

WORLD SEAFOOD CONGRESS: THE ETHICAL DIMENSION OF THE GLOBAL SEAFOOD TRADE

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Global Fisheries

SEPTEMBER 2023



sea
CHANGE®
2030

Wild caught seafood supply chain

SUPPLY CHAIN
INTERNATIONAL

GOVERNMENTS, CONVENTIONS, REGULATIONS



1. What has been happening downstream?

THAILAND'S SEAFOOD SLAVES
Human Trafficking, Slavery and Murder in Kantang's Fishing Industry

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION (EJF)

WATCH VIDEO THAILAND'S SEAFOOD SLAVES

The hidden cost of seafood
Exploitation, modern slavery and even murder have been documented on board modern fishing fleets. What more can be done to protect human rights in the fishing industry?

Part of Our Ocean, Our Planet

ROYAL MUSEUMS GREENWICH

By Professor Chris Armstrong, Professor of Political Theory at the University of Southampton

Thai seafood: are the prawns on your plate still fished by slaves?

Report finds trafficking persists on Thai fishing boats, as campaigners challenge supermarkets to guarantee products are free of rights abuses



Climate Impacts National Security Growing the Middle Class

Issues Experts Events Press Take Action

REPORT DEC 15, 2016

Seafood Slavery

Human Trafficking in the International Fishing Industry

Recent media investigations have revealed regular use of forced labor in the international U.S. government and the private sector should respond to curtail these abuses.

Fishing industry must do more to tackle human rights abuses – here's where to start

Published: November 23, 2020 2:17pm GMT

ZoranOrcik/Shutterstock

BLOOM calls on companies to end human rights abuses in the tuna industry

by Emma Desrochers
September 7, 2023

SHARE

1. Downstream: Retail, brands and consumers

CHALLENGES:

- Distance from the water
- Getting information
- Lack of understanding of origin
- Conflict between commercial and sustainability

POSITIVE RESPONSES:

- Working closer with trusted suppliers
- Emphasis on full traceability
- Increased understanding challenges of implementing requirements
- Responsibility



The High Cost of Cheap Tuna

US Supermarkets, Sustainability, and Human Rights at Sea

GREENPEACE

2. Processing and Factories

CHALLENGES:

- Conditions in factories
- Scale
- Remediation

SOLUTIONS

- External reviews & audits
- Oversight and increased regulation
- Standardization
- New policies
- Working with partners: NGOs, unions

Shrimp sold by global supermarkets is peeled by slave labourers in Thailand



2. Overview Thai Union's response

- Reducing highest areas of risk e.g. bringing shrimp processing in-house
- Being outspoken and being an advocate
- 2016, developing new sustainability strategy SeaChange & resourcing it
- Independent verification of progress against goals
- New purchasing requirements & codes of conduct for suppliers e.g. factories & vessels
- Engaging with governments and other key stakeholders

Thai Union Seafood Connected to Forced and Child Labor, Deplorable Working Conditions

by Perry Wheeler

December 14, 2015



Statement by Greenpeace USA Oceans Campaign Director John Hocevar.

Washington, DC — An Associated Press investigation released today found that Thai Union, owner of Chicken of the Sea in the U.S., has again been connected to forced labor and horrific working conditions in Thailand. The investigation, which took place last month, followed trucks transporting shrimp from the Gig Peeling Factory to major Thai exporting companies, and then tracked where the products ended up globally.

The graphic features the SeaChange 2030 logo at the top, which includes a globe icon and the text 'seaCHANGE 2030'. Below the logo, a text block states: 'Thai Union is launching SeaChange® 2030, a sustainability plan to help reshape the seafood industry with solutions for People and Planet that better sustain a future for all.' The main heading 'FUTURE OUTCOMES' is prominently displayed. Underneath, two columns are defined: 'FOR OUR PEOPLE: Restore & Protect Communities' and 'FOR OUR PLANET: Restore & Protect Ecosystems'. Five circular icons represent the focus areas: Human & Labor Rights (hands holding a heart), Health & Wellness (heart with pulse line), Climate Action (CO2 with downward arrow), Biodiversity (globe with plant), and Circularity (recycling symbol). Each icon is accompanied by a brief description of the goal.

seaCHANGE 2030

Thai Union is launching SeaChange® 2030, a sustainability plan to help reshape the seafood industry with solutions for People and Planet that better sustain a future for all.

FUTURE OUTCOMES

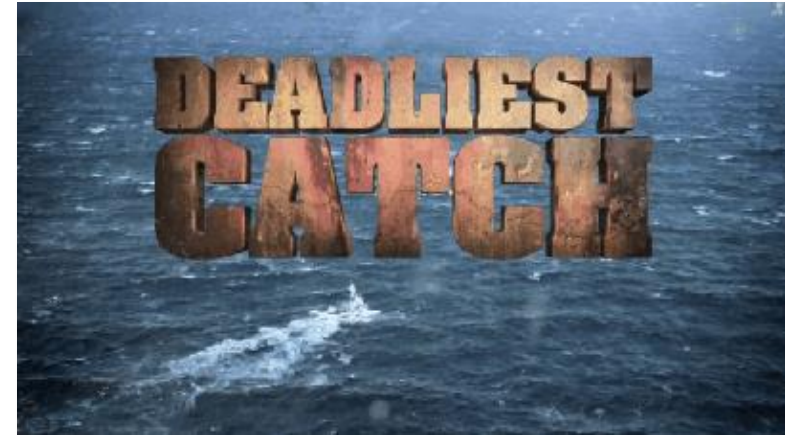
FOR OUR PEOPLE Restore & Protect Communities

FOR OUR PLANET Restore & Protect Ecosystems

- HUMAN & LABOR RIGHTS**: Ensuring fair wages and benefits as well as safe and healthy working conditions
- HEALTH & WELLNESS**: Advancing a healthier world and delivering critical resources to those most in need
- CLIMATE ACTION**: Deploying actions that reduce GHG emissions
- BIODIVERSITY**: Safeguarding life and ecosystems
- CIRCULARITY**: Designing an operating systems that minimize was

3. Vessels & fishing: Challenges

- Nature!
- Distance from shore and connectivity
- Physically tough
- Lack of implementation & enforcement of regulations
- Lack of monitoring and surveillance
- Recruitment
- Consistency in catch – stock status
- Price of fuel and other operational costs
- Pressure for low price products



 **SeafoodSource**

New study estimates 100,000 fishing-related deaths occur annually

By Emma Desrochers
November 7, 2022

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Research by the FISH Safety Foundation, commissioned by The Pew Charitable Trusts, found more than 100,000 fishing-related deaths occur annually, or the equivalent of around 300 fisher deaths per day.

The New Zealand-based FISH Safety Foundation is an independent non-profit "committed to providing relevant practical education, access to resources and promoting a positive safety culture in the global fishing industry." It said the study, "The Human Cost of Fishing," is "the most-complete analysis to date for the number of global fishing-related fatalities."

3. Vessels & fishing: what has Thai Union been doing?

The Fisher Work & Welfare Program comprises:

- The Vessel Code of Conduct (VCoC) published in 2017 –in several languages
- Vessel Improvement Projects focusing on different topics, fleets or vessels
- The VCoC Guidance Document & Auditor handbook
- Third party audits & verification including remote, at sea & in port started in 2018
- Corrective action plans
- Due diligence and risk assessment to prioritize



15/02/2022

Thai Union working with suppliers to drive continuous improvement in the seafood sector

[Read post](#)



25/01/2021

Tuna vessels demonstrate continuous improvement in Social and Labor Standards

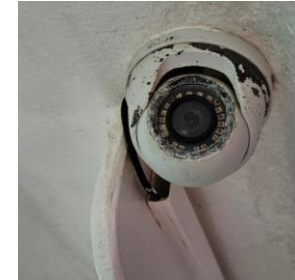
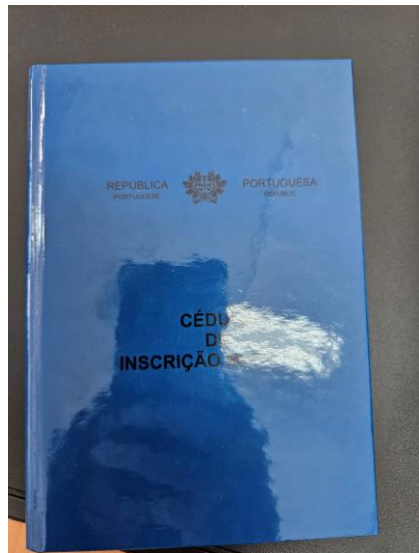
[Read post](#)

Fishing company	General	Principle 2	Principle 3	Principle 4	Principle 6	Principle 7	Principle 8	Principle 9	Principle 10
Company 1									
Company 2									
Company 3									
Company 4									
Company 5				NA					
Company 6									
Fishing company	General	Principle 2	Principle 3	Principle 4	Principle 6	Principle 7	Principle 8	Principle 9	Principle 10
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Company 1									
Company 2									
Company 3									
Company 4				NA					
Company 5									

No progress yet
 Progress is being made, waiting on amendments.
 Progress has been made and ready for implementation

3. Vessels & fishing: what has Thai Union been doing?

- Fishery Level Assessments
- Peniche - Sardines



3. Vessels & fishing: Overview of sector solutions

- Engaging with the fishing sector
- Education
- Monitoring at-sea – increase coverage either human or electronic - At sea monitoring potential
- Financial support needed for improvements that are going beyond legislative requirements will accelerate change
- Increased regulation & oversight of recruitment agencies
- Communication between vessel and shore-based offices (recruitment agencies, authorities etc.)
- Enforcement of regulations- access and increased inspections in port



22/11/2022

Thai Union's first at-sea assessment strengthens improvements for fisher's work and welfare

[Read post](#)



4. International Fisheries Instruments

- “Conventions & agreements that promote the safety of fishing vessels & fishers, training of fishers, decent working & living conditions and responsible & safe fisheries operations” (FAO)
- The following need increased ratification & implementation:
 - The Cape Town Agreement on the Implementation of the Provisions of the 1993 Protocol relating to the 1977 International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 2012 (CTA)
 - The IMO Convention on Training and Certification for Fishing Vessels Personnel, 1995 (STCW-F)
 - The ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (C188)
 - The 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA)



4. Regulations & conventions

- Seafarer Training, Certification & Watchkeeping
- Fishing conventions & regulations are essential to create a level playing field
- Lack of regulations and inspections for fishing
- Standards & codes can support vessels improve to ensure that when the instruments are implemented that the vessels are on the journey to already have the requirements in place

ML5 Medical Report and Certificate

Maritime & Coastguard Agency

This form is for use by the following applicants only. Please tick why you need this form/certificate:

1. New applicant for an MCA Boatmaster's Licence (BML) or Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Revalidation or change of existing BML or Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Applicant for Royal Yachting Association (RYA) commercial endorsement, working no more than 60 miles from shore	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Crew on a seagoing Domestic Passenger Vessel (Class VI or VI(A))	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Master or Crew of a small commercial vessel certified for area category 2 to 6	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Master or Crew of a fishing vessel under 24m*	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Current ML5 has expired, used for: BML: <input type="checkbox"/> RYA Commercial Endorsement: <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Vessel under 24m: <input type="checkbox"/>	

To the Applicant and Doctor: Please read the notes at the end of this form prior to completion.

PART A PERSONAL DETAILS

Surname _____ Forename(s) _____

Home Address _____ Postcode _____

Gender Male / Female (*delete as applicable) _____ Date of Birth _____

Telephone Number _____ Nationality _____

Mobile Number _____ Email address _____

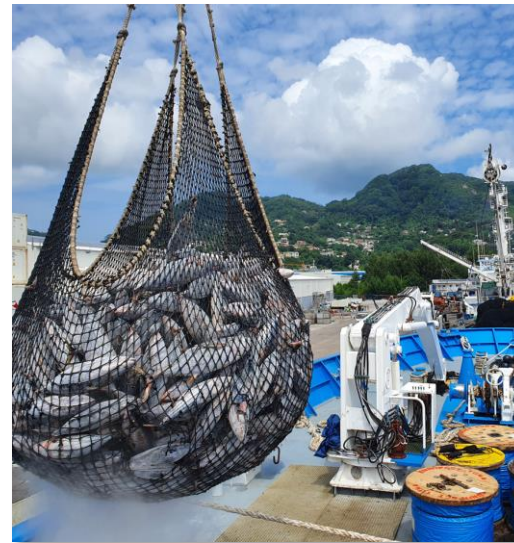
Date of first BML/RYA endorsement or last revalidation (if applicable) _____

Have you had an ML5 referral or restriction before? (if yes please provide issues & expiry dates and restriction/s) _____



What are the things that will most support the seafood sector to be ethical and doing the right things for the workers?

- Ratification & implementation & enforcement of regulations to create a level playing field & clear standards
- Working together as competitors, with customers, with suppliers
- Rewarding best practices
- Supporting continuous improvement
- Transparency & honest dialogue
- Demonstrating that we are doing what we say we are doing
- Right people MUST be at the table



THANK YOU

