

The Outlaw Ocean Project Responds to Questions from Senator Dan Sullivan, Alaska

Question: “What are some key things to keep in mind when we work with our global partners on seafood supply chains and forced labor?”

Answer: Forgive me for answering a question with more questions but such is the proclivity of a journalist. To me, the questions I'd personally be interested to ask of "global partners on seafood supply chains and forced labor" are, for starters, fairly basic ones: Do ports conduct inspections of crews on ships that enter their waters? Do they have proper methods for checking whether forced labor exists? Does the relevant country have a protocol for how they handle instances when they suspect forced labor or when crew seek to be rescued?

Question: “What are the most pressing areas of cooperation between us and the other countries who import seafood from China?”

Answer: I'd humbly refer this question to the broad array of answers that stakeholders have put forward as potential solutions to the myriad problems our investigation highlighted. On the Solutions page of our website we have put forward a variety of answers that NGOs, academics, industry consultants and associations have posited. See:

<https://www.theoutlawocean.com/investigations/china-the-superpower-of-seafood/solutions/>

Question: “In your opinion, is this ability to import Russian-origin, Chinese-processed seafood a loophole that should be closed?”

Answer: My team and I have not focussed on the Russian-Chinese nexus, so I will refrain for now in commenting on this specific matter.

Question: “What are your thoughts on expanding efforts to combat IUU fishing at its sources, rather than focusing efforts at the end of the supply chain?”

Answer: As a journalism not an advocacy organization, we do not tend to comment on specific pieces of legislation or specific types of solutions promoted by key NGOs or other stakeholders. That said, it strikes me that the definition of IUU likely needs to be adjusted to incorporate the category of illegality that is human rights and labor violations against the workers involved in the fishing process.