



THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR THE SEAFOOD SECTOR

The Social Responsibility Assessment Tool for the Seafood Sector, co-developed as a collaborative resource by more than two-dozen organizations, is useful as a diagnostic, benchmarking, or risk assessment tool for conducting human rights due diligence in seafood supply chains. This resource is meant to be used as a sister tool to a FIP needs-assessment or pre-assessment, and should be applied to assess risks of social issues, uncover critical information gaps, identify areas in need of improvement, and inform the development of a Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) workplan that includes a social element. The Social Responsibility Assessment Tool is not a certification, and is voluntary for the time being. A FIP implementer decides whether or not she/he would like to assess social responsibility principles and performance indicators in the context of each fishery and aquaculture improvement project.

SUPPORT FROM LABOR + HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS

This tool was co-produced, and thus co-owned; over two-dozen organizations have contributed over the course of the development phase, including many organizations comprising the Conservation Alliance, human and labor rights organizations (Verite, International Labor Rights Forum, FairAgora Asia, Liberty Shared, Humanity United), university scholars, intergovernmental agencies, and industry.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE FIP GUIDELINES

The Social Responsibility Assessment Tool is built on the three principles of the “The Monterey Framework” – a shared definition of social responsibility inclusive of: 1) protecting human rights, dignity, and access to resources, 2) ensuring equality and equitable opportunity to benefit, 3) improving food, nutrition, and livelihood security. The Monterey Framework is now reflected in the Conservation Alliance Common Vision, and is currently being vetted as part of the 2019 revisions to the Conservation Alliance FIP Guidelines.

A COLLATION OF ALL EXISTING CERTIFICATIONS + RATINGS FOR SOCIAL ISSUES

Three main documents inform most of the content and format of this Social Responsibility Assessment Tool: Certification and Ratings Collaboration Framework on Social Responsibility for the Seafood Sector (Opal 2018); FIP Rapid Assessment Protocol (OSMI 2018); Guidance for Incorporating Socioeconomic Factors into Fishery Improvement Projects (SFP 2018). Furthermore, the indicators and scoring guideposts used to build this tool are a collation of all the existing certification and ratings community of practice for social issues in seafood. Namely, the Social Responsibility Assessment Tool integrates criteria from: SSRT, FTUSA, Clearview, Seafish RFS, ASC, Naturland, BSCI, FishSource, IFFO RS, GRASP, FOTS, BAP, SFP, IPNLF, and Thai Gap, among others (for a complete list see ANNEX II of the Social Responsibility Assessment Tool).

The Assessment Tool also integrates all relevant ILO Conventions and international protocols and standards. The purpose of this tool is ultimately to improve crew welfare and well-being, but there are also benefits for businesses, governments, and other stakeholders. Chief among these are de-risking and diversifying investment opportunities, reducing risk of supply chain disruptions, litigation, and reputational harm, aligning with and meeting global social responsibility standards, and evolving consumer demands, and finally ensuring continuity of seafood production to meet global food security needs into the future.