April 2020

Seafood Ethics Common Language Group e-alert
(amalgamation of news alerts issued to SECLG circulation list by email in April 2020)

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

Seafish news and publications
Seafish Social risk assessment information. This reference document provides an overview of the metrics and scoring methodologies of different open and closed sources of information that offer insight on the social risks posed to UK businesses by seafood trading partners in third countries.

Country profiles. To understand the social risk landscape of countries supplying into the UK seafood market, a series of profiles covering main supply regions are available. There are currently 19 profiles. See: Argentina, Canada, Chile, China, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, United States, and Vietnam. We are collating feedback on these profiles. If you have any comments please E: Karen Green.

Modern slavery reporting
The European Commission will propose new rules on mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence in EU companies’ global supply chain and will introduce legislation on mandatory sustainable due diligence for companies as part of the Commission’s 2021 work plan and the European Green Deal. A public consultation on the initiative is imminent. The plan is to table the legislation in the first quarter of 2021.

How businesses should address and report on modern slavery risks during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. 20 April 2020
This guidance is for businesses and explains how to address and report on modern slavery risks during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This does include the provision to delay publication of a modern slavery statement by up to 6 months due to coronavirus-related pressures without being penalised.

A number of civil society groups have commended the publication of the Government’s Modern Slavery statement as a welcome step to harness the potential of responsible public procurement to address risks of modern slavery in corporate supply chains. The Government has rightly recognised that steps must be taken to ensure that taxpayers’ money does not inadvertently fund modern slavery

COVID-19
£500,000 from Seafarers UK for Fishers Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. 4 May 2020.
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on merchant seafarers, fishers and their families, the Seafarers UK charity has created a new Seafarers UK COVID-19 Emergency Fund of £2million, with £500,000 immediately allocated to assist fishing communities across Britain.
Friend of the Sea (FOS) has launched its Sustainable Augmented Reality Audits (SARA). SARA allows a qualified auditor to carry out an on-site inspection from a control panel that commands remote “eyes” and records a complete video of the audit. Video and recording of the audit are immediately sealed via blockchain, preventing any possible editing.

Seafarers continue to highlight their worries and concerns to Human Rights at Sea. 21 April 2020.
A steady stream of contact from concerned seafarers continues to flow into the UK charity, Human Rights at Sea. In the majority of cases, the issues being raised are ones being communicated to highlight facts and concerns which seafarers feel are being under-reported rendering them invisible and without a voice. The common threads of concern focus around individual and crew mental exhaustion, safety onboard, concern about being stranded, and being unable to get home to support their families.

Third-party fishmeal and fish oil certification program MarinTrust, formerly known as IFFO RS, has also moved to adjust its auditing requirements during the COVID-19 crisis. The program has invoke its process on handling remote MarinTrust Factory and MarinTrust Chain of Custody audits, setting up temporary requirements to be followed by its approved certification bodies until 30 September, 2020, or further notice.

FAOFish Policy Brief How is COVID-19 affecting the fisheries and aquaculture food systems. 10 April 2020. This covers a synopsis of key factors in five areas including problems of working conditions along the value chain. There is also a summary of the measures being undertaken in each area to either support, protect or maintain the sector.

World Economic Forum. This is the impact of COVID-19 on modern slavery. 7 April 2020. With 40.3 million people estimated to be in modern slavery this looks at how COVID-19 will impact efforts to end modern slavery, forced labour, human trafficking and child labour, as countries committed to in SDG Target 8.7. This is by heightening risks for those already exploited; increasing the risks of exploitation, including child labour and child marriage; and disrupting response efforts.

SFP COVID 19 resource page for seafood industry

ILO briefs
COVID-19 and maritime shipping & fishing
COVID-19: Guidance for employers and business to enhance migrant worker protection during the current health crisis
COVID-19 and immigration: what do employers and non-EEA workers need to know?

Resources and initiatives
Two new Marine Guidance Notes address living on board fishing vessels. May 2020.
It is acknowledged that non-EEA crew members living on board vessels is a reality and that fatalities and incidents have occurred whilst fishers have been living on board fishing vessels, alongside in port.

- **MGN 413** provides a Voluntary Code of Practice for Employment of Non-EEA Fishing Crew.
- **MGN 425** draws the attention of owners and crew to the inherent dangers on vessels not properly equipped for overnight sleeping on board and what emergency procedures should be in place.
The ILO report shows that the average cost for a migrant worker to come and work in Thailand was USD 461, equivalent to 2 months of salary. Migrants who used an agency or broker ended up paying USD 100 more, on average. Out of the 1,200 workers surveyed, a quarter were given a job without a written contract, and only one in four were paid at least the minimum wage.

The Responsible Business Alliance (RBA) practical includes examples of emerging industry good practices, tools and guidance to help companies operationalize and promote a “no-fees” recruitment policy for the benefit of workers.

Labour unions emerge as voice for migrant fishermen in Southeast Asia. 21 April 2020.
According to a new report by the International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF), *Time for a Sea Change* despite legal and corporate barriers, trade unions are starting to give migrant seafood workers a greater voice in Thailand and across Southeast Asia – enabling them to combat the subpar working conditions that persist on fishing vessels and in seafood processing facilities.

Risk assessment tools and reports
**Organizations call for investigation in wake of crew deaths on Chinese longliner.** 1 May 2020.
The Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) and the Advocates for Public Interest Law (APIL) are calling for an investigation into a Chinese tuna longline vessel that crewmembers report denied medical care to four Indonesian crewmates, who subsequently died.

New Sedex reporting tool
Sedex has partnered with &Wider, to deliver a new worker reporting tool, that enables businesses to remotely hear from workers throughout their supply chain using surveys and mobile voice technology.

New Sedex risk assessment tool – Radar
Radar consists of three sections, or tools: a pre-screen tool provides an initial risk assessment prior to sites being registered on Sedex; a risk assessment tool combines inherent (country and sector) risk information with data from suppliers connected to your business within Sedex Advance; and a site assessment tool enables businesses to analyse and understand the complexity of risk associated with a single site.

This details gross underfunding and poor support for seafarers shore-based welfare facilities in New Zealand and reported failures on behalf of the New Zealand Government. Seafarers Welfare Board for New Zealand fully concurs with HRAS Report. 22nd April 2020. The report’s recommendationsoffer a clear way forward to ensuring that when seafarers arrive in New Zealand ports, they will continue to receive the standard of care and welcome they so richly deserve.

The report produced by DIHR, Rafto Foundation and IHRB discusses the main human rights issues with regard to the salmon farming and aquaculture feed industry in Norway and abroad, as well as challenges, good practices and ways forward, as shared through case studies and presentations by the participants of the Roundtable event.  
*This is an amalgamation of the news alerts issued in April 2020.*