August 2019

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

Seafood Ethics Common Language Group
https://www.seafish.org/article/the-seafood-ethics-common-language-group
https://www.seafish.org/article/ethics-in-seafood

New Seafish briefing notes
This Seafish briefing note provides an overview of what is covered by the new legislation and what changes this will bring about. The new legislative requirements have been split into those covering health and safety and those covering working conditions. There is also guidance on where to look for further information.

The U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report is the U.S. Government’s principal diplomatic tool to engage foreign governments on human trafficking. It is also the world’s most comprehensive resource of governmental anti-human trafficking efforts.

Seafish analysis of Global Slavery Index 2018 fishing risk indicators by country.
In 2018 the Walk Free Foundation, together with researchers from the Sea Around Us, at the University of Western Australia and the University of British Columbia, produced an analysis of trade flows and data on risk factors in the fishing industry, and the prevalence of forced labour. They have determined a set of risk factors that are associated with modern slavery in fisheries at a global level. In the absence of local reporting, these risk factors enable the identification of likely areas of national risk. The GSI report can be downloaded here. This Seafish briefing is a quick summary of the salient points of the Index.

For feedback
The 60-day Public Consultation for the draft standard criteria of the next iteration of the RFS is now open. The Public Consultation is being undertaken to maintain engagement and enable stakeholders to review and provide feedback on the Draft Standard which will be called the Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard. The new name better reflects the scope of the Standard. The RFVS is intended to be a globally applicable scheme to provide third party assurance of decent working conditions for the crew by demonstrating operational best practice from the catch to the quay, in line with internationally agreed protocols and guidelines. The Public Consultation will remain open until Monday 14 October.

Seafish is looking for interested parties to peer review country profiles
Seafish is producing succinct and evidenced-based overviews of the seafood industry risks. The country reports are objective in tone and evaluate information obtained during the literature review to provide an easy to digest, high-level overview of ESG risks associated with seafood value chains in key trading partners with the UK market. The analysis has been conducted by Verisk Maplecroft’s country and regional experts. Countries researched include: Argentina, Canada, Chile, China,
Ecuador, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and Vietnam. If you would be interested in peer reviewing any of these profiles prior to them becoming publicly available please E: Karen Green.

**Initiatives and resources**

**FisheryProgress Interim Policy on Forced Labor, Child Labor, or Human Trafficking Update.** August 2019.

In line with FisheryProgress’ mission, this interim policy aims to prioritize transparency for FisheryProgress users and support for FIPs to make necessary improvements to address abuses. The policy makes use of existing systems on FisheryProgress and focuses on three of the most serious human rights abuses – forced labor, child labor, and human trafficking – and was developed with the input of the FisheryProgress advisory committee as well as several international human rights experts. This policy will be applied to all FIPs listed on FisheryProgress for whom we receive reports of issues through the spring of 2020, while FisheryProgress works to develop a permanent policy for addressing reports of human rights abuses in FIPs.

- The Interim Policy on Forced Labor, Child Labor, or Human Trafficking policy can be found [here](#).
- This is linked to a Social Policy Assessment Tool. The Social Responsibility Assessment Tool for the Seafood Sector is useful as a diagnostic or rapid assessment tool – to assess risk of social issues, to identify areas in need of improvement, and to inform the development of a Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) work plan that includes a social element.

**Geneva Declaration on human rights at sea - new online platform.** August 2019.

Ahead of the public launch a new [online platform](#) has been developed for the Geneva Declaration on Human Rights at Sea There is an initial individual registration to access all the materials which are provided pro bono to the international community.

**Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency enacts new crew welfare regulations.** 6 August 2019.

Human Rights at Sea is pleased to report that on 23 May 2019, the 17 member State Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) enacted new agreed minimum terms and conditions in relation to crew employment conditions largely based on the ILO 188 Work in Fishing Convention. The Harmonised Minimum Terms and Conditions for Access by Fishing Vessels (MTCs) are one of FFA Members’ key tools to regulate fishing access to their waters. Legal application of the MTCs will occur through national legislation, regulations and/or licensing conditions. Key paragraphs explicitly highly the requirement for respect and protection of international human rights standards, with the new standards to be enacted into national legislation in 2020. The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) strengthens national capacity and regional solidarity so its 17 members can manage, control and develop their tuna fisheries now and in the future. FFA’s 17 Pacific Island members are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

**Seafood Slavery Risk Tool (SSRT) webinar**

The Seafood Slavery Risk Tool (SSRT) presentation given at the Seafood Ethics Common Language meeting on 3 July has now been re-created into a webinar format and in a slightly modified form. A voiceover has also been added.
News and views

Article. How can responsible recruitment of migrant workers move from rhetoric to reality? Andy Hall, Migrant Worker Rights Specialist. 30 July 2019.
Andy Hall details the challenges to responsible recruitment, and argues innovative new models should be piloted to help end forced labour of migrant workers.

Events and vacancies

The three themes for 2019 will be worker voice (key reflections, priorities, and lessons learned in human rights and responsible sourcing); data (making the business case for ethical supply chains) and ethical recruitment in global supply chains (emerging models and lessons learned). If you are working on ethical recruitment and want to share your model and lessons learned with an engaged, diverse group of business and human rights stakeholders including global brands and retailers, suppliers, recruiters, workers, government representatives, academics, and donors E: Issara Global Forum team

FishWise is currently seeking a new Social Responsibility Division Director. August 2019.

Reports

This report provides an independent assessment of 183 governments and their responses to the exploitation of the 40.3 million people in modern slavery. It finds that governments are not on track to eradicate modern slavery and achieve UN Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 by 2030, and that more needs to be done to spur action and hold governments to account through an agreed set of measurement indicators on all forms of modern slavery. Governments around the world are making some progress to tackle modern slavery domestically, as seen by the UK’s Modern Slavery Act 2015 and Australia’s Commonwealth Modern Slavery Act 2018 however there is a need to spur on government action and force focus to deliver genuine progress in the eradication of modern slavery and human trafficking. Governments have been assessed and scored out of 10 on their ability to: identify and support survivors; establish effective criminal justice systems; strengthen coordination mechanisms and be held to account; address underlying risk factors; and clean up government and business supply chains. Measurement, Action, Freedom’ found the 10 countries taking the most action to respond to modern slavery are The United Kingdom, The Netherlands, The United States, Portugal, Sweden, Argentina, Belgium, Spain, Croatia, and Australia. These countries are characterised by strong political will, high levels of resources, and a strong civil society that holds governments to account. However, not all these countries have matched good policy with effective enforcement. Countries with otherwise strong responses may also have restrictive and discriminatory migration policies, which continue to be a key driver of modern slavery, as is the case in the EU, UK, the US, and Australia. The 10 countries taking the least action to respond to modern slavery are North Korea, Eritrea, Libya, Iran, Equatorial Guinea, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Congo, Russia and Somalia. Measurement, Action, Freedom: An independent assessment of government progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 8.7. 17 July 2019.

Thailand

The Project has just launched two new short films: Combatting Forced Labour in the Thai Fishing and Seafood Industry is about the ratification of the ILO’s Forced Labour Protocol (P. 29), and Building More Effective Enforcement in Thai Fishing informs viewers on best practices for enforcement of new Thai laws on work in fishing. A third film focused on the work of union and civil society partners
in the project will be launched in late 2019, and the project’s first film — a look at the revised GLP programme — can be seen [here](#).

**Working Conditions Endline Research Data Collection Begins. August 2019.**

Teams of researchers and interpreters are in major port and seafood processing areas in July and August to interview workers on working conditions for the Ship to Shore Rights Project’s ‘endline’ research to take stock of changes in the industry since the [ILO’s 2017 baseline report](#). The research teams from ILO’s partner Rapid Asia are sampling 470 workers across 11 port areas in Thailand on key issues including recruitment, contracts, pay, hours, getting help, and forced labour. The project will publish the Endline Report publicly in Quarter 4 2019. The 2019 report will include never-before-collected data on home-based work in Thai seafood processing.

**New film, ”Buoyancy,” tackles issue of slavery in Thai seafood industry. 19 August 2019.**

An Australian filmmaker is hoping that his debut feature film entitled, “Buoyancy,” will help to raise greater awareness of human trafficking and slavery on Thai fishing vessels. Rodd Rathjen’s award-winning film highlights the plight of thousands of migrant Cambodian workers trapped in modern slavery in the Thai seafood industry. Shot in Cambodia in the Khmer and Thai languages, the film centers on the plight of an impressionable 14-year old Cambodian boy, who sets out to escape poverty by finding work in a Thai factory, but finds himself sold by a broker and enslaved on a fishing trawler. The result is a harrowing exposition of a reality that remains an issue for the Thai industry, despite ongoing efforts to combat it. To research his film, Rathjen spoke to NGOs in Thailand and Cambodia involved in repatriating survivors of the fishing industry. Through these contacts, he was able to interview survivors, learn about their experiences on the fishing boats, and weave their stories into the film. He also spoke to ex-captains, government officials, and Cambodian families to gain different perspectives. Minor roles in the film were given to men who had worked on trawlers, including the boat’s captain, who had worked on a trawler between the ages of 11 and 13. The aim was to give authenticity to the film and ensure that it expressed the harsh reality of life in slavery at sea.

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