

March 11, 2020

## ILO releases 'Endline' research findings on fishers and seafood workers in Thailand

*A new ILO report on working conditions in Thailand's fishing and seafood industry highlights recent changes in working conditions and estimates forced labour situations among workers*

**Bangkok** — New evidence from workers in Thailand's fishing and seafood industry shows improvements in working conditions since 2017 as well as a forced labour problem. See global and Thai media coverage of the new findings in the [New York Times](#)/A.P. Business and [Prachatai](#). The ILO report in English and Thai is at [shiptoshorerights.org](http://shiptoshorerights.org).

Following up on its 'baseline' research published in 2018, the ILO's Ship to Shore Rights Project (funded by the European Union) surveyed 219 fishers and 251 seafood processing workers for evidence of changes in recruitment, contracts, pay, hours, safety and worker organizing.

The new *Endline research findings on fishers and seafood workers in Thailand* report shows that changes in working conditions are, on the whole, moving in the right direction. Pay is higher in both sectors, and migration to and work in the fishing sector are now more formal and better regulated.

Despite the positive trends, abuses in the fishing and seafood sector persist, including forced labour for 14 per cent of fishers surveyed and seven per cent among the seafood processing workers interviewed. The ILO's findings are summarized in a new video available [here](#).

The European Union delegation to Thailand announced at the ILO event that it will endeavour to scale up activities with the ILO in 2020 on labour and migration issues in the fishing sector in Southeast Asia.



**Ship to Shore Rights Project**

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**The New York Times**

### ***ILO Says Working Conditions Improve in Thai Seafood Sector***

By The Associated Press

March 10, 2020, 7:50 a.m. ET

BANGKOK — A report issued Tuesday by the U.N.'s International Labor Organization credits Thailand with improving working conditions in the fishing and seafood processing industry, but says that serious abuses including forced labor remain.

The report is a follow-up to one published in 2018, and compares the workers situations from earlier surveys to one conducted last year.

Thailand's seafood sector accounts for billions of dollars in export earnings annually and employ more than 350,000 workers.

However, the industry began facing the threat of trade sanctions from Western nations after media exposure in 2014 of poor working conditions and especially the exploitation of 'fishing slaves' -- forced labor.