

# FISHERYPROGRESS.ORG

## **FisheryProgress Interim Policy on Forced Labor, Child Labor, or Human Trafficking**

*August 2019*

The following outlines FisheryProgress' interim policy on forced labor, child labor, or human trafficking in FIPs that have FisheryProgress profiles.

In line with FisheryProgress' mission, our goal with this interim policy is to prioritize transparency for FisheryProgress users and support for FIPs to make necessary improvements to address abuses. The policy makes use of existing systems on FisheryProgress and focuses on three of the most serious human rights abuses – forced labor, child labor, and human trafficking – and was developed with the input of the FisheryProgress advisory committee as well as several international human rights experts.

This policy will be applied to all FIPs listed on FisheryProgress for whom we receive reports of issues through the spring of 2020, while FisheryProgress works to develop a permanent policy for addressing reports of human rights abuses in FIPs.

Visit the following [link](#) for more information about this policy.

### ***Allegations of Forced Labor, Child Labor, or Human Trafficking***

If FisheryProgress receives a credible allegation of forced labor, child labor, or human trafficking involving a participant in a fishery improvement project (FIP) listed on the site, it will add a note to the top of the FIP's profile description that includes:

- 1) A summary of the allegation (and link to background information, if appropriate<sup>1</sup>).
- 2) A summary of any actions the FIP is taking to address the risk of forced labor, child labor, or human trafficking in the FIP (and link to background information, if appropriate).

This note will appear while FisheryProgress gathers information from relevant international or local nongovernmental organizations, trade unions, and FIP participants. FisheryProgress will work with these organizations to seek information from the workers involved. The FIP will be notified when this note is added to its profile.

If the information gathered shows credible evidence of forced labor, child labor, or human trafficking involving a participant in the FIP, the process described below will apply.

If the information gathered shows no evidence of forced labor, child labor, or human trafficking involving a participant in the FIP, the results of the investigation will be communicated to the FIP, registered users of FisheryProgress, and other relevant stakeholders, and the note will be removed from the FIP's profile.

---

<sup>1</sup> FisheryProgress will take care to protect the identity of adult workers who wish to remain anonymous and children in any documentation shared on FisheryProgress.

## *Evidence of Forced Labor, Child Labor, or Human Trafficking*

If FisheryProgress receives or finds credible evidence of forced labor, child labor, or human trafficking involving a participant in a FIP listed on the site – either as the result of investigating an allegation of abuse or directly from a third party – it will add a note to the top of the FIP’s profile description that includes:

- 1) A summary of the evidence (and link to background information, if appropriate).
- 2) A summary of any actions the FIP is taking to address the risk of forced labor, child labor, or human trafficking in the FIP (and link to background information, if appropriate).
- 3) A 30-day deadline for the FIP to provide evidence of remediation to remain active on FisheryProgress.

For the FIP to remain active on FisheryProgress, within 30 days it must provide the following evidence along with a signed statement of independent verification by a credible third party:

- 1) Evidence of implementation of an effective remediation process for the workers who experienced abuse.
- 2) Evidence of policies and procedures enacted to mitigate the risk of future abuse or a detailed, time-bound improvement plan for mitigating the risk of and remediating future abuse.

Once reviewed and accepted by FisheryProgress, these documents will be added to the FIP’s profile on FisheryProgress and the note will be removed.

If the FIP does not provide the evidence of remediation described above along with a signed statement of independent verification by a credible third party within 30 days, the FIP will be moved to inactive.

In either case, the results of this process will be communicated to registered users of FisheryProgress and other relevant stakeholders.

## *Definitions*

- Child labor is work that is inappropriate for a child’s age, affects the child’s education, or, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of the child (e.g., heavy lifting disproportionate to a person’s body size, operating heavy machinery, using dangerous equipment, night work) (as defined in the [Social Responsibility Assessment Tool](#)).
- Forced labor is work or service that is extracted from any person under the menace of any penalty for which a person has not offered themselves voluntarily or for which such work or service is demanded as a repayment of debt. “Penalty” can imply monetary sanctions, physical punishment, intimidation, punishment of family members, or the loss of rights and privileges or restriction of movement (e.g., withholding of identity documents) (as defined in the [Social Responsibility Assessment Tool](#)).
- Human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, harboring, or receipt of persons by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power, or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation (as defined in the [Social Responsibility Assessment Tool](#)).

- Credible allegation is an allegation of forced labor, child labor, or human trafficking in a FIP made by international or local nongovernmental or civil society organizations, labor unions, government agencies, or media outlets. FisheryProgress considers a government withhold release order to be a credible allegation.
- Credible evidence is documentation of forced labor, child labor, or human trafficking in a FIP provided by international or local nongovernmental or civil society organizations, labor unions, government agencies, or media outlets.
- Credible third party to provide independent verification of remediation is a local or international nongovernmental organization, civil society organization, or labor union that is not a participant in or lead on the FIP and has not been previously employed by a participant in the FIP within the past three years.