



The petition, filed with the US Department of Treasury on Thursday, calls for sanctions against seven Chinese companies accused of using forced labor in their supply chains. Photo: Shutterstock

US sanctions sought for 7 Chinese processors accused of using forced labor

The sanctions are intended to prevent the seafood processors and associates from selling goods made with Uyghur forced labor to the United States.

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By [Rachel Sapin](#) 

The nonprofit Outlaw Ocean Project with the help of the NGO Human Rights Foundation (HRF) has submitted a formal legal petition to the US government seeking sanctions against Chinese seafood processors accused of using forced labor to produce seafood sold in the US market.

The petition, filed with the US Department of Treasury on Thursday, calls for sanctions against seven Chinese companies that Ian Urbina, director of The Outlaw Ocean Project, alleges are complicit in serious human rights abuses committed against Xinjiang workers in China's seafood industry.

The seven companies include: Yantai Sanko Fisheries; Yantai Longwin Foods; The Chishan Group, including Shandong Haidu and Rongcheng Haibo; Shandong Meijia Group, including Rizhao Meijia Aquatic Foodstuff, Rizhao Jiayuan Foodstuff and Rizhao Meijia Keyuan Foods; Qingdao Tianyuan Aquatic Foodstuffs; Rongsense Group, including Rizhao Rirong Aquatic Products and Rizhao Rongxing; and Xinjiang Zhongtai Zhihui Modern Service.

The Global Magnitsky Sanctions Program was established to combat worldwide human rights abuses and corruption. It empowers the US government to impose targeted sanctions on individuals or entities involved in severe human rights violations or significant corruption.

Urbina said the sanctions will prevent the seafood processors and their associates from selling goods made using Uyghur forced labor to the United States.

"Sanctioning these seafood processors will reaffirm the United States' commitment to preventing goods made with Uyghur forced labor from entering the country," he said. "The loss of revenue for the perpetrators will also pressure Chinese companies to stop using Uyghur forced labor."

The petition follows [claims made in an investigation](#) by the Outlaw Ocean Project and published in *The New Yorker* magazine in October that show some seafood imports from China into the United States are produced using forced labor.

These products, according to the investigation, are making their way to consumers through major retailers in North America and Europe, including Walmart, Kroger, Sysco and others.

Thursday's petition follows one made by two US lawmakers, asking the Biden Administration to ban seafood imports from two Chinese provinces [they allege are home to major seafood processing plants using forced labor](#).

The lawmakers have asked the US Department of Homeland Security to issue Withhold Release Orders (WROs) for all seafood processing facilities in Shandong and Liaoning provinces.

Shandong Province is one of the largest seafood processing and exporting hubs within China. Under US law, imports of products made wholly or in part by workers from North Korea and Xinjiang are prohibited. [\(Copyright\)](#)

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