

*Protect human rights, dignity, and access to resources  
Ensure equality and equitable opportunities to benefit  
Improve food and livelihood security*

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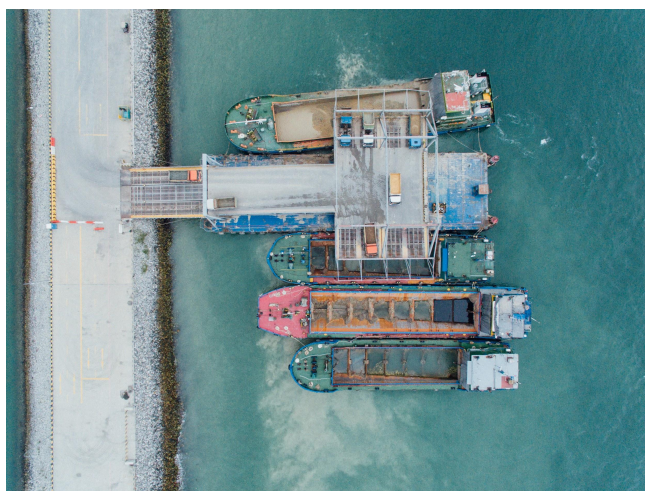
## MONTEREY FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

“

SLAVERY IS A SYSTEM OF DISHONORING AND  
DEGRADING PEOPLE THROUGH THE VIOLENT  
COERCION OF THEIR LABOR ACTIVITY IN  
CONDITIONS THAT DEHUMANIZE THEM.

”

– Siddharth Kara



**\$124 BILLION:** total annual profits from slavery globally.

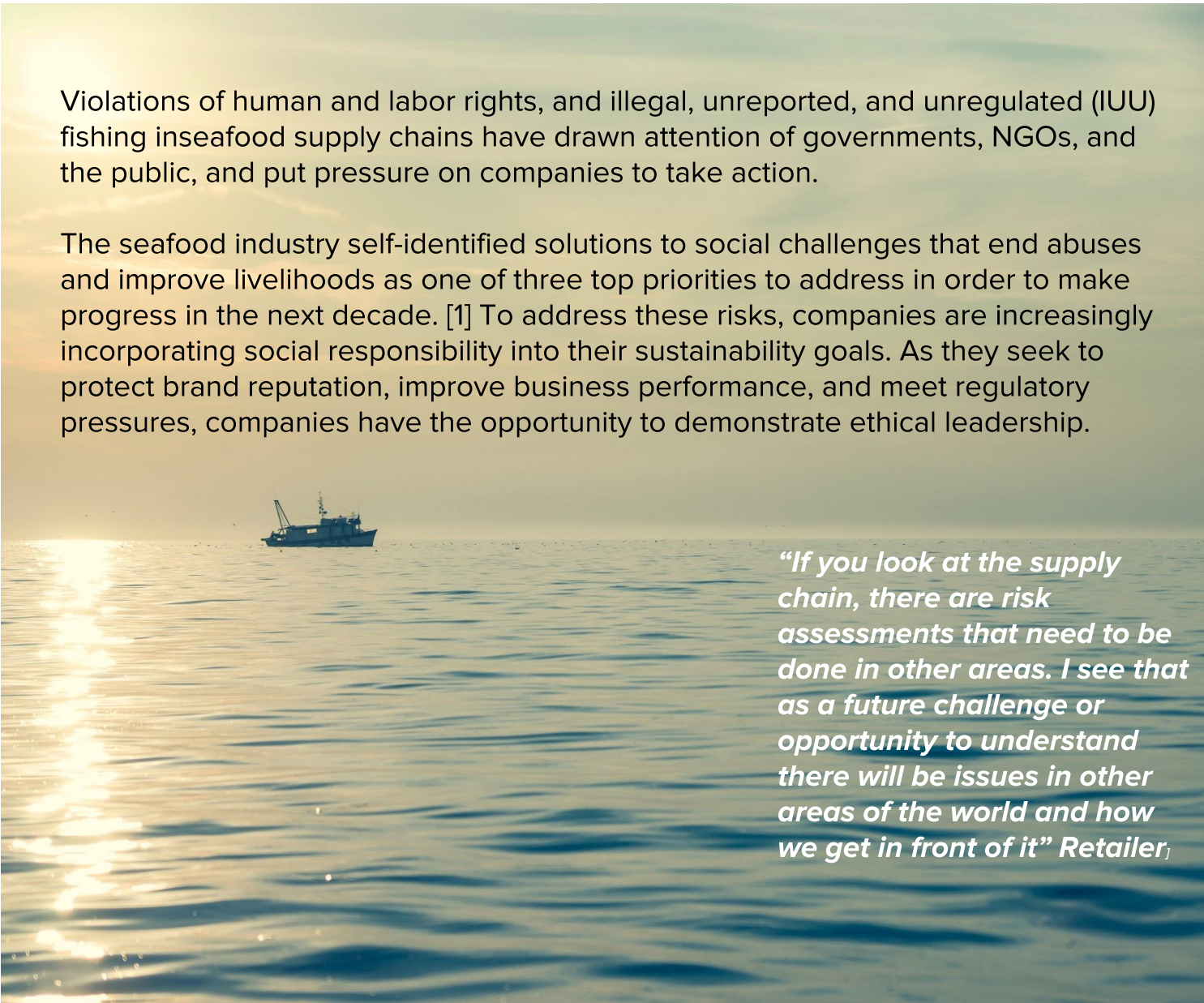
**\$3,978:** annual profits per slave.





Violations of human and labor rights, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in seafood supply chains have drawn attention of governments, NGOs, and the public, and put pressure on companies to take action.

The seafood industry self-identified solutions to social challenges that end abuses and improve livelihoods as one of three top priorities to address in order to make progress in the next decade. [1] To address these risks, companies are increasingly incorporating social responsibility into their sustainability goals. As they seek to protect brand reputation, improve business performance, and meet regulatory pressures, companies have the opportunity to demonstrate ethical leadership.

A photograph of a fishing boat on the ocean at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, shimmering reflection on the water's surface. The boat is a small, dark vessel with a mast and some equipment visible. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall mood is serene but also evokes a sense of vastness and the challenges of the industry.

*“If you look at the supply chain, there are risk assessments that need to be done in other areas. I see that as a future challenge or opportunity to understand there will be issues in other areas of the world and how we get in front of it” Retailer,*

## What does ‘socially responsible seafood’ mean?

Socially responsible seafood, as defined in the Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions’ [Common Vision](#), refers not only to protecting human and labor rights and dignity, but also to respecting access to resources, ensuring equality and equitable opportunities to benefit by all involved in supply chain production, and improving food and livelihood security.[3] Companies, regardless of size, sector, or operating context, at a minimum must adhere to all legal and policy requirements protecting human rights.[4] Over time, businesses can further advance their commitments to social responsibility by ensuring their sourcing has a net positive impact on the social, economic, and cultural dimensions of fisheries and communities.

[1] Danielle Lewis, Industry Perspectives on the Next Phase of Sustainable Seafood Research on behalf of David and Lucile Packard Foundation Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Walton Family Foundation (2018)

[2] Industry Perspectives on the Next Phase of Sustainable Seafood Research (2018)

[3] Kittinger, J et al. (2017) Committing to socially responsible seafood. *Science* 356 6341: 912-913.

[4] United Nations Office of the High Commissioner. (2011) Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Available at: [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf)

Seafood is the primary source of protein for 3 of 7 people globally. Media revelations about slavery and human rights abuses have placed social issues at the forefront of a sector that has spent decades working to improve environmental sustainability.

**Human rights violations in the seafood industry are accompanied by other serious issues, including institutionalized inequality, undermining of food and livelihood security, and loss of access rights. Collectively these factors drive social instability, poverty and resource decline.**

## What is the Monterey Framework for Social Responsibility?

A coalition of 33 NGOs and businesses co-developed a shared definition of social responsibility . Referred to as the “Monterey Framework” (published in Science), this definition is now integrated with the **Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions’ Common Vision for Sustainable Seafood** and the **Seafood Certification and Ratings Collaboration’s Framework for Social Responsibility**.

This commitment helps fulfill the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

### PRINCIPLE 1: PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS, DIGNITY & ACCESS TO RESOURCES

Fundamental human rights are respected, labor rights are protected, and decent living and working conditions are provided, particularly for vulnerable and at-risk groups

Rights and access to resources are respected and fairly allocated and respectful of collective and indigenous rights

### PRINCIPLE 2: ENSURE EQUALITY & EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT

Recognition, voice, and respectful engagement for all groups, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, culture, political, or socioeconomic status

Equal opportunities to benefit are ensured to all, through the entire supply chain

### PRINCIPLE 3: IMPROVE FOOD & LIVELIHOOD SECURITY

Nutritional and sustenance needs of resource-dependent communities are maintained or improved

Livelihood opportunities are secured or improved, including fair access to markets and capabilities to maintain income generation

**34 authors**  
**21 institutions**



**PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS,  
DIGNITY, AND  
ACCESS TO RESOURCES**



**ENSURE EQUALITY  
AND EQUITABLE  
OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT**



**IMPROVE FOOD  
AND LIVELIHOOD  
SECURITY**



# Legal Backing & Rights Violations Fisheries

In addition to the Monterey Framework, the principles of socially responsible seafood are supported by a comprehensive set of existing law, policy, and guidance frameworks embedding human rights inside and outside of fisheries.

**The categories of human rights that the 3 pillars of the Monterey Framework address are civil, political, ecological, social and cultural**

## CATEGORIES OF HUMAN RIGHTS

- **Civil** – the right to be treated as an equal to anyone else in society
- **Political** – the right to vote, to freedom of speech, and to obtain information
- **Economic** – the right to participate in an economy that benefits all, and to desirable work
- **Social** – the right to education, health care, food, clothing, shelter, and social security
- **Cultural** – the right to freedom of religion, and to speak the language, and to practice the culture of one's choice

*Examples of **civil** and **political** rights violated in fisheries:*

*When workers aboard a fishing vessel are discriminated against, treated inhumanely, held against their will, do not have access to grievance reporting or remediation, or not allowed to join labor unions to represent their interests. Migrant workers are particularly vulnerable to this type of human rights abuse.*

*Examples of **economic, social, and cultural** rights violated in fisheries:*

*When foreign fleets (over)fish in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of developing countries, or offshore fisheries-dependent communities, such that fishing as a livelihood or way of life is no longer economically viable, or communities' rights to food security are undermined as they no longer have access to critical sources of fish-based protein or nutrients.*

•Civil  
•Political  
•Economic  
•Social  
•Cultural



All human rights are indivisible, and no human right shall be prioritized at the expense of another

*Join a broad base of signatories to publicly commit to support activities associated with a broader definition of sustainable seafood, one that encompasses environmental and social responsibility.*



## What Can Businesses Do?

Improve social performance in the seafood sector and reduce business risk associated with social issues through diverse partnerships that includes businesses, governments, intergovernmental organizations, and NGO partners working together.

By signing, businesses and others commit to broadening their activities to support social responsibility in the seafood sector, which is inextricably linked to environmental sustainability. Support for these principles will continue to build by securing a broad base of stakeholders to support this Voluntary Commitment.





# Value Add for Businesses

**Investment:** Committing to social responsibility assures investors that human rights, equality, and food and livelihood security will be protected

**Risk Management:** Companies that take action to improve social responsibility in their supply chains reduce the risk of business and trade disruptions, public campaigns, litigation, and reputational harm to companies.

**Alignment with Global Standards:** Aligning with global social responsibility standards helps a company ensure it is meeting best practices and social responsibility expectations for a company doing business today.

**Meet Stakeholder Expectations:** Sustainability initiatives are moving in the direction of increasing social and environmental sustainability, and companies now need to assure stakeholders that they are taking action to protect workers throughout their supply chains. In making their purchasing and investing choices, both customers and investors are looking for evidence that companies have done their due diligence.

**Long Term Sustainability of Product:** By 2030, the oceans will need to supply 152 to 188 million metric tons of seafood to nourish a growing population. Fulfilling this demand in a socially and environmentally sustainable manner will require increased investment from public and private sources, so that the level of resources and expertise committed is commensurate with the scale of these challenges.

The following businesses have made voluntary commitments to social responsibility:



The global conversation about social issues presents an opportunity for the seafood sector to take steps to ensure that a healthy ocean will support human well-being, now and into the future.

# Turning Principles to Practice

A key step in moving the “Monterey Framework” from principles to practice is the integration of a social responsibility framework into Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs). This was identified as a strategic priority by the Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions[1] (“Conservation Alliance”) and the Coalition for Socially Responsible Seafood[2] (“Coalition”) in 2016. In this context, Conservation International, partnering with organizations of the Conservation Alliance and Coalition, are co-developing a social responsibility assessment tool for the seafood sector. This tool, named as “Social Responsibility Scorecard for the Seafood Sector”, is built on the Monterey Framework, the UN FAO’s Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries and other relevant, existing protocols and frameworks.

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## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY SCORECARD FOR THE SEAFOOD SECTOR: A RAPID ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL

### What the Scorecard Is...

- Is useful as a diagnostic or rapid assessment tool – to assess risk of social issues, to identify areas in need of improvement, to inform the development of a work plan that includes a social element.
- Is not a certification. The Scorecard enumerates existing resources in social responsibility certification, in the case the FIP wants to proceed towards certification.
- Is voluntary for the time being. A FIP implementer decides whether or not she/he would like to assess social responsibility principles. Whether or not this protocol will become compulsory merits further discussion.
- Is now reflected in the Conservation Alliance Common Vision (i.e. there is language around social responsibility), and we are currently drafting an “addendum” to the CA’s FIP Guidelines to include social elements of a FIP.
- Was co-produced, and thus co-owned, by many stakeholders and organizations inside and outside of the Conservation Alliance. However, CI has taken the lead in developing guidance around use of the protocol and integrating feedback during revision processes.

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[1] Conservation Alliance for Sustainable Solutions is an alliance of conservation NGOs working with businesses along seafood supply chains globally to solve sustainable seafood's biggest challenges. <https://solutionsforseafood.org/>

[2] Coalition for Socially Responsible Seafood is a consortium of stakeholders interested in advancing social responsibility and human rights issues in fisheries, representing conservation, human rights, and development NGOs, industry, and academia.



