

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SE ASIA SEAFOOD INDUSTRY



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We are aware of a forthcoming documentary - *Ghost Fleet* - telling a story of human trafficking in the seafood industry of South East Asia. The ongoing labour shortage in the seafood industry in Thailand has seen many migrant workers trafficked to fill the void, often sent to work on fishing vessels spending months, or years, at sea.

Trans-shipment enables such fishing vessels to offload their catches, often in the high seas, to other vessels which subsequently land the catch at port. The practice of trans-shipment has been associated with Illegal, Unreported & Unregulated (IUU) fishing and abuse of human rights.

M&J Seafood regards IUU fishing and any abuse of human rights as completely unacceptable at any stage through the supply chain. M&J Seafood has, for a number of years, had in place an ethical trading policy to which each of our suppliers is required to adhere. It is based on the standards set by the Ethical Trade Initiative (ETI) and reflects the key elements of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions.

All of our suppliers of fish and seafood products are aware of their requirement to maintain transparency through their supply chain to ensure they are not associated, in any way, with IUU fishing, human trafficking, slavery or other infringements of human rights.

M&J Seafood has established a supply chain compliance programme to determine the level of ethical risk within its supply chain which is maintained using the SEDEX platform. A suppliers' ethical performance can be monitored on an ongoing basis, at a frequency determined by the level of risk and vulnerability within their supply chain.

M&J Seafood source seafood products globally, including SE Asia, and we work with suppliers who have clear policies in place through their supply chain which includes the prohibition of trans-shipment or where permitted, requiring the practice to be monitored through independent observers on-board the vessels and third party social audits.

M&J Seafood recognise that more can always be done to tackle human trafficking and we are committed to a process of ongoing review of our practices and policies to combat the risk of slavery and human trafficking within our supply chain. We will continue to use SEDEX and explore how this can be developed to further enhance the transparency of our suppliers' ethical performance

