May 2020

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

Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard sets course for best practice as Seafish passes baton to Global Seafood Assurances. 11 June 2020.
The final Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard (RFVS) has been publicly shared for the first time. It was officially handed over from Seafish to Global Seafood Assurances, following a two-year, open and collaborative development process.
  • Visit the Global Seafood Assurances website for further information on the Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard

Reports and resources
The Indonesian fishermen whose bodies were thrown overboard. 11 June 2020.
A video showing the body of a young man being callously thrown into the sea has sparked an international investigation, and shone a spotlight on the "slave-like" conditions allegedly suffered by Indonesian fishermen on board Chinese-owned vessels.

US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) decision on tuna linked to forced labour “a wake up call for companies”. 12 May 2020.
CBP has taken the decision to impound merchandise made wholly or in part with seafood harvested by the Yu Long No 2, a Taiwanese fishing vessel, at all US ports of entry, from 11 May, after receiving information that the vessel was linked to forced labour. Nick Kightley, ETI said: “The CBP decision has sent a clear message to companies that turning a blind eye to where their products come from is no longer an option.

Life below water: Prioritizing safe and decent working conditions for fishers and fisheries observers. 6 May 2020.
Two months ago, the death of fisheries observer Eritara Aati Kaierua was reported in Pacific waters, leading to an ongoing murder investigation. For many people, the idea of a murder taking place on board a confined fishing vessel out at sea seems inconceivable, but for those that know the fisheries sector well, it is yet another harrowing example of shocking abuses that can occur unseen, far from
Sedex & Wider worker voice Q&A

Maritime wellbeing website launched
This resource has been devised by the Shell Seafarer Wellbeing Programme. The resources are freely available and designed to be used by companies as appropriate to their own circumstances. Some are ‘crew facing’ and there’s also an area for managers (i.e. resources that could be adapted for skippers).

ILO publishes recruitment recommendations for policy makers and regulators. May 2020.
The International Labour Organization’s (ILO) Montreal Recommendations on Recruitment: A Road Map towards Better Regulation aim to provide policymakers and regulators with guidance and ideas to improve regulation and oversight of international recruitment and protection of migrant workers.

Webinars

UK charity Human Rights at Sea and global law firm Shearman & Sterling LLP have partnered on a project to facilitate the resolution of disputes concerning human rights at sea using international arbitration. A White Paper sets out the broad parameters of the arbitration-based system being proposed and identifying the main benefits such a system is expected to generate, as well as potential challenges that its development and implementation might entail.

Webinar. 1 July 2020. 4.00pm BST. Issara Institute. Top 5 labour abuses encountered in 2019: A field-based analysis of 8,000 calls per month of worker reporting and business responses.

2 July 2020. 3.00 – 4.30pm. APPG. The next All Party Parliamentary Group on Fisheries webinar will be on the subject of Wellbeing, Welfare and Life at Sea. We will hear from voices both providing the background to the relationship between welfare, wellbeing and a life at sea, as well as suggesting ways that policy, community support or other services could help tackle resultant issues. Visit our website for more information. To register E: secretariat@fisheriesappg.org

15 July 2020. 13:00-14:00 BST. Ardea International. Towards environmental and human rights mandatory due diligence: practical and legal considerations.
This will cover: Trends in mandatory due diligence legislation and impacts to business; Key aspects of the EU report: Study on due diligence requirements through the supply chain; and key due diligence legislation developments, including the EU plans to develop a legislative proposal by 2021.

Consultations
The draft policy aims to significantly reduce the risk of human rights and labor violations occurring on FIP vessels and create a policy that would be practical for FIPs to implement.

COVID-19
The NFFO, with the support of Nathan de Rozarieux and the Fishmongers Company, has produced guidance to help different types of fishing vessel undertake Covid-19 risk assessments.
Seafarers "forced" to work with expired contracts as Governments demand supplies, close borders amid COVID-19 pandemic. 4 June 2020.

Seafarers are amongst those workers experiencing the disruption caused by travel bans implemented by governments hoping to stem the spread of the COVID-19. Reports have surfaced that workers are having to continue to work under expired contracts as they are unable to return home. Whilst some are reportedly receiving wages, seafarers globally face challenging conditions and are unable to disembark from ships at ports due to lock-down measures. In a joint letter to UN agencies overseeing maritime regulations and labour law, the Global Maritime Transport Industry asked that seafarers be regarded as key workers to enable them to leave and return to their ships.

This is an amalgamation of the news alerts issued in May 2020.