



NFI President Lisa Wallenda Picard said the NFI pledge can help identify those who want to be part of the solution. Photo: NFI

National Fisheries Institute issues new guidelines on labor issues in the global seafood supply chain

The guidelines do not include any enforcement mechanism at this time.

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By [John Fiorillo](#) 

The National Fisheries Institute (NFI) on Friday issued [new guidelines](#) expressing the group's commitment to safe working conditions in the global seafood supply chain.

Release of the guidelines was prompted by reports this week from the *Associated Press*, the nonprofit Corporate Accountability Lab (CAL) and the Outlaw Ocean Project of alleged [mistreatment of workers and violations of quality standards](#) in India's shrimp industry.

The NFI guidelines, however, are not designed as a tool to audit the group's 300-plus member companies regarding their specific supply chains. NFI is the largest seafood trade association in the United States.

"It is an initial step intended to put a stake in the ground and demonstrate what our membership believes, supports, and is committed to doing," NFI President Lisa Wallenda Picard told **IntraFish** on Friday.

"Recent news stories, in some cases, expose performance problems that need to be addressed," she said. "In other cases, they illustrate perception problems that need to be explained. In either case, we want our members to have a document that clearly communicates their posture on these issues."

Wallenda Picard said the NFI pledge can help identify those who want to be part of the solution.



On Friday, two major seafood certification bodies said they are investigating Indian shrimp processors following this week's allegations.

The Global Seafood Alliance (GSA) and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) said they would take action, including the suspension or permanent revocation of licenses, against any shrimp processor found to have violated their respective standards.

In a statement sent to **IntraFish**, the ASC said it "takes issues related to human rights extremely seriously" and that it would "use all resources available to investigate the incidents reported and take action to avoid these unacceptable practices happening on ASC-certified farms."

[Click here to read the new NFI guidelines.](#) (Copyright)

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