel owners confiscate the identity documents of fishermen without their consent. Some trafficking victims in the fishing sector had difficulty returning home because of isolated workplaces, unpaid wages, and a lack of legitimate identity documents or safe means to travel. Employers in fishing and seafood processing often made confusing wage deductions for documentation fees, advances, and other charges, making it difficult for workers to account for their wages accurately. Research published in 2019 and 2020 found 14 to 18% of migrant fishermen were exploited in forced labour in the Thai fishing industry, so traffickers exploited thousands of workers on fishing vessels.
Timor Leste	Tier 2 ⟷	Same as 2022. Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2020 and 2021. Downgraded from Tier 2 2016 - 2019	• The government acknowledged possible trafficking crimes in the fishing industry in Timor-Leste's coastal waters and exclusive economic zone to the south, but it lacked the vessels, training, and human resources to patrol, inspect, and interdict vessels in its waters and investigate possible trafficking crimes. • Traffickers exploit foreign fishing crews in forced labour on foreign-flagged vessels that transit Timor-Leste waters.

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Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	**Previous**	
Trinidad and Tobago	Tier 2 Watch List	New entry	• Some Trinbagonian artisanal fishermen turn to migrant smuggling, which serves as traffickers' primary method of transportation of victims from Venezuela.
Uganda	Tier 2 ⟷	Same as 2022. Upgraded from Tier 2 in 2020 and 2021. Downgraded from Tier 2 2016 - 2019	• Traffickers exploit Ugandan adults and children in labour trafficking in various industries, including agriculture, fishing, mining, street vending, hospitality, and domestic work.
United Kingdom	Tier 1 ⟷	Same as 2016 - 2022	• Observers also expressed concern about the government's transit visa scheme for workers in the fishing industry, noting the inability to change vessels or leave the vessel without violating the terms of the visa left workers at risk of labour rights abuses and labour trafficking. • Traffickers force adults and children to work in agriculture, cannabis cultivation, construction, food processing, factories, domestic service, nail salons, food services, the hospitality industry, car washes, food supply industry, and warehousing, as well as on fishing boats.
Uruguay	Tier 2 ⟷	Same as 2017 - 2022	• Foreign workers, mainly from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Paraguay, are exploited in forced labour in construction, domestic service, cleaning services, elder care, wholesale stores, textile industries, agriculture, fishing, and lumber processing. • Foreign workers aboard foreign-flagged fishing vessels are subjected to abuses indicative of forced labour – including unpaid wages, confiscated identification documents, and physical abuse – and there are anecdotal reports of murder at sea. From 2018 to 2020, 17 crewmember deaths were associated with Taiwan-, PRC-, and other foreign-flagged fishing vessels docked at the Montevideo port and in Uruguay's waters.
Vanuatu	Tier 2 Watch List ⬇	Downgraded from Tier 2 in 2022. Same as 2020 and 2021. New entry in 2020.	• Traffickers target migrant women in the hospitality and tourism sectors and low-skilled foreign workers in high-risk sectors, such as agriculture, mining, fishing, logging, construction, and domestic service. • Foreign fishermen working on Vanuatu-flagged, Taiwan-owned vessels have experienced indicators of forced labour, including deceptive recruitment practices, abuse of vulnerability, excessive overtime, withholding of wages, physical and sexual violence, and abusive living and working conditions on board. • Forced labour and child sex trafficking occur on fishing vessels in Vanuatu.

Country	Rating		Commentary
	Current (2022)	**Previous**	
Vietnam	Tier 2 Watch List ⬆	Upgraded from Tier 3 in 2022. Downgraded from Tier 2 Watch List 2019 - 2021, downgraded from Tier 2 2016 -2018	• The government, in partnership with international organizations and a foreign government, researched and released reports, publicly and internally, on multiple trafficking-related topics, including women migrant workers in ASEAN countries, trafficking in the fishing industry, and electronic evidence handling in trafficking investigations. • There are increasing reports of Vietnamese labour trafficking victims in Taiwan, continental Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and in Pacific maritime industries, including on Indonesian and Taiwanese fishing vessels operating under complex ownership and registration arrangements that enable traffickers to evade detection and intervention by law enforcement. The lack of requirement for labour contracts and the use of oral agreements in the fishing industry increases fishermen's vulnerability to trafficking. Labour brokers in the fishing industry help facilitate labour trafficking by forcing fishermen to involuntarily work on fishing vessels.
Zimbabwe	Tier 2 ⬆	Upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List in 2022.	• More than 71 percent of child labour occurs in the agriculture sector, including on tobacco, sugarcane, and cotton farms, as well as forestry and fishing sectors, where children weed, spray, harvest, and pack goods.

Seafish work on social responsibility

For further information see:

- **Seafish social responsibility in seafood web page.**
  See: https://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/social-responsibility-in-seafood/

- **Seafood Ethics Common Language Group (SECLG)**
  The SECLG provides a safe meeting space to discuss the key ethical issues faced by the international seafood industry. The group looks at social welfare issues that affect the UK seafood supply chain, whether in the UK or seafood imported into the UK.
  See: https://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/social-responsibility-in-seafood/

- **Seafish fact sheet. Social responsibility in seafood – Seafish role. April 2019.**
  See: https://www.seafish.org/document/?id=82FED629-E4A3-4178-A674-02726E406B41

- **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 worker welfare issues in UK seafood supply chains.**
  See: https://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/social-responsibility-in-seafood/assessment-of-worker-welfare-issues/

- **Country profiles**
  See: https://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/social-responsibility-in-seafood/assessment-of-worker-welfare-issues/#z-country-profiles-2

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