

[Swedish Fishermen’s PO (SFPO), Sweden - “Joint Demersal Fisheries in the North Sea and Adjacent Waters”]

Certificate Holder Forced and Child Labour Policies, Practices and Measures

1 Introduction

Fisheries and at-sea Certificate Holders (CH) in the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) program are required to provide a self-description of policies and measures, including regulatory requirements and procedures that are in effect in the Unit of Assessment, to protect fishing crew from forced labour or child labour, as well as any efforts by the private sector. The objective is to require certificate holders to communicate how government, industry, or other relevant entities protect against forced or child labour.

Each fishery and at-sea Chain of Custody client shall provide this information by completing this template. This template should be completed by the client in good faith and be based on information known and available to the client at the time of completion. The information provided should be representative of the range of measures known to the certificate holder.

The completed form will be uploaded to MSC database to be published on the MSC website at the same time as the Public Certification Report.

Guidance for filling in the template is found in the [Appendix](#) of this template. Information is required on all issues addressed in the template and should be provided in English, which is the official language of the MSC.

Please complete all unshaded fields. Please fill in N/A if an issue is not applicable, including a short justification for why it is not applicable.

2 Marine Stewardship Council certificate holder forced and child labour policies, practices and measures

Table 2.1 – Certificate holder information

1	Composition of fishery client group on behalf of who the statement is provided
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Characterise the composition of the fishery client group, including cost sharing entities. - Describe the relationship between cost sharing members of the fishery client group and the vessel owners and operators of the Unit of Certification (UoC).
CH	SFPO is a Swedish demersal PO with approximately 250 fishing vessels of different sizes as members. SFPO pays the cost of the certification.
2	Responsibility for labour regulation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What management authorities and laws, including flag state authorities, control labour-related regulations in the unit of assessment area? - How are laws enforced?
CH	Arbetsmiljölagen (1977:1160); Fartygssäkerhetslagen (2003:354); Arbetsmiljöförordningen (1977:1166); Diskrimineringslagen (2008:567); Lagen om anställningsskydd (1982:89); Arbetstidslag (1982:673); Lagen om skydd mot olyckor (2003:778); Socialförsäkringslagen (1999:799); and several other different regulations issued by authorities such as Transportstyrelsen (https://www.transportstyrelsen.se/sv/sjofart/) and Arbetsmiljöverket (https://www.av.se/). The question of applicability depends on the specific circumstances. Laws and regulations are enforced by control and if non-compliance is found a prosecutor will bring an action in court.
3	Risk identification and mitigation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe the processes, including government and certificate holder measures, that are in place in the UoC to identify and mitigate any risk of child and forced labour.
CH	In Sweden no child labour or forced labour occurs, cf. e.g. chapter 5 in Arbetsmiljölagen (1977:1160). Different authorities inspect and control routinely the fleet. SFPO has never heard of any child labour or forced labour within the Swedish demersal fleet. Recently (May, 2019) the government issued a press release with the title Nicer and better working conditions on fishing vessels should be implemented (https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2019/05/schysstare-arbetsvillkor-pa-fiskefartyg-ska-genomforas/)..
4	Crew recruitment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe the typical methods used to recruit crew in the UoC and describe the migrant composition of crew if any.
CH	Crew members are recruited in different ways. The traditional method is “word of mouth in fishing ports. Another method is by advertising on fishery websites and in fisheries magazines etc. However, it is worth mentioning that the personnel circulation is not high. Regarding migrant crew members there are to our knowledge none that aren't EEA-citizens.
5	Engagement with fish worker groups
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where there is known engagement with fisher, migrant, and worker rights groups, describe how this occurs and the organisations engaged with workers in the Unit of Assessment (UoA).
CH	The main rule in Sweden is that a fisherman is regarded as self-employed, i.e. they are not employed staff. Fishermen are either non-organised or members in a PO. Circa 85 per cent are self-employed and 15 per cent are employed.
6	Crew contracts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe the nature of contracts or legal work agreements in place in the UoC and the issues addressed in such agreements.

CH	As a main rule the result of fishing (mostly the profit) is shared amongst the fishermen and the fishing vessel. Previously there was a standard agreement issued by the former organisation for fishermen: Swedish Fishermen's Federation and the content of that standard agreement lives on. The content of that standard agreement more or less states that the result can be shared in different ways, but that the main rule is that the fishermen say receive X per cent of the profit and the boat Y per cent; the X share is thereafter divided equally between the participating fishermen. However, due to other aspects some fishermen are employed, approximately 15 per cent, and they then of course have a contract of employment.
7	Audits and labour inspections
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe any 3rd Party audits and certifications on labour, or labour inspections conducted within the UoC in the last two years.
CH	The Swedish Coast Guard systematically controls required permits etc. and Transportstyrelsen controls i.a. the vessels so that everything meets the legal requirements.
8	National minimum age requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe national minimum age requirements for crew members serving on vessels within the UoC. - Describe systems in place, both regulatory and private sector systems, to ensure that crew members meet national minimum age requirements. - Describe how this is checked, including enforcement within the UoC by the responsible governing authority or oversight body such as labour inspectors.
CH	16 years if it doesn't have an impact on health or schoolwork, Arbetsmiljölagen (1977:1160). In the same law there are rules on control, control systems and sanctions. The above (3) mentioned press release has its background in Council Directive (EU) 2017/159 of 19 December 2016 implementing the Agreement concerning the implementation of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 of the International Labour Organisation, concluded on 21 May 2012 between the General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives in the European Union (Cogeca), the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) and the Association of National Organisations of Fishing Enterprises in the European Union (Europêche).
9	Repatriation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe how repatriation issues are dealt with in the UoC with respect visits end of contract, voluntary and involuntary termination, and freedom of movement and the extent to which these are included in contracts.
CH	Apart what follows from legislation the question of repatriation is dealt with in the above (6) mentioned standard agreement. That standard agreement is to be characterized as practice. SFPO don't know of any situation where this has been a problem in any way.
10	Debt bondage
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe if there is evidence of systemic practices to impose costs on crew members for placement or brokerage fees, travel to the workplace, visa, medical, safety gear, clothing/protective gear, food at the workplace, communications access, remittance fees, repatriation, etc. - If so, describe such practices and how debt bondage is avoided.
CH	Not applicable since most fishermen are self-employed and for the remaining fishermen there is no evidence of debt bondage.
11	Grievance and remedy mechanisms
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please list any policies or measures (e.g. hotline) that are in place for crew voices to be heard and to report and remediate any instances of forced or child labour.
CH	Forced and child labour has since long been eliminated in Sweden and is not occurring in the Swedish demersal fishery. If, which is completely unlikely, such things should occur crew voices can contact any authority in Sweden so that effective measures can be taken.
12	Identification documents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe policies and practice in place across the UoC to ensure that crew members have free and timely access to their identification documents, including National ID, passports, visas, etc.

CH	There are no such policies and practices since there has never been any need, i.e. free access to such documents.
13	Additional comments
	- Do you have additional comments on labour practices within the UoC?
CH	-
14	Date this template was last updated
	- DD/MM/YYYY
CH	26-08-2019

3 Appendix – Guidance on filling in the Certificate Holder Forced and Child Labour Policies, Practices and Measures Template

3.1 Composition of the fishery client group on behalf of who the statement is provided

If a fishery is in full assessment and the cost-sharing participants and arrangements are not yet determined, provide as much detail as possible regarding the expected cost-sharing entities that will comprise the client group, should the fishery achieve certification, and the relationship between such client group representatives and the vessel owners and operators in the Unit of Certification (UoC).

3.2 Responsibility for labour regulation

Provide information on laws and regulation and the authorities that have responsibility for labour regulations in the area in which the fishery operates, including flag state authorities where this is applicable. Describe how these are enforced.

3.3 Risk identification, mitigation and remediation

The information required in this section includes information known by the certificate holder on processes and practices that are applicable in the UoC to identify, assess, prevent and mitigate forced and child labour risks. The information may include government policy or measures, or where applicable, measures being implemented by the certificate holder.

3.4 Crew recruitment

The information required here includes information on the methods used to recruit crew in the UoC, any widespread use of migrant labour, the countries that crew come from and information on recruitment agencies used where this information is available and known to the certificate holder. It may also include information known of visa programs used to bring in workers to the UoC and on payment of recruitment fees.

3.5 Engagement with fish worker groups

In some countries, there may be engagement with fish worker groups or other types of organisations that work to address risks of forced labour. Where this occurs provide information on such engagement. This may include information on any organizations in the port area which support crew members socially, e.g. seafarers' ministry, fishers' association, local committees.

3.6 Crew contracts

Contracts are legal work agreements with labour duties and payments clearly spelled out. Describe the nature of crew contracts in the UoC, specifically features related to forced and child labour, whether the contracts are written in languages understood by crew and how provisions in the contract are enforced.

3.7 Audits and labour inspections

Describe any government labour inspections or social audits and certifications of working conditions within the UoC in the past 2 years. Where the information is available provide a link to the criteria against which the audit took place.

3.8 National minimum age requirements

For this section describe national minimum age requirements and provide a description of regulatory and private sector systems in place to confirm that minimum age restrictions are met. Include information on any exceptions to statutory minimum age requirements which are used by the UoC and information on policy for hiring young workers in compliance with national legislation. This should also include description of any policy or practices for monitoring including hours of work and rest for young workers. This may include information on any other programs which are monitoring labour in your UoC fishing area.

3.9 Repatriation

This section requires a description of how departure of crew members across the UoC is handled. This may include information about government, and/or where known, any applicable company policy on end of crew members' contracts; involuntary termination; leave (including family visits and medical treatment); freedom of movement during the work term and departure terms within crew member contracts.

3.10 Debt bondage

Deductions for costs of work from pay can cause debt bondage and put crew at risk of forced labour. Examples of such work costs include costs of getting to work, placement/broker fee, medical costs, safety gear, food at the workplace, remittance fees and repatriation costs.

Describe systems in place to avoid debt bondage. If there is evidence of systemic practices to impose costs on workers, what measures are in place to avoid debt bondage.

3.11 Grievance and remedy mechanisms

Provide a description of systems known to be in place that allow crew to share information, access assistance and report labour violations and how the systems work to address such reports and provide remediation.

3.12 Identification documents

Describe provisions across the UoC for crew to access their official identification (passports, visas, seafarers book). Where the law in a jurisdiction requires the vessel owner or captain to hold the crew members' official identification, describe the protocol, including government regulations in place to ensure that crew members can access their personal documents and have freedom of movement.

4 Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'Certificate Holder Forced and Child Labour Policies, Practices and Measures Template v1.01'.

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Template version control

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1
1.01	28 March 2019	Minor document change for usability

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the [MSC website](http://msc.org) (msc.org).

Senior Policy Manager
Marine Stewardship Council
Marine House
1 Snow Hill
London EC1A 2DH
United Kingdom

Phone: + 44 (0) 20 7246 8900
Fax: + 44 (0) 20 7246 8901
Email: standards@msc.org