



Human Rights Allegation Engagement Group

In January 2022 the SEA Alliance Steering Committee agreed the creation of “Human Rights Allegation Engagement Groups” when allegations are made of significant human rights issues in a source fishery relevant to the UK market and SEA Alliance members. The process for the creation of such a group is set out below:

- SEA Alliance Secretariat and Head of SEA Alliance receive information indicating a recent human rights allegation in a relevant source fishery;
- SEA Alliance Secretariat and Head of SEA Alliance review information and assess credibility;
- Decision to set-up a Human Rights Allegation Engagement Group is agreed with SEA Alliance Steering Committee (via email to ensure timely action);
- Email summary of issue and allegations shared with SEA Alliance membership, with invitation to join Human Rights Allegation Engagement Group;
- Meeting organised to discuss issue and agree any next steps, which *may* include:
 - Organising a meeting with any concerned stakeholders (e.g. trade unions/NGOs/fishing associations);
 - Drafting a communication to the relevant Competent Authority to highlight concerns and request further information;
 - Commissioning an independent organisation to assist in investigating the issue.

Further info:

- At every stage of this process, careful consideration must be given to the protection of workers and/or any whistleblowers, and the integrity of any ongoing legal action relating to the issue;
- In keeping with Competition Law, it would be for the individual business to decide on any steps regarding supply and commercial relationships, and this would not be the remit of the SEA Alliance Human Rights Allegation Engagement Group. No discussions will take place in the meetings on sourcing decisions;
- It is understood that companies may take their own actions in undertaking human rights due diligence and ensuring remediation of any human rights issues, and it is intended that such action will not conflict with the activities of the Human Rights Allegation Engagement Group;
- The SEA Alliance does not have funding for follow-up work at fishery-level, therefore any in-depth fishery-level follow-up work would need to be agreed and funded by member companies and/or donors.

For any questions regarding Human Rights Allegation Engagement Groups, please contact Andy Hickman (andy.hickman@seafish.co.uk) or Karen Green (karen.green@seafish.co.uk).