# Seafood Social Risk Tool
## An Overview

The Seafood Social Risk Tool profiles seafood production systems around the world to identify areas within those systems that are at higher risk of containing forced labor, human trafficking, and hazardous child labor so businesses can begin to focus their efforts to improve human rights and labor conditions.

## About the Monterey Bay Aquarium

To protect ocean health while meeting the growing, global demand for seafood, Monterey Bay Aquarium focuses on improving the sustainability of aquaculture around the world. Our Seafood Watch program assesses the environmental impacts of aquaculture species that are important to the U.S. market and assigns green, yellow, or red ratings to highlight areas of environmental risk. Our Global Ocean Conservation team then works collaboratively with local industry members, scientists, governments, and other stakeholders to tackle the intertwined environmental, social, and economic issues needed to improve the sustainability of the product.

## The Challenge

Seafood is often sourced through a complex web of vessels, farms, processing facilities, and distributors, spanning multiple continents. The remote and hazardous nature of this work, coupled with a lack of supply chain transparency and the demand for low prices, increases the risk of human rights abuses. These abuses can include discrimination based on gender or ethnicity, restriction of access to land or natural resources, and violations of labor rights.

## Industry responsibility

Seafood retailers, producers, and suppliers are responsible for adhering to national labor laws and international conventions that are designed to prevent human rights abuses, such as forced labor, human trafficking, and hazardous child labor. Many businesses recognize the importance of learning more about socially responsible seafood production and identifying areas where human rights abuses might be occurring in their supply chains.

## Monterey Bay Aquarium's approach

It can be challenging to identify where actual abuses are happening because very little information exists about seafood workers' living and working conditions across the many, sometimes opaque, layers of the seafood supply chain around the globe.

However, it is possible to identify areas of the supply chain that are at high risk for abuse. Profiling these risks can help businesses begin to focus their efforts to improve human rights and labor conditions.

To provide this information, the Monterey Bay Aquarium partnered with Sustainable Fisheries Partnership and Liberty Shared, and collaborated with human rights experts to develop the Seafood Social Risk Tool for businesses to use as a starting place for identifying risks and opportunities to engage with their seafood supply chains.

## Seafood Social Risk Tool: indicators and risk profiles

The Seafood Social Risk Tool includes more than 80 indicators of risk based on publicly available evidence of forced labor, human trafficking, and hazardous child labor abuses in seafood supply chains as well as information about risk factors correlated with these abuses. We present an analysis of this information in publicly available risk profiles.

Each risk profile includes an analysis of country, industry, and product-level indicators:

• Country indicators provide context about the overall social, economic, and political environment within which fishing, aquaculture, and processing take place. They help determine whether the environment is conducive to allowing exploitative practices or helpful in limiting their existence.
• Seafood industry indicators examine seafood industry-specific practices and traits (such as specific industry regulations) that can indicate the risk across the industry in a given country; such as working hours, minimum age for employment, or regulation of recruitment agencies.
• Product indicators assess if there are specific practices that may indicate a higher risk of forced labor, human trafficking, and hazardous child labor through a causal and correlated relationship such as how the work force is composed and contracted, or how seafood is caught and transported to shore.

## How are risk profiles developed?

The Monterey Bay Aquarium gathers all available evidence of forced labor, human trafficking, and hazardous child labor abuses in a specific seafood supply chain as well as information about practices that correlate with, or underpin, these abuses in that supply chain. Our team analyzes the data against more than 80 indicators of risk and produces a draft profile that identifies areas within that system that are at higher risk of containing forced labor, human trafficking, and hazardous child labor. An external team of human rights experts reviews the draft profiles for clarity and accuracy, and the final versions are posted to www.SeafoodWatch. org. These practices also include suggested due diligence questions that respond to the key risks identified in a profile. These due diligence questions are not exhaustive but provide businesses with a starting point.

## How should businesses use the risk profiles?

Businesses can use the risk profiles in the Seafood Social Risk Tool to identify areas of high risk in their supply chains for countries, fisheries, aquaculture, and types of seafood processing and prioritize which seafood products require further investigation based on severity and scale of risk.

The risk profiles help businesses ask due diligence questions to begin to identify the exact issues for those products and the improvements needed to address those issues. Examples of potential questions include: What procedures are in place for hiring workers? Are workers hired directly or through recruitment agents? What proportion of fishery employees are indigenous or ethnic minorities? Are contracts written in a language that workers understand? Do you know how the workers are being paid?

## How is this version different than the previous Seafood Slavery Risk Tool, released in 2018?

This updated version, the Seafood Social Risk Tool, uses indicators that are based on publicly available evidence of forced labor, human trafficking, and hazardous child labor in seafood supply chains as well as information related to risk factors correlated with these abuses such as the presence of illegal, unregulated, or unreported fishing.

The first edition, the Seafood Slavery Risk Tool, relied on country-level information to rate fisheries because direct evidence of forced labor, human trafficking, and hazardous child labor rarely exists for specific types of seafood production. The result was that many of our "high-risk" ratings were not able to capture differences in the level of risk between different fisheries within a country.

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