

SEA Alliance meeting on Tuesday 28 January 2020. 3.45pm – 5.00pm.

Attendees

Ally Dingwall	Sainsburys
Amber Madley	New England Seafood
Andy Smith	ISB Ltd
Cameron Moffat	Young's Seafood
Clare Clifton	World Wise Foods
Dominique Gautier	Seafresh Group
Estelle Brennan	Lyons Seafoods
Joe Prosho	Morrisons
Karen Green	Seafish
Kevin Powell	Seachill
Laky Zervudachi	Direct Seafoods
Lara Funk	Seafish
Louise McCafferty	Joseph Robertson Ltd
Lucy Blow	New England Seafood
Malcolm Harris	Sea Dragon
Mike Mitchell	Fair Seas
Mike Short	Seafood Industry Alliance
Sarah Hussey	Seafresh Group
Shannon Conlin	Seafresh Group
Siobhan Bradley	Lovering Foods

Apologies

Leah Riley-Brown	British Retail Consortium
Sam Ludlow-Taylor	Waitrose

1. Welcome and competition statement.

Everyone introduced themselves and the competition statement was read out at:

We must at all times comply with the requirements of competition law throughout this meeting, including in any informal discussions. Accordingly, we must not engage in any conduct which is likely to have the effect of preventing, distorting or restricting competition. All participants at this meeting agree to adhere to these principles and acknowledge that failure to do so could have serious consequences in law. Please also respect the confidentiality of your relationships with both customers and suppliers. These ground rules should serve to protect us all from any inadvertent breach of competition law.

The agenda for this meeting linked to the revised SEA Alliance work plan and activities. This is attached and will be added to the SEA Alliance web page and will be regularly updated.

1. Information gathering and risk assessment.

There was some discussion as to whether to re-order these points to become data points, risk assessment and then PAS. This has been actioned. The over-arching thought was to arrive at a common methodology/set of drivers to create a balance between drivers of risk and mitigation.

1.1. Agree a common set of social data points.

This is an opportunity to look at existing human rights risk assessments but this is difficult at fisheries level.

1.2 Undertake human rights assessment of key source fisheries, using publicly available information.

This does include the Sedex vessel questionnaire. This is live and a limited number of questionnaire have been filled in, however there have been challenges working with Sedex, and there have been challenges in making stakeholders understand what this is all about, what it is trying to achieve and that it is anonymous. Not all SEA Alliance participants are clear on the value of this. A one-page briefing document has been produced to explain this. There was a preference for using Survey Monkey. In addition a number of graphs were shown depicting the information that had been gleaned from the completed questionnaire provided to date.

Action

- It was felt that more explanation was needed around the Sedex questionnaire. Karen to circulate the briefing document, the graphs and the actual questions.
- We could perhaps look back at the fisheries of concern we highlighted previously. A survey was conducted in April 2018 and six supply chains really stood out where there were clear concerns namely:
 - Nephrops from the UK
 - Salmon from Alaska
 - Squid from China (and India)
 - Warm water prawns from Indonesia
 - Warm water prawns from Thailand
 - Warm water prawns from Vietnam

1.2. Carry out pilots of PAS 1550 and create simplified implementation guidance.

This is well underway. We have an approved ToR for a PAS Working Group to be added to the SEA Alliance web page.

- There are still questions over where the PAS will sit going forward.
- Trial audits have been carried to test the applicability of PAS 1550.
- Following this the NGO coalition has started producing implementation guidance to sit behind the PAS. This will be shared with the SEA Alliance PAS Working Group for collaborative input – hopefully in February. Lucy Blow and Mike Mitchell have agreed to take the lead on feeding back.
- It is clear OceanMind have been looking at this which could dovetail.

Action

- SEA Alliance Working Group to continue working with NGO coalition.

2. Enhanced due diligence

2.1. Deeper dive intelligence.

There may be opportunities to take a much closer look at areas of concern by working collaboratively and possibly funding a third party to undertake more extensive research. Tesco is keen to support work of this kind and would be interested to see if others would like to engage with this and share the costs. This would require a considered approach and a ToR to dictate the data points, methodology and aims of each piece of work.

Action

- Andy Hickman to follow up with ideas re collaborative working opportunities.
- Clare Clifton mentioned a ToR that she could share.
- Andy Hickman mentioned a human rights assessment currently underway looking at the prawns from Vietnam supply chain. The ToR could be shared.
- Vietnam was highlighted as another country where there could be more focus, linked to IOM.

2.2. HRAS Baseline assessment.

It is not clear yet what the outcomes of this baseline assessment will be.

3. Improving fisheries and supply chain.

3.1. Code of Practice, containing SEA Alliance interested parties' expectations for human rights standards in the fishing sector.

This could naturally follow enhanced due diligence or it could stand alone.

3.2. Grievance mechanism.

This is linked to the forthcoming project due to be undertaken by Global Seafood Assurances.

3.3. Formalise and publicise SEA Alliance commitment to Employer Pays Principle for recruitment of workers in fishing sector.

Action

- Look at the Consumer Goods Forum, BRC, FNet for who is saying what and produce a statement the SEA Alliance could commit to.
- Look at the recent announcement by German retailers re the living wage.

4. Advocacy and engagement

4.1. Participate in Technical Advisory Committee of Responsible Fishing Scheme.

It was agreed that the SEA Alliance would like to remain engaged with this process.

Action

- Karen to write to GSA re the future structure.
- This could be expanded to engagement in other such initiatives. Nick Kightley from the Ethical Trading Initiative has been in touch about a new GLP Working Committee being formed in Thailand to steer the future of the Good Labour Practices guidance manual. Nick is looking for a representative from either a major retailer or an international intermediary (such as a major processor) supplying multiple retailers and across multiple countries and markets to join this Working Committee to provide insight into market pressures and market sentiment and provide understanding of the international market perspectives on GLPs and associated company labour reforms. Estelle Brennan volunteered.

4.2. Engage with MSC to review (and strengthen where applicable) social elements of MSC Fisheries Standard.

A draft letter has been produced with key questions to the MSC about the 'self-declaration' statements. The aim is to find out more about the process and invite MSC to discuss.

Action: SEA Alliance to send letter to MSC.

4.3. Develop advocacy strategy prioritising source countries that have not ratified/implemented key international standards. There was specific mention of an Oxfam Thai Government Advocacy Letter. They were asking for the SEA Alliance to endorse - the deadline was very short so the group felt we did not have time to respond.

Action

- The deadline was extended and the SEA Alliance did endorse the letter.

4.4. Side event at UN Committee on Fisheries/create momentum for what the SEA Alliance is doing - speaking opportunities. It was felt to be important that we took advantage of opportunities to drive change.

Action

- Look into what is possible at COFI events.
- Keep a log of SEA Alliance participants speaking at events.