



# FishWise Releases RISE, a Labor Rights Roadmap for Seafood Businesses

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FishWise, a non-profit sustainable seafood consultancy in Santa Cruz, Calif., released the Roadmap for Improving Seafood Ethics -- RISE -- this week. RISE was developed in partnership with members of the seafood industry and leading conservation and human rights experts. The RISE website, [riseseafood.org](http://riseseafood.org), offers streamlined guidance and steps companies can take to understand the labor conditions throughout their supply chains and make improvements to protect workers and mitigate their own regulatory and reputational risks, the company said in a press release.

“Seafood companies understand that their success depends on the well-being of the people who catch, raise, process, and transport the fish they sell, and they want to do the right thing,” Aurora Alifano, Director of the Social Responsibility Division at FishWise, said in the statement. “RISE offers the help many need to turn concern into action on labor rights.”

Through dialogue with industry leaders, FishWise learned that labor rights and other social issues are a high priority for many companies, but capacity constraints and an abundance of information served as obstacles to getting started. RISE is the product of a multi-year collaboration that brought industry, human rights, labor, and human trafficking experts together to address those constraints. It offers businesses streamlined guidance and actionable steps to:

- Evaluate their supply chain risks;
- Understand and improve labor practices;
- Engage workers and make improvements that matter; and
- Communicate about their policies, expectations, and progress.

“Worker protections have been a Tri Marine priority for some time and we know that taking action is challenging and important,” Matt Owens, Director of Environmental Policy and Social Responsibility at Tri Marine Group, said. “RISE offers companies an opportunity to do the right thing and address potential problems that could put their businesses at risk.”

Labor rights and other social issues are also a priority for non-governmental organizations working with industry to improve environmental sustainability. The Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions, which brings more than 40 global sustainability NGOs together to address shared challenges, updated its Common Vision for Sustainable Seafood in 2018 to prioritize social issues. FishWise is a founding Alliance member organization, as are Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch Program, and other NGOs who contributed to the RISE initiative.

“Seafood Watch ratings help seafood businesses improve environmental sustainability in their supply chains. RISE helps companies implement practices that protect workers and their businesses. By using Seafood Watch and RISE together, businesses can get the whole picture and make real improvements to sustainability and social responsibility,” Seafood Watch Senior Program Manager Ryan Bigelow said in the release,

In addition to an accessible step-by-step approach, RISE consolidates supportive resources and guidance developed by the world's leading human rights and labor advocates. The free online platform is designed for companies to use independently. As the project progresses, there is the opportunity to bring together multiple companies to accelerate learning. RISE also offers a referral hub, providing connections to experts who can provide individualized guidance and support.

“Ethical supply chain management means companies should consider the human rights and labour conditions in their supply chain. Effectively engaging workers requires soliciting their input, ensuring protections for those who speak, and establishing channels for remediation,” said Mark Taylor, Director of Strategy & Global Partnerships at the Issara Institute. “RISE offers businesses an accessible step-by-step process, supportive resources, and connections to expert advice, so they can take proactive steps.”

RISE was developed with grant funding support from Walmart Foundation, which aims to decrease the risk of forced or underage labor, human trafficking and other issues affecting workers in supply chains, making investments that focus on data to disrupt these issues and technology that advances transparency.

“We are proud to support FishWise, who has taken a leadership role in integrating and advancing research, learnings and collaboration to create a better seafood sourcing industry, Walmart Foundation Senior Director Karrie Dennisston said.

Susan Chambers  
SeafoodNews.com  
1-541-297-2875  
[susanchambers@urnerbarry.com](mailto:susanchambers@urnerbarry.com)

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