Seafood Ethics Common Language Group e-alert
(amalgamation of news alerts issued to SECLG circulation list by email in September 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.org. Gathering Feedback on Social Responsibility on FisheryProgress. Feedback by Wed 18 September 2019
FisheryProgress has recently developed an interim policy for responding to reports of human rights abuses in FIPs. They are now focused on building on that policy to create a set of long-term policies covering social responsibility on FisheryProgress and want to gather preliminary feedback from FisheryProgress stakeholders. They will use the feedback, along with input from human rights and labour experts, to develop draft policies and inform potential site changes. Please take a few minutes to share your feedback via the following survey. All responses will remain confidential. It should take about 20 minutes to respond. The survey can be accessed here.

Reports
Immigration rules putting Scots fishing industry at risk. 25 August 2019.
Scotland’s lucrative west coast fishing fleet is on the brink of collapse due to a “crazy” immigration law which effectively prohibits non-European nationals from fishing on local boats, it has been warned. The Clyde Fishermen’s Association has revealed that 20 of 65 members' boats have gone under in the last year and a half because they cannot recruit internationally. The situation is set to get worse with further bankruptcies, which threatens the £80million a year industry. Meanwhile, because of the vagaries of the immigration laws, their east coast colleagues can freely employ crew from outside the European Economic Area. Now the CFA is warning there is an expectation that another six boats may go out of business in Campbeltown very shortly, which would cut membership by almost half. The CFA say the issues extend to the entire west coast, with boats also tied up on Barra because they cannot get crew to man them.

From bullying and sexual assault to squalid living conditions and forced labour, working at sea can be a grim business – and one deep-sea fishing fleet is particularly notorious. Tells the story of a South Korean trawler, the Oyang 70, as it left Port Chalmers, New Zealand, for what would be his final journey. Taken from The Outlaw Ocean: Crime and Survival in the Last Untamed Frontier by Ian Urbina, published on 19 September 2019.

Migrant workers are being hit with steep charges for visas and work permits, leaving many trapped by debts in exploitative workplaces. Thailand launched an overhaul of the registration process for migrant workers last year, granting them the same labour rights as local hires, including access to free healthcare, pension contributions and child allowances. In the first phase of the revamp, the government aims to ensure two million legitimate migrant workers are registered afresh - a process that must be carried out by employers but paid for by workers earning as little as 10,000 baht a month. Visas, work permits and health checks - the conditions of the new agreement - cost a total of about 6,700 baht. However migrants and labour activists said that employers, middlemen and brokers are inflating the cost and saddling workers with fresh debts - trapping many in exploitative workplaces as they struggle to pay off what they owe.

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