Protecting Labor Rights in Seafood Supply Chains

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FISHWISE
FishWise: Sustainable Seafood Consultancy

- Seafood policy development
- Sourcing support
- Traceability
Ethical Concerns

Revealed: Asian slave labour producing prawns for supermarkets in US, UK

Modern slavery
An Associated Press investigation into the Thai fishing industry uncovered conditions of modern-day slavery feeding the supply chains of major U.S. stores and led to the rescue of hundreds of men.
Underlying Problems

- Corruption and bribery of officials
- Exemption from international law
- Lack of global standards
- Inadequate enforcement
- Globalized nature of supply chain
- Demand for low-price protein
- Lack of transparency/traceability
- Links to illegal fishing and organized crime
- Outsourcing of labor
What is Expected of Companies?

Responsibility to Respect:
Prevent and address negative impacts on people arising through the company’s operations or business relationships

Policy Commitment and Embedding
Human Rights Due Diligence
Remedy and Grievance Mechanisms
Make a Public Commitment

To address both environmental and social issues

• Establish a business commitment to respect human rights
• Communicate the expectation for each link in the supply chain to avoid all forms of labor abuse

Look to:

UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights
What can companies do?

1. **Map it**: Demand full traceability to vessels, farms, and inputs (e.g. feed).

2. **Analyze**: Conduct a risk assessment and focus on the areas of highest risk.
What can companies do?

3. **Pledge and track**: Ensure that each link in the supply chain makes a binding, documentable pledge to their customer to avoid all forms of labor abuse.

4. **Audit**: Support unannounced labor audits of vessels, farms, and processing facilities.
5. **Communicate with vendors:** Share concerns, then stipulate that continued procurement will be based on improvement by agreed upon timelines.

6. **Communicate with consumers:** Provide clear information to consumers.
What can companies do?

7. Support improvements:
Participate in multi-stakeholder dialogue and support relevant policy to combat illegal fishing and human rights or labor abuses.
Why Get Involved?

• Strengthen brand value

• Meet commitments

• Greater industry alignment and understanding of best practices