THE PROBLEM LABOUR TRAFFICKING

Located in the heart of Southeast Asia, Thailand is a source, transit and destination country for traffickers seeking higher profits by using slave labour. Labour trafficking in Thailand’s fishing industry and reports of slavery in supply chains are making international headlines. Vulnerable migrant workers, primarily from Cambodia and Myanmar are trafficked into the Thai fishing and seafood industries through deception, threats and violence. Human trafficking is a lucrative business – profits top $150 billion a year globally – and a sustainable anti-trafficking solution must involve criminal prosecution. Like other forms of slavery, labour trafficking thrives when criminal are free to prey on victims without fearing the law.

THE FACTS

Thailand is one of the world’s top exporters of seafood, with over $7 billion exported annually.

Thailand’s fishing industry employs more than 300,000 people.

According to an IJM prevalence study of trafficking in the Thai fishing industry, 37.9% of fishermen working on Thai fishing boats between 2011 and 2016 had been trafficked.

IJM works to support the capacity building of Thailand public justice system to end violence against the vulnerables.
How IJM Bangkok Combats Labour Trafficking

We rescue victims who have been trafficked and are being exploited on fishing vessels and within the seafood industry. IJM collaborates with Thai law enforcement and other governments in the region to investigate labor trafficking crimes and assist with operations to set these men free.

We bring criminals to justice by assisting police as they gather evidence and by supporting prosecutors as they bring charges and build cases against traffickers, recruiters and boat crews or owners involved in the exploitation.

We restore survivors to a place of physical and emotional safety. IJM social workers provide support during the rescue operation and create individualized care plans for each survivor so they receive medical attention, psychological counseling and long-term support in their home community—often in a neighboring country like Cambodia or Myanmar.

We strengthen justice systems by advocating for systemic changes that will end the impunity traffickers currently enjoy in Thailand and neighboring countries. IJM also partners with global seafood retailers to use data in assisting the government with their efforts to end slavery in the seafood industry.