

Human Rights Committee- NGO Information Note
Submission to List of Issues: Suriname
Conservation International Response

Decent work in a seascape of livelihoods: Regional evaluation of the shrimp and groundfish fishery of the Guianas-Brazil shelf

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With growing evidence of labor violations and exploitative working conditions in fisheries, ensuring decent work is imperative to protect fishers and fishworkers in the global seafood sector. This study provides evaluates decent work in a shared, transboundary fishery – the shrimp and groundfish fishery of the Guianas- Brazil Shelf, inclusive of Suriname. Utilizing a new fishery-specific, holistic evaluation framework drawing from existing frameworks including the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (C188), the Monterey Framework for Social Responsibility, and the FAO Voluntary Guide- lines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, this evaluation details country-level challenges (inclusive of Suriname), including illegal fishing, vessel safety, and worker representation.

Social Responsibility Assessment of the Artisanal Acoupa weakfish (*Cynoscion acoupa*) & Seatrout (*Cynoscion virescens*) Driftnet Fishery in Suriname

Conservation International Suriname, 2022

The Social Responsibility Assessment of the artisanal driftnet fishery in Suriname is a desk-based review of relevant legislation, conventions and agreements for human rights and labour in the fisheries sector in Suriname. The report highlights the promotion of social protection as a critical challenge within Suriname’s fisheries. While social security is a basic human right, social protection incorporates a broader group of individuals not typically described as formal workers (ILO, 2014). As informal workers, small-scale fishers and other fisheries workers most often lack access to domestic social security benefits (Bene et al., 2015). Fisheries workers are often independent contractors and the lack of legal status for the majority of Guyanese migrant workforce in the artisanal sector exacerbates this issue. Whilst Suriname’s Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) prioritizes securing social protection for workers as a development measure, according to the DWCP, fragmentation is a major weakness in the country’s social protection system.

Critically, the two reports conclude that recommendations need to be advanced with a transboundary, regional approach, to ensure decent work and strengthen existing progress, including 1) addressing widespread illegal activities, 2) adopting fisheries-specific standards like C188, 3) implementing and enforcing policies at the country and regional level, and 4) ensuring worker representation and participation leveraging cooperatives and collectives.