

# *Thailand Sea fisheries and Protection of Sea Fishers under C. 188*

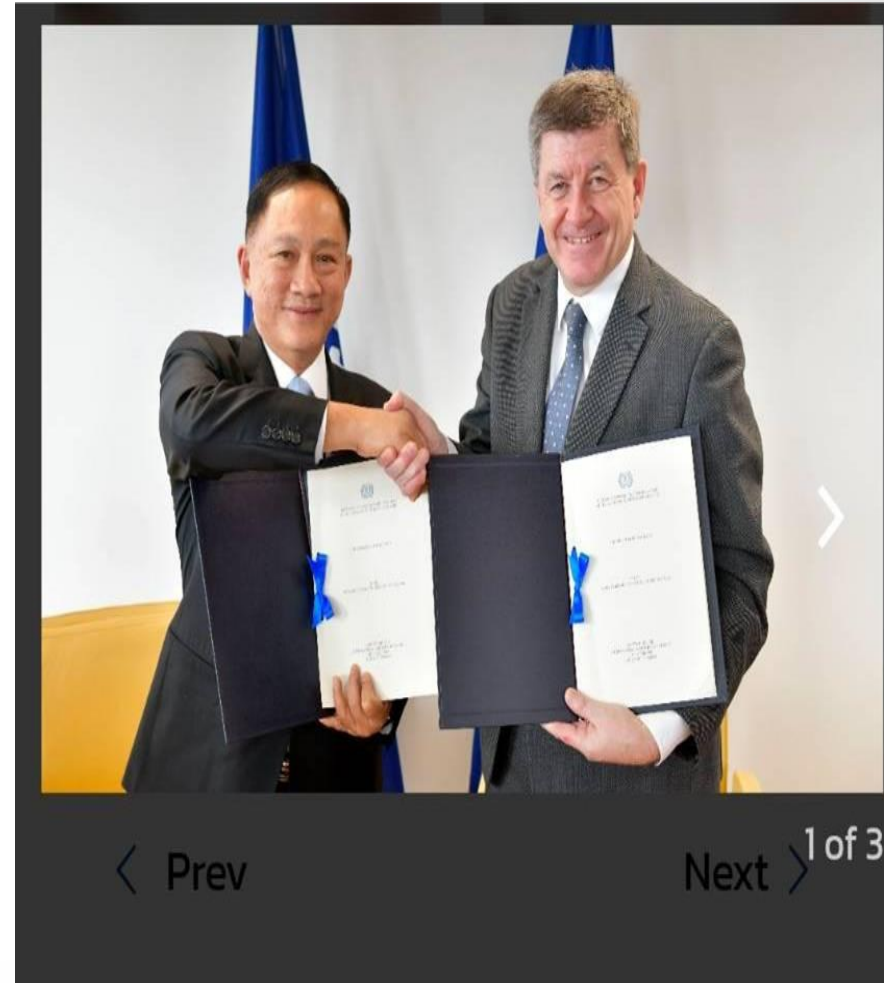
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**Center of Excellence**  
**Asian Research Center for Migration**  
**ศูนย์วิจัยการย้ายถิ่นแห่งเอเชีย**  
**ARCM**  
**Chulalongkorn University**  
**Thailand**

# Signing ceremony of C.188 in Geneva 2019


- major aspect of illegality is related to the exploitation of Thai and migrant sea fishers. ARCM-ILO study in 2013 found three aspects of forced labor indicators practised among employers especially in the overseas fishing industry: wage withholding, lack of work contract, and inadequate and irregular rest hours.



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International Labour Organization

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## Fishing Convention - C188




### Thailand ratifies Work in Fishing Convention


Thailand has committed itself to ensuring acceptable living and working conditions for fishers on board ships by ratifying the Work in Fishing Convention. It has become the first country in Asia to do so, which signals to other countries in the region to

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NOV 29, 2018

## THAILAND LEADS ASIA BY RATIFYING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR DECENT WORK IN FISHERIES

By EJF Staff

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*Thailand is set become the first country in Asia to ratify the*

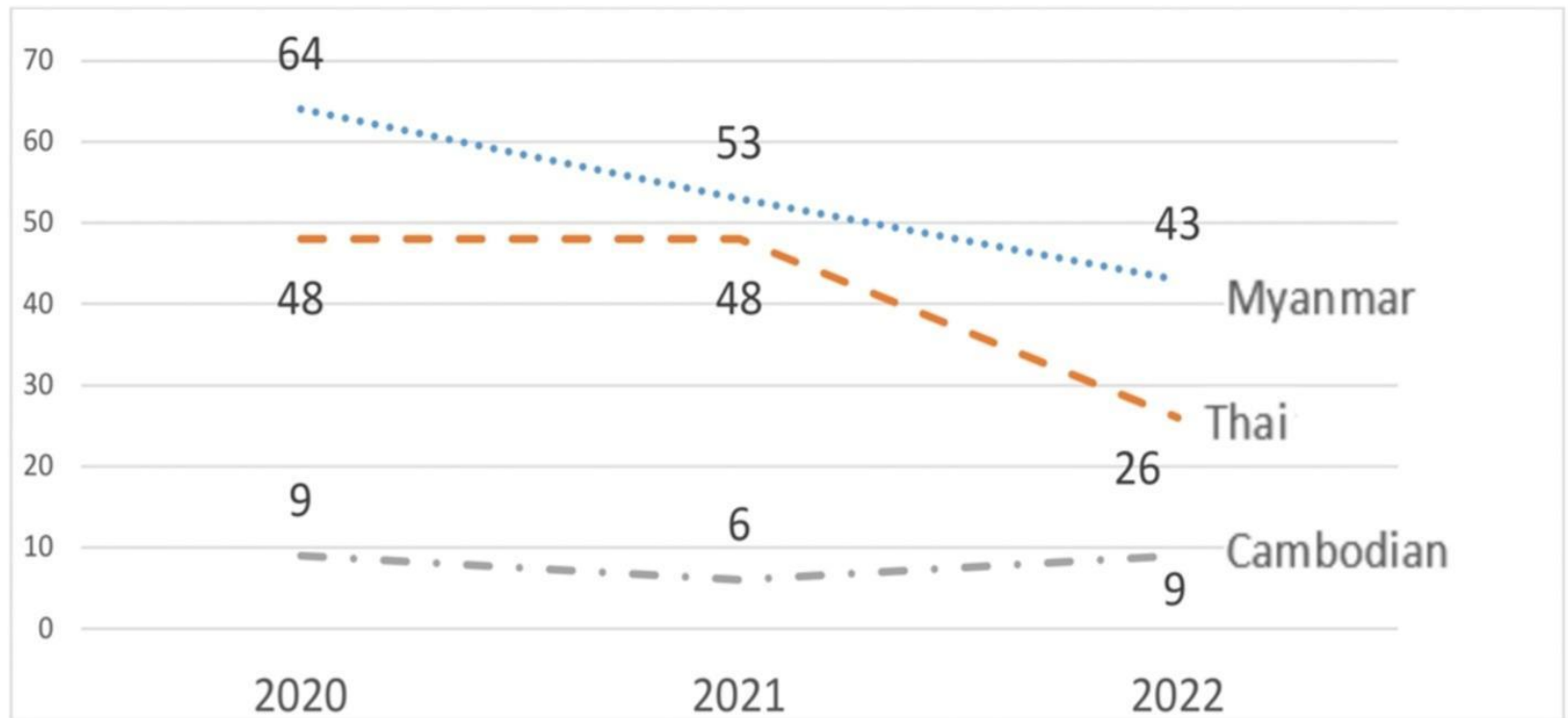
# Major Conditions prior to Yellow Cards Issuance

Major aspect of illegality is related to the exploitation of Thai and migrant sea fishers. ARCM-ILO study in 2013 and ARCM 2022 found 4 aspects of forced labor indicators practised among employers especially in the overseas fishing industry:

- wage withholding,
- lack of work contract,
- inadequate and irregular rest hours.
- Death and disappearance at sea.

# Example of Exploitation

Figure 1 Cases of Dead and Disappearing Fisher in Thailand (2020-2022)



# New Move to Revise Measures in 2024

- **Transfer of sea fishers on board**
- **Online labor inspection and Use of fisher's ID card instead of seamen book & crew list at the Port In-Port Out (PIPO) centers**
- **Onboard transfer of catches**



# Perspectives on Deregulation of C.188 from

- Vessel owners
- Media
- CSOs
- RTG Officials
- Parliamentarians
- Academics

# Protest from NFAT

ThaiPublica

สมาคมการประมงฯ แกล้งการณั้  
เครือข่ายต้านแรงงานข้ามชาติ ตั้งข้อสังเกต  
แก้ พ.ร.บ.การประมง พ.ศ.2558  
'ขาดความรู้ความเข้าใจ-อคติ'



**สมาคมการประมงฯ**  
**แกล้งการณั้ระบบเครือข่าย...**  
สมาคมการประมงฯ  
แกล้งการณั้ระบบเครือข่าย...



**สมาคมประมงฯ แฉแผน**  
**ล้มกฎหมายประมง โต๊ะเอ็น**  
**จีโอ อย่าปิดเขื่อน**



# NFAT complaints

Major complaints from vessel owners via *National Fisheries Association of Thailand (NFAT)* call for the revision of the Ordinance to relax the measures

- on- board transfer of catches and sea fishers
- cancellation of the required namelist of sea fishers together with seamen book
- pay slip to be submitted at the port-out inspection.

# **current relaxation of *Ordinance on Fisheries 2015***

**“Lawmakers draft new legislation that weakens seafarer protections, sparking fears of a return to the ‘bad old days’ of trafficked labour” in Thailand.”**

**The Telegraph**

# Thai prawns and other seafood imports are once again being linked to modern slavery

Lawmakers draft new legislation that weakens seafarer protections, sparking fears of a return to the 'bad old days' of trafficked labour

Sarah Newey, GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY CORRESPONDENT, IN BANGKOK

20 March 2024 • 1:21pm



The Telegraph



## CSOs

criticized such  
call for relax as  
the deregulation  
and deviation  
from C.188



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**f** **in**   

**NO BACKSLIDING ON ILO C188! JOINT STATEMENT CONDEMNS PROPOSED THAI FISHING INDUSTRY ROLLBACKS**

OCTOBER 20, 2023

English | Español | Français | Italiano

III ○ <

## 90 NGOs question Thailand Prime Minister on fisheries deregulation plan (commentary)

by Steve Trent on 23 November 2023



- *Thailand's new government is promising to "unlock" fisheries by reducing regulation and*

# Parliament

**the newly elected parliament  
agreed with the relaxation in the  
ongoing debates.**



# Department of Fisheries

confirms that it will allow relaxation as not affecting C 188 and the well-being of fishers and vessel owners.

# Academic & CSOs analysis of the impact of relaxation

## 1) Transfer of sea fishers on board:

- against the regulation on commercial fishing vessels not to go fishing beyond the maximum period of 30 days per trip
- Possible employment of new/unregistered sea fishers leading to labor abuse and vulnerability

# Academic & CSOs analysis of the impact of relaxation (cont)

## 2) Online labor inspection and Use of fisher's ID card instead of seamen book & crew list at the Port In-Port Out (PIPO) centers

- Crew list and seamen book can protect workers for wage payment, identification for disappearance and death at sea
- Reduction in the lengthy process of seamen book should be recommended instead.

# Academic & CSOs analysis of the impact of relaxation (cont)

## 3) Onboard transfer of catches

- Traceability challenges
- Juvenile catches not identified/ reported in the logbook at piers

Thank you