

**Greetings!**

Happy Thanksgiving! We hope that everyone is doing well during this very busy time of year.

In this month's newsletter we highlight Mariah's new white paper on human rights abuses within the seafood industry, present a FishWise verified organization for typhoon relief donations in the Philippines, discuss improvements in the B.C. groundfish trawl fishery, and conclude with a summary of a Blue Drinks event held at Geisha Sushi in Capitola, CA.

Enjoy!

**Quick Links**

[Human Rights Abuses White Paper](#)

[Philippine Typhoon Relief Effort](#)

[B.C. Groundfish Improvements](#)

[Last Ocean Event](#)

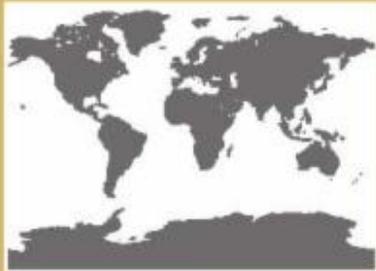
[In Case You Missed It](#)

**FishWise Authors Paper on Human Rights Abuses in the Seafood Industry**

Earlier this month FishWise released a [white paper](#) on human rights abuses in the seafood industry.

This paper on [human rights abuses](#) follows FishWise's first white paper on [seafood traceability](#). It is hoped that this document will create connections across businesses, organizations, and governments to serve as a call to action to work together to eliminate human rights abuses and illegal products from supply chains. Addressing these issues is the ethical course of action, but also one that will prevent human rights abuses in supply chains from undoing the excellent work to date on the environmental sustainability of seafood.

We will be following up with a survey in a few weeks to gather your thoughts and feedback on the paper. Please also feel free to email [Mariah Boyle](#) with any questions.



# TRAFFICKED: Human Rights Abuses in the Seafood Industry

 **FISHWISE**

2013  
November

Typhoon Haiyan Relief Effort in the Philippines



The Philippines is endowed with some of the most spectacular underwater vistas in the world. Not only are coral reefs beautiful to observe, they also act as buffers to shoreline communities during storms, generate valuable income for local economies and provide a critical source of protein for the millions of Filipino citizens who live in coastal areas.

On November 8th 2013, [Typhoon Haiyan](#) - known as Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines - made landfall in Guiuan, Samar. With sustained winds of 145mph/hr (235km/hr) and a geographic range [greater than that](#) of Hurricane Katrina, the typhoon laid waste to coastal communities on the islands of Samar, Leyte, Cebu, Biliran, Panay and more. Entire cities and villages were simply destroyed. The coral reefs and mangrove habitats [helped to buffer](#) some of the effects of the typhoon generated storm surge but incurred significant damage as a result.

The majority of residences in the affected coastal communities are constructed from local materials such as bamboo, plywood, coconut wood, palm fronds, and corrugated tin. This local infrastructure did not stand a chance to endure the typhoon's winds and the resulting storm surge. Many primary and secondary livelihood activities in these ravaged areas revolve around two main natural resource categories: fisheries and coconut products. Houses and fishing boats were destroyed, reefs were damaged and coconut trees broken in half leaving entire communities without food, shelter and income.

Currently, the official count of casualties resulting from the typhoon has exceeded 5,600 persons with many more still missing and estimates of nearly 2 million persons left homeless by the destructive storm. While much of the relief effort and media attention has been understandably centered on the city of Tacloban in Leyte, many other coastal communities with similar degrees of damage have been largely left out of media reports.

If you have donated to the relief efforts already underway, we applaud your generosity. If you are looking for a trustworthy organization to maximize the impact of your donation and direct it towards lesser know relief efforts, FishWise would like to recommend the [Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation \(CCEF\)](#) to you. This Cebu City based NGO works throughout the affected region the Philippines and specializes in long-term community-based coastal resource management projects. Their strong community relationships and networks will enhance efforts to effectively distributing aid packages to those coastal communities most in need.

For further information, please visit the [CCEF donation platform](#). If you have additional

questions about how your donation will be used, please feel free to contact FishWise Project Manager [Ethan Lucas](#) or CCEF Communications Director [Sheryll Tesch](#).

Thank you very much for your generous support!



Filipino fishermen fashion a *banka* or small boat out of a broken refrigerator following Typhoon Haiyan. Photo by: Damir Sagolj/Reuters

**B.C. Groundfish Trawl Fishery Experiencing Improvements**



The British Columbia groundfish trawl fleet is beginning to experience the benefits of an improved fishery one year after agreeing to new management measures designed to reduce damage to seafloor habitat. [SeaChoice](#), a Canadian NGO, is currently reassessing the fishery's sustainability and is aiming to release the results of the new study early next year. A significant reduction in negative benthic habitat impacts could potentially improve the current rating of some groundfish species from a Red "avoid" [Seafood Watch](#) rating to a Yellow "some concerns" rating.

This [good news](#) is the result of fruitful collaboration between fishermen, NGO's, and the seafood industry. In 2008, Scott Wallace, a senior scientist of the [David Suzuki Foundation](#), and John Driscoll of the [Living Ocean Society](#) approached Brian Mose of the Deep Sea Trawlers Association and Bruce Turriss of the [Canadian Groundfish Research and Conservation Council](#) to find ways to reduce the impact of trawlers on the groundfish habitat while protecting the trawlers' jobs.

Groundfish are economically important in B.C., even more so than wild salmon. In 2011, the groundfish sector accrued \$134 million in landed value as compared to \$46 million for wild salmon during the same year. Meanwhile, consumers at the marketplace have started to request sustainably sourced seafood and retailers, such as [Safeway](#), have adopted sustainable seafood procurement policies and are actively phasing out Red rated seafood products. These actions sent a strong message to Red rated fisheries, including the B.C. groundfish trawlers. [Lusamerica Fish](#), a seafood distributor to Safeway and Costco, also sent a direct message to the B.C. trawl fleet saying that it would eventually stop buying the Red rated groundfish unless improvements were made within the fishery.

Wallace took this opportunity to collaborate directly with the fishermen and secure their buy-in. He proposed a way to improve the habitat criteria score used in the seafood rating system by reducing trawling impacts on sensitive habitats. In April 2012, fishermen agreed to a 20% reduction in their total fishing area and to a new "habitat quota" that allows the entire 70 boat fleet to catch a maximum of 4,500 kg of corals and/or sponges per year. This habitat quota is a rare but innovative tool used to minimize habitat damage. The system allows captains to buy, sell, and trade their quota, however, the annual catch limit is so low (it was common to haul up 1,100 kg in a single tow) and the financial

penalties are so high, that fishermen now avoid trawling their nets in areas of sensitive reef habitat.

The initial results are in and a level of compliance was achieved that exceeded everyone's expectations. Only four boundary infractions were incurred out of 6,622 total tows and only 10% of the 4,500 kg limit for coral and sponge quota was taken. Although the true conservation and biodiversity benefits may not be realized for 30 to 40 years, it is exciting to see the trawl industry taking important steps to improve their fishery.

## Blue Drinks with John Weller - Antarctic Photographer

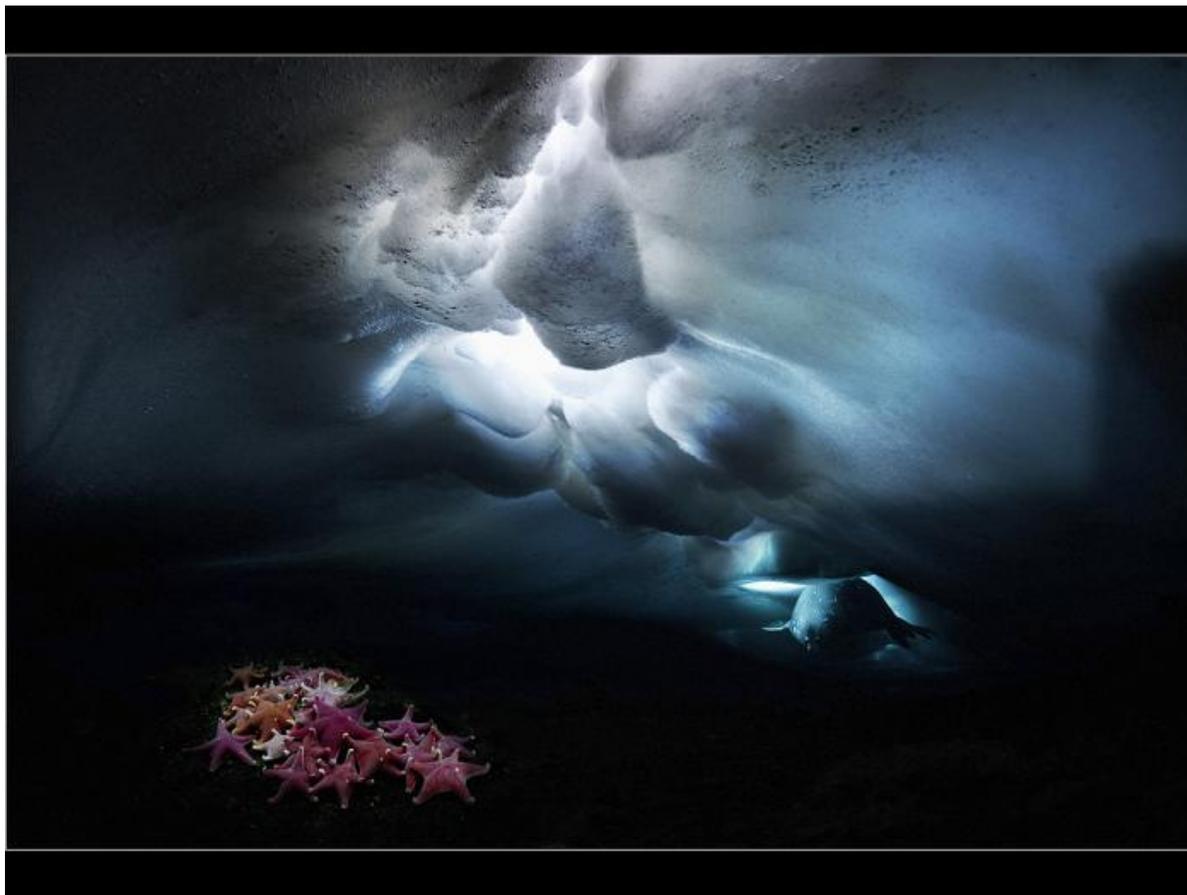


Photo by: John Weller

FishWise hosted a very well attended Blue Drinks event this month with our partner [Geisha Sushi](#) in Capitola, CA to showcase the incredible new book from photographer [John Weller](#) titled 'The Last Ocean'. This book is a collection of stunning images from the Ross Sea, Antarctica, with narrative of the sea's history and the conservation efforts seeking to protect this corner of the world, one of the most pristine ecosystems left on Earth. It represents the culmination of ten years of work for John.

John gave a brilliant presentation, flicking through a breathtaking collection of images, from penguins rocketing out of the ocean onto icy platforms, to Weddell seals dancing beneath the ice, and from multicolored sea stars blanketing the sea floor to immense glacial cliffs, looming ominously above the dark Antarctic water. The stories that went along with the images were equally impressive - he almost didn't make it out of Antarctica alive after being sound-blasted by a Weddell seal and almost losing consciousness on a solo dive into an ice cavern.

Throughout his presentation, John impressed on his audience the need to conserve this beautiful and fragile ecosystem. He, along with hundreds of marine scientists, believes that the entire Ross Sea should be designated as a no-take marine protected area (MPA), free from extractive industries like oil drilling and fishing. There are continuing efforts to

achieve this via the [Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources \(CCAMLR\)](#), however, discussions to date have not resulted in any MPA proposal being approved. He is hopeful that by raising awareness of the plight of the Ross Sea, effective conservation measures can be achieved.

If you would like to learn more about conservation efforts in the Ross Sea visit this [website](#), and if you would like to sign up to receive notices of future Blue Drinks events, you can do so [here](#).

### In Case You Missed It...

For the past several months, Monterey Bay has been [exploding with life](#) as whales, dolphins, sea lions, harbor seals, pelicans, seagulls and others take advantage of a massive school of anchovies.

Check out the video below for a sample of the action!



Feeding Frenzy Monterey Bay

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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