

# Seafood Certifications and Human Rights

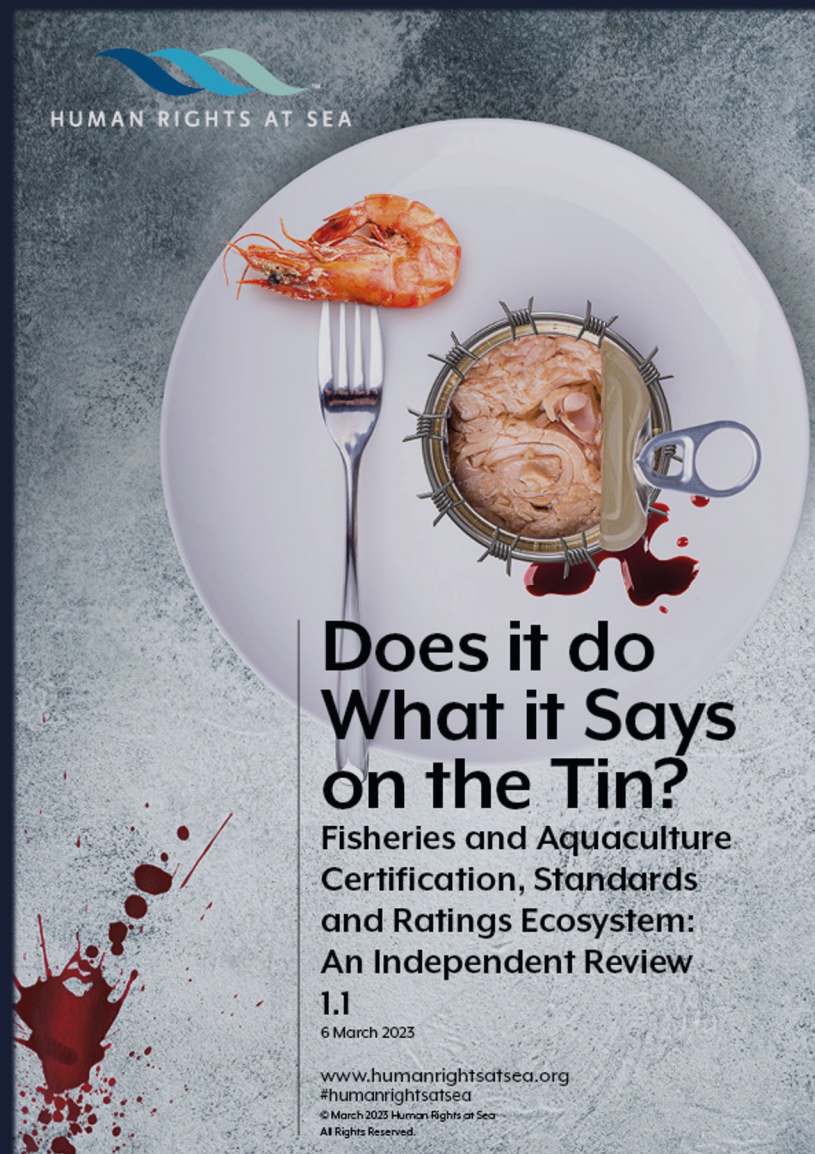
The role of certification – How standards have evolved over the last ten years? What next?

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# Challenges for Human Rights in the Seafood Industry



## 1 Lack of Transparency

Complex supply chains make it difficult to trace the origin of seafood, allowing human rights abuses to go unnoticed unless exposed.

## 2 Weak Governance

The seafood industry operates across international boundaries, creating challenges in effectively enforcing human rights standards.

## 3 Worker Abuses

Deep-rooted poor employment practices in some regions perpetuate exploitative labour practices and inhibits progress for worker protections.



# Human Rights Abuses in the Seafood Industry

1

## Forced Labor

Workers are subjected to exploitative conditions, forced labour, and human trafficking in the seafood industry.

2

## Child Labour

Children are often forced to work in hazardous conditions, compromising their education and well-being.

3

## Unsafe Working Conditions

Workers face dangerous environments, lack of personal protective equipment, and inadequate safety standards.



# Corporate Positioning: Why Seafood Certifications Matter

1

## Sustainable Fishing Practices

Responsible seafood certifications support fishing practices to protect the ecosystem and maintain healthy fish populations.

2

## Consumer Confidence

Certifications provide consumers with assurance that the seafood they purchase is sourced ethically and meets quality assurance standards.

3

## Preserving Communities

Certified seafood supports local fishing communities by promoting fair labour practices and contributing to supporting local economies.



# Known issues with Certification

## ■ Failure to address true sustainability?

Certifications can give false assurances to consumers.

Some entities market their brand yet when challenged on human rights abuses in certified fisheries state only to be focused on ecological sustainability.

BUT

\* Sustainability does not exist unless social protections are considered and enforced directly alongside environmental and biodiversity requirements.

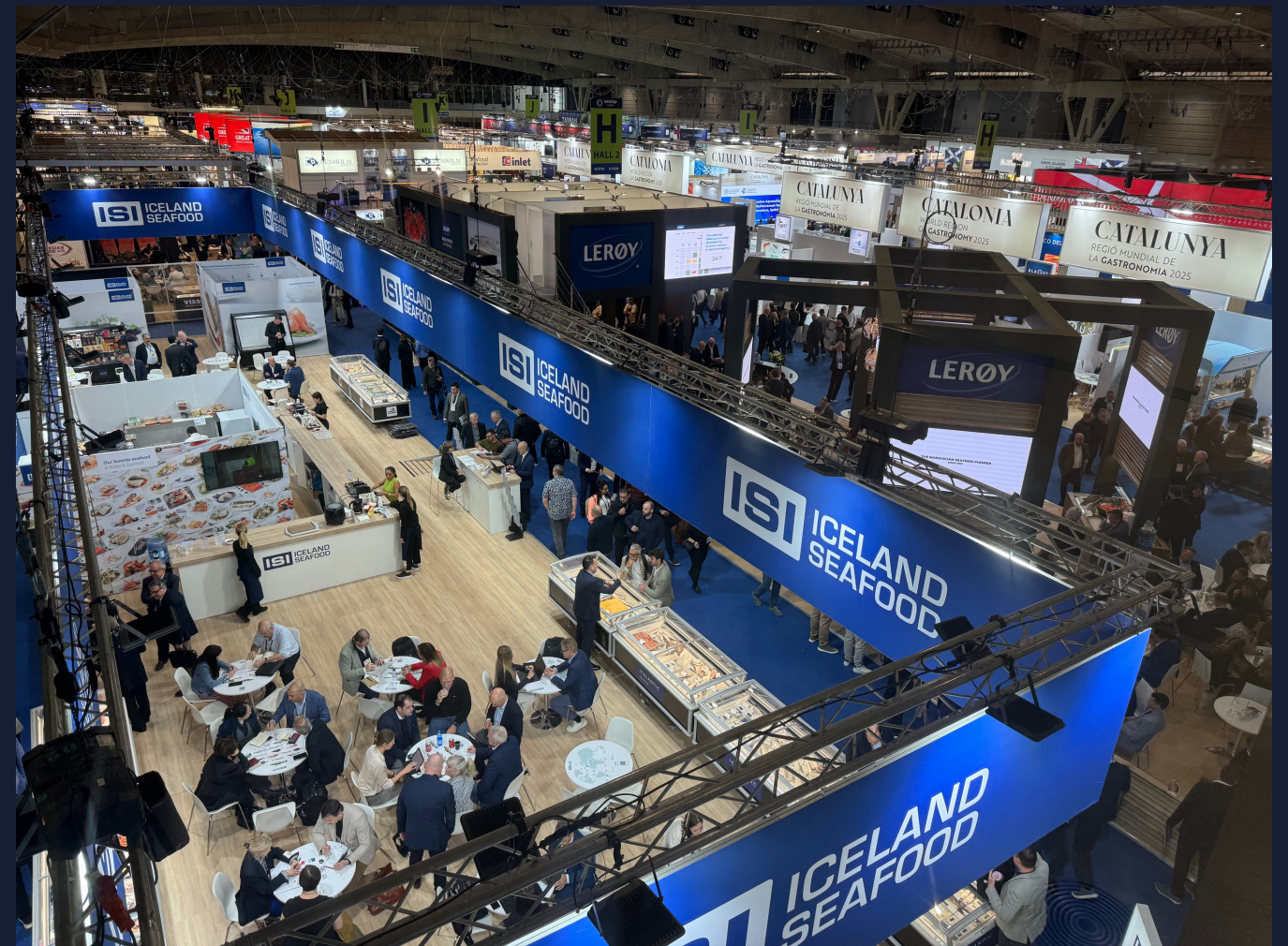




# Barcelona Seafood Expo 2024

2270+ Exhibitors, 87 countries, 35,000+ persons

No dedicated or harmonized social (ESG) standard



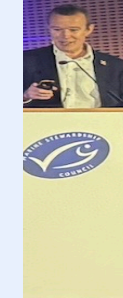




# Do you have any questions for the Seafood Futures Forum 2024 Panel?

Will MSC consider wider engagement with mandatory human rights due diligence as part of a sustainable MSC certification process - noting the EU Forced Labour Regulation and CSDDD legislation?

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# What Next? Some Realities

1. Continuation, development and refinement equally:
  - For certifications, standards and ratings bodies
  - For supporters and detractors
2. Biggest Risk: Polarised stakeholder positions.
3. Business will continue.
4. Worker exploitation will continue.
5. Lack of enforcement and deterrent effect will continue - set against national and business priorities vs increasing global population vs unsustainable resource consumption.



# What Can We Do Now ?

1. Vertically integrate and adopt the core philosophy that *'human rights apply at sea, as they do on land'*.
2. Ensure worker voice and participation.
3. Assure transparent and accountable human rights due diligence, compliance and exposure of abuses.
4. Identify, share and apply lessons learned.
5. Continually educate and influence both supply and value chains.

*And - trust in the next generation(s) to shape a sustainable future.*





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