

Greetings!

This month FishWise is excited to bring you highlights on Mariah's attendance at the "Managing our Nation's Fisheries" meeting in Washington, DC, an introduction to the fisheries improvement work being conducted by our partner Sea Delight, a summary of the recently released EJF Human Trafficking report by Monterey Institute of International Studies Fellow, Samantha Robinson and introduce you to Paul Leon - our newest Intern!

Enjoy!

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Traceability & IUU Feature: Managing and Promoting Our Domestic Fisheries



In May, Mariah Boyle attended the 3rd Managing our Nation's Fisheries meeting in DC where all 8 Fishery Management Councils and other stakeholders come together to discuss the Magnuson-Stevens Act and domestic sustainable fisheries management.

For those who want all the details, the [conference website](#) has posted background papers for each session. For others wanting a quick summary of the meeting, we suggest reviewing Pew Charitable Trusts' excellent '[Top 10 Takeaways](#)' blog. FishWise will continue to monitor the important topics that were discussed at the meeting - such as climate change, forage fish, promoting U.S. fisheries, ecosystem based management, and combating illegal fishing.

Mariah also met with representatives at [NOAA](#) in DC about ways to better promote US fisheries. If it has been a while since you looked at NOAA's website, we suggest taking another look. There are fantastic new videos, such as one to explain [stock assessments](#), and a NOAA Fisheries Podcast called '[On the Line](#)'. We are continuing to engage with NOAA and brainstorm with our partners of ways to better promote U.S. fisheries. If you have any thoughts or comments on this topic, please feel free to get in touch!

Sea Delight FIPs and BFPIs

[Sea Delight, LLC](#), is a family-owned seafood importer based out of Miami, Florida that specializes in high-quality fresh and frozen seafood products. Superior products, excellent customer service and dedication to responsible business practices have grown Sea Delight and its affiliated companies into market leaders and distinguished them from their competition. Yet it is their work on the water that is starting to gain them international recognition in the conservation world. Sea Delight has found sustainability to be a key factor in developing a strong and successful business.

"We believe in the importance of promoting marine conservation programs to protect the natural resource for future generations, but most importantly, we do so because we understand that the future of the industry depends on it as well. Our approach has been to work within our supply chain to generate change," says Adriana Sánchez-Lindsay, Sea Delight's Seafood Import & Sustainability Coordinator.



Kedonganan Beach Clean-up for Coral Triangle Day 2012

Sea Delight actively funds and engages in Better Fishing Practices Initiatives (BFPIs) and [Fishery Improvement Projects \(FIPs\)](#) in areas they source fish, including Ecuador, Vietnam, and Indonesia. Working in concert with [WWF](#), Sea Delight funds projects that aim to directly improve specific aspects of these fisheries and contribute to positive change on the water. Species for which improvement activities currently exist are tuna, mahi-mahi, snapper and grouper. Says Adriana, "We are the first full members of the [WWF Indonesia Seafood Savers Program](#), and as such, Sea Delight is committed to conducting a series of fisheries improvement activities along our company's supply chain in Indonesia. These activities include improved governance of national fisheries management, the strengthening of institutional frameworks, scientific research activities, and compliance strengthening toward eco-certification standards such as the [MSC](#). Our work in these projects serves as a platform and provides the 'know-how' needed to expand our sustainability efforts into Vietnam via the development of a Better Fishing Practice Initiative for tuna, snapper and grouper in this country."



Adriana signing the Code of Ethics for the Seafood Savers program

An example of a better fishing practice is the [circle hook initiative](#) being conducted in the Vietnamese tuna fishery. Sea Delight has been working with longline fishermen and middlemen to provide circle hooks and transition fishermen away from the use of longlines and J-hooks. Longlines and J-hooks catch larger amounts of bycatch with typically lower survival rates when compared to circle hooks. Sea Delight also provides the training needed for fishermen to properly use circle hooks to reduce the amount of non-target species bycatch captured in the fisheries, including sea turtles. [Improved landings](#) and higher prices at the dock have earned these projects valuable credibility among the fishermen and entire areas have begun to convert from longline fishing to the more profitable hook and line fishing with circle hooks.



Steve Fisher, Sea Delight's Sustainability Project Coordinator examining circle hooks in Vietnam

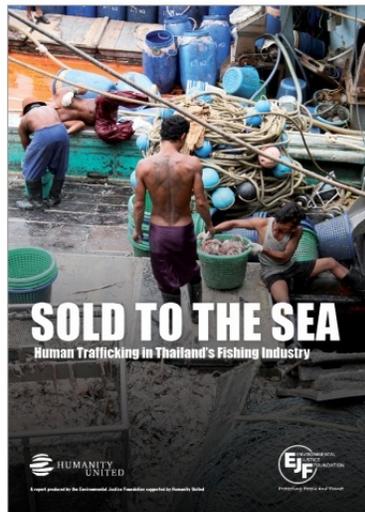
"Education has really been the cornerstone of our success," notes Adriana. "It is not only about engaging our vendors to participate but also working with the local fishermen where our product is sourced from to promote awareness of the issues at hand and helping them to engage in responsible fishing practices. Our biggest challenge has been developing a funding model for these projects. Sea Delight is a medium size company with limited resources for these projects. Nonetheless, because we believe that having a company-wide Sustainability Program is essential for our continued success, we hope that with the creation of the [Sea Delight Ocean Fund](#), we will be able to encourage our suppliers to support bill back programs for our products and also work with other key-industry players

to contribute financially to these efforts."

FishWise will provide updates on the progress being made by Sea Delight's improvement projects as they become available in future editions of the monthly newsletter. If you would like to dig deeper into Sea Delight's history progress, check out their [blog](#) and [sustainability timeline](#) where updates are regularly posted.

Environmental Justice Foundation's "Sold to the Sea: Human Trafficking in Thailand"

In May 2013, our colleagues with the [Environmental Justice Foundation \(EJF\)](#) released an in-depth [report](#) and [video](#) on human trafficking and forced labor conditions aboard Thai fishing vessels. By value, Thailand is the world's third largest exporter of fish and fishery products. Wild fish such as big-eye tuna, threadfin bream, and croaker are harvested in Thailand's waters. Other species that are undesirable for human consumption, often called [trash fish](#) are caught and processed into fish meal and fish oil.



SOLD TO THE SEA: Human Trafficking in Thailand's Fishing Industry

With the unemployment rate in Thailand hovering around .05%, it is becoming more and more difficult to find Thai workers willing to submit to the grueling demands of life aboard a fishing vessel when there are less labor-intensive, higher paying jobs available to those who qualify. As such, the Thai fishing industry now relies primarily on a migrant workforce from neighboring countries with less robust economies, including Myanmar and Cambodia.

Some workers enter Thailand legally but due to restrictive employment laws and an arduous immigration procedure, many are trafficked into the country by small smuggling operations. Workers are then contracted to a vessel or vessel owner for a period of months or years, whether or not they have any working knowledge of the sea or desire to become fishers. Victims interviewed by EJF reported being deceived by recruiters, working 18-20 hour days with little or no pay, having passports removed and/or withheld, and experiencing mental and/or physical abuse. Many of those interviewed reported witnessing a fellow crewmember murdered by a boat captain.

EJF makes the following recommendations to combat trafficking and prevent conditions of "modern slavery" in Thai fisheries and other labor markets:

(1) Urge the Thai government to create a detailed, time bound action plan, which allows for third-party monitoring of implementation and progress;

(2) All trade partners must work to investigate their seafood supply chains, particularly in the U.S-the second largest importer of Thai seafood;

(3) Create a global record of fishing vessels to ensure transparency and traceability in the seafood sector.

FishWise is currently researching human rights issues in the seafood industry and will summarize findings and recommend next steps to the industry in a white paper on the topic this year.

Meet Paul Leon - FishWise Intern!



Greetings to all FishWise subscribers! My name is Paul Leon and I am excited to have been appointed as the newest intern for the FishWise organization.

Initially from Dana Point, California, I have learned to appreciate and grow fond of the ocean as if it were part of my own backyard. My undying passion and adoration for such natural beauty has led to the completion of my Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz, with a focus in Marine Conservation. I seek to gain the utmost understanding of how ecological practices can be applied towards the recovery of ocean ecosystems. While completing my undergraduate, I assisted in the examination of habitat loss and human development on islands with globally threatened seabird populations, studied the foraging patterns, dive behavior, contaminant levels, and stress levels in the blood of female N. elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) at Año Nuevo State Reserve, and assessed the distribution, abundance and species composition of trawled krill (*Euphausiacea*) from the coasts of Monterey.

My ultimate goal is to work with programs that help establish management, research, and conservation priorities in order to care for our valuable ocean resources. I strive to expand my understanding of ocean dynamics and aspire to become an effective conservation scientist.

I am very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to join the FishWise team due to the large role FishWise plays in consulting seafood retailers and by educating consumers on the quality/sourcing of fish being served. I am very proud and excited to be apart of this organization.

In Case You Missed It...

We couldn't decide on a single video to include in this month's newsletter so we have included two!

Ocean conservation means many different things to many different people. These videos show two people, both highly-respected in their respective communities, that approach the idea of ocean conservation from two different angles.

Check these videos out to see how we are all ultimately aiming to achieve the outcomes of understanding and sustainability when it comes to ocean conservation.



Interview with Sylvia Earle



Variables with Kimi Werner

If you have any questions, comments, or would like to contribute to the FishWise Newsletter please don't hesitate to contact me!

Sincerely,

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