



## Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking (CCOAHT)

The US imports 80-90% of its seafood, and tens of thousands of people are exploited at every link in the seafood harvesting and production chain:

- ***Abusive Recruitment:*** With little to no alternative, vulnerable people are deceived and forced/kidnapped into jobs that become trafficking situations.
- ***Slavery at Sea:*** Once at sea, workers endure inhuman working hours and are compelled to labor under life-threatening conditions, including extreme and reckless exposure to danger and the elements, while being kept on the verge of starvation. Beatings and torture are routinely used to ensure submission. The cost of noncompliance can be death.
- ***Exploitation on Land:*** Conditions of slavery permeate seafood processing plants, and this seafood ends up on our plates.



To learn more visit our website: [www.usccb.org/stopslavery](http://www.usccb.org/stopslavery)

CCOAHT is a nationwide coalition that represents religious orders and organizations, and is a key leader in the Catholic struggle against human trafficking in the U.S.

During Lent many Catholics eat fish and abstain from meat to be in greater solidarity with those in need. The Vatican has announced that it will “slave proof” its supply chain, and many major corporations are following its lead.



*Catholics want slave-free seafood this year, and will be vigilant about this as we observe Lent.*

*We, therefore, kindly urge you to do all in your power to ensure that your supply chains are free of the taint of forced labor.*

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