

Coalition of Organizations and Ministries Promoting the Abolition of Slavery at Sea (COMPASS)



According to the NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, the US Imports 90% of its seafood, and tens of thousands of people are exploited at every link in the seafood harvesting and production chain:

- **Abusive Recruitment:** With little to no alternative, vulnerable people are deceived and forced/kidnapped into jobs that become trafficking situations.
- **Slavery at Sea:** Once at sea, workers endure inhumane working hours and are compelled to labor under threatening conditions, including extreme and reckless exposure to danger and the elements, while being kept on the verge of starvation. Beatings and torture are routinely used to ensure submission. The cost of noncompliance can be death.
- **Exploitation on Land:** Conditions of slavery permeate seafood processing plants, and this seafood ends up on our plates.

COMPASS is a global program that strengthens coordination, capacity, and worldwide collaboration on the Catholic response to trafficking; especially in its ministries at sea and ports. COMPASS in collaboration with Stella Maris, is a key leader in the Catholic struggle against human trafficking in the United States.

During Lent many Catholics eat fish and abstain from meat to be in greater solidarity with those in need. The Vatican has announced that it will “slave proof” its supply chain, and many major corporations are following its lead.

Catholics want slave-free seafood and will be vigilant about this as we observe Lent and throughout the year.

Whole Foods, we acknowledge your policies and procedures to combat human trafficking in your supply chains, and we applaud your efforts to support labor workers' rights and sustainability.

*We want to highlight that you still have products for sale at Whole Foods that are red-listed and can be tainted with exploitation and labor trafficking. **We urge you** to prioritize cleaning up the supply chain of these red-listed products for sale in your stores.*



Whole Foods Market Inc.

550 Bowie St.

Austin, Texas 78703



Signature

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*Kroger, we acknowledge your efforts in the past few years to begin cleaning up your seafood supply chain. However, **we urge you** to enhance traceability and transparency efforts in your supply chains to inform the public of your progress.*



The Kroger Co.

1014 Vine Street

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202



Signature