

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IMPROVED TRANSPARENCY ON LABOR ABUSES IS AIM OF NEW POLICY

FORT COLLINS, COLORADO – FisheryProgress.org, the leading one-stop shop for information on the progress of global fishery improvement projects (FIPs), today [posted an interim policy on labor abuses](#) associated with FIPs listed on the site. The interim policy focuses on three of the most serious human rights abuses: forced labor, child labor, and human trafficking, and it is applicable to all FIPs that have FisheryProgress profiles.

“Businesses, conservation organizations, and FIPs trust FisheryProgress for reliable information about how FIPs are responding to issues of concern,” said Rich Boot, CEO of FishChoice, the nongovernmental organization (NGO) that manages FisheryProgress. “Human rights abuses like forced labor, child labor, and human trafficking are a major concern for seafood businesses and other stakeholders.”

The interim policy provides that if FisheryProgress receives a credible allegation against a FIP participant concerning forced labor, child labor, or human trafficking, the FIP’s FisheryProgress profile will be updated to note the allegation, and FisheryProgress will begin gathering information from NGOs, trade unions, FIP participants, and other stakeholders. If credible evidence is not received, the notice will be removed. If an allegation is substantiated by credible evidence, FisheryProgress will update the FIP’s profile notice to that effect and give the FIP 30 days to remedy the problem. If the FIP has been unable to secure a signed statement from an independent and credible third party that the problem had been remediated, FisheryProgress will move the FIP to inactive status.

“This interim policy allows FisheryProgress to continue to provide transparency concerning FIPs’ progress – both environmental and social,” said Boot.

The interim policy was developed with the input of the [FisheryProgress advisory committee](#) as well as several international human and labor rights experts. FisheryProgress will continue to engage those stakeholders to develop a permanent policy, planned for release in spring 2020. FishChoice anticipates that the permanent policy will address a wider range of social issues, and may require expansions to FisheryProgress’ functionality.

“Seafood buyers and their customers get it – a product isn’t sustainable if the workers who produce it, and their families and communities, aren’t sharing in the resulting economic gain,” said Boot. “We’re committed to giving industry, NGOs, and governments the information they need to make responsible choices.”

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FishChoice, Inc. (FCI) is a registered 501(c)(3) environmental nonprofit founded in 2008 that envisions a thriving and sustainable global seafood industry. FishChoice is dedicated to helping businesses advance their seafood sustainability efforts on their own by offering solutions that accelerate sustainability in the

global seafood industry. FishChoice currently operates the flagship FishChoice platform (established 2009) and FisheryProgress platform (established 2016).

Launched in 2016, FisheryProgress.org is a one-stop shop for information on the progress of global fishery improvement projects. It makes tracking progress more efficient, consistent, and reliable for businesses that support fishery improvement projects.