

Carmen MONTERO FERRER

*Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 on Forced Labour: a new step
towards the social sustainability of the fisheries and
aquaculture sector?*

DOI: [https://doi.org/10.34625/issn.2183-2705\(40.1\)2026.ic-8](https://doi.org/10.34625/issn.2183-2705(40.1)2026.ic-8)

Secção

Investigação Científica / Scientific Research*

* Os artigos presentes nesta secção foram sujeitos a processo de revisão segundo o método *blind peer review* / The articles in this section have undergone a blind peer review process.

Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 on Forced Labour: a new step towards the social sustainability of the fisheries and aquaculture sector?

Regulamento (UE) 2024/3015 sobre Trabalho Forçado: um novo passo rumo à sustentabilidade social do setor de pesca e aquicultura?

Carmen MONTERO FERRER¹

Abstract

Social sustainability is a fundamental pillar of sustainable development, focusing on decent work, equity, social cohesion, and well-being. In the European fisheries and aquaculture sector, this dimension is particularly important due to the vulnerability of workers, complex supply chains, and the transnational nature of the industry. Although the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) sets social aims, its implementation has historically prioritized environmental and economic goals, sometimes neglecting labour and community concerns. In line with the recent adoption of Regulation 2024/3015, which prohibits the marketing in the EU of products obtained through forced, this paper examines whether its adoption constitutes a further step towards the full integration of social sustainability into the Community's fisheries policy.

Keywords: social sustainability; fisheries; EU; forced labour; Regulation (EU) 2024/3015.

Sumário

O artigo analisa a sustentabilidade social nas pescas e aquicultura europeias — trabalho digno, equidade, coesão social e bem-estar — num setor marcado pela vulnerabilidade dos trabalhadores, cadeias de abastecimento complexas e natureza transnacional. Nota que, apesar de a Política Comum das Pescas (PCP) definir objetivos sociais, a sua implementação tem privilegiado historicamente metas ambientais e económicas, relegando para segundo plano as questões laborais e comunitárias. Partindo da recente adoção do Regulamento 2024/3015, que proíbe a comercialização na UE de produtos obtidos através de trabalho forçado, o artigo examina se este constitui mais um passo para a plena integração da sustentabilidade social na política comunitária das pescas.

Palavras-chave: sustentabilidade social; pescas; UE; trabalho forçado; Regulamento (UE) 2024/3015.

Introduction

According to the most recent *State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA 2024)* report, published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

¹ Assistant Professor, Doctor of International Law and International Relations. Area of Public International Law and International Relations. Department of Public Law and State Theory. Faculty of Law. University of Santiago de Compostela. Address: Campus Vida, Doctor Angel Echeverri s/n, Postal Code: 15782, Santiago de Compostela (Spain). Email address: carmen.montero.ferrer@usc.es. This work has been carried out within the framework of the research project "Marine resources, sustainability and territory. Implications for Spain of the evolution of the legal regimes of fisheries and the extended continental shelf" (RECMAR). PID2023-150405OB-I00, funded by the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities/State Research Agency /10.13039/50110001103/ERDF/EU. Also, this work has been carried out within the framework of the grant "CONSOLIDACIÓN E ESTRUTURACIÓN 2025 GI-1138 – GRESIN", Galician R&D&I Plan Projects, of the Department of Education, Science, Universities and Professional Training of the Xunta de Galicia (SPAIN).

(FAO), global fisheries and aquaculture production reached an all-time high of 223.2 million tonnes in 2022². In various regions of the European Union (EU), the fisheries sector plays a key role in generating employment and boosting economic activity, representing approximately 3.9% of world fish production³, generating a turnover of 4,500 million euros and employing 200 thousand people between fishing and aquaculture, according to the latest report prepared by Scientific, Technical and Economic support to the Common Fisheries Policy (STECF).⁴

The management and supervision of the fishing activity of the Member States, both inside and outside the waters of the European Union, is conducted through the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) regulated in Articles 38 to 40 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). Following the adoption of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, which introduced the most recent reform of the CFP, fisheries and aquaculture activities are needed to contribute to long-term environmental, economic, and social sustainability⁵. In this way, the sustainability approach was embedded within the CFP, reflecting the broader trend of mainstreaming sustainability across European policies over the years⁶. This development stands for a significant shift in the design of the CFP, which had historically prioritized environmental and economic sustainability over social considerations⁷. However, at present, the regulation of social sustainability in the fisheries sector is still marginal within the EU legal framework. It is predominantly addressed through indirect mechanisms, aimed at sustainable resource management in the PCF, through financial funds for fishing communities, such as the European Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)⁸, and in the general labour legislation of the

² FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO), *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024. Blue Transformation in action*. Rome, 2024.

³ EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Facts and Figures on the Common Fisheries Policy. Basic statistical data-2025. doi:10.10.2771/521233.

⁴ EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Joint Research Centre, Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – The 2025 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (STECF 25-03 & 25-07), Prelezo, R., Sabatella, E.C., Virtanen, J. and Guillen, J. (editors), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2025. Accessed in: <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2760/4088152>

⁵ Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, article 2.

⁶ GARCÍA LUPIOLA, Asier, La creciente relevancia del desarrollo sostenible en las estrategias globales de la Unión Europea, *Revista Española de Derecho Europeo* (82), 2022, pp. 77–114.

⁷ ALEXANDER, Karen A, KELLING, Ingrid, *Social sustainability in seafood systems: a rapid review, Cambridge Prisms: Coastal Futures 2* (1), 2023, pp. 1-8. See also: BENÉ, Christophe, et al., When food systems meet sustainability-current narratives and implications for actions, *World Development* 113, 2019, pp. 116-130. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2018.08.011>; EUROPEAN TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION, *The Common Fisheries Policy requires a stronger social dimension*, 2020.

⁸ Regulation 2021/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council, adopted on 7 July 2021, setting up the European Fund for Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Affairs (EMFAF).

European Union, outside the fisheries sector. Thus, fisheries regulation addresses the social dimension of sustainability in a fragmented manner and is only explicitly recognized as a legal objective in the Regulation (EU) No. 1380/2013 and Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1139, cited above.

This imbalance is particularly significant given that, in terms of social sustainability, the blue economy sector -including fisheries and aquaculture- has been frequently identified as a high-risk area in relation to forced labour and other forms of labour exploitation⁹.

Specifically, forced labour represents a significant challenge in commercial fisheries. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has documented such practices for decades on board fishing vessels operating across all seas and oceans, where these undignified labour conditions often thrive in the context of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing¹⁰. Forced labour compromises decent work, one of the pillars of social sustainability, as it violates fundamental rights (through debt bondage, physical and sexual violence, intimidation and threats to workers or their families, isolation and restriction of movement), imposes abusive working conditions (through the withholding of wages and documents, or work for very low wages or no wages), and undermines the well-being of workers through the establishment of abusive living conditions,

⁹ INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, *Global estimates of modern slavery: Forced labour and forced marriage*, 2017. ISBN: 978-92-2-130131-8, p.33. Article 2 of the International Labour Organization Forced Labour Convention (No. 29), 1930, defines forced labour as “all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO), Convention Concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, 1930 (No.29).

¹⁰ In recent years, there has been notable progress in the fight against IUU fishing through the adoption and implementation of several key instruments, such as: FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION, Food and Agriculture Organization Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA), in Rome, Italy, on November 22, 2009. This is the first legally binding instrument that specifically seeks to prevent, stop and eliminate IUU fishing. To this end, its main objective is to prevent vessels engaged in IUU fishing from using ports and unloading their catches. At EU level, mention should be made of Regulation No. 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008, establishing a community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1936/2001 and (EC) No 601/2004 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1093/94 and (EC) No 1447/1999. Finally, the World Trade Organization Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, adopted on 22 June 2022 at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference prohibits subsidies to vessels engaged in IUU fishing. A recent work on this agreement and the achievement of the SDGs is: TEIJO GARCÍA, Carlos, The WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement and the Incomplete of Target 14.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, *Revista Española de Derecho Internacional* 7, 2025, pp. 193-217. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.36151/REDI.77.1.8>. For an in-depth and comprehensive analysis of IUU fishing, see the white paper: TEIJO GARCÍA, Carlos, JORGE URBINA, Julio, Criminal sanctions and IUU fishing: the case of Spain, *Marine Policy (Special Issue)*, 2022. ISSN: 0308-597X.

thereby preventing the development of a truly sustainable fishing activity¹¹. Practices that also contravene the decent work in fishing provisions of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2017 (No. 188)¹². This phenomenon is not accidental, but rather reflects structural characteristics of the sector, such as its transnational nature, operations on the high seas, fragmented supply chains, and the frequent presence of migrant workers in vulnerable situations. In addition, limited oversight capacity in certain maritime areas and jurisdictional complexity make it difficult to effectively enforce international labour standards, thereby increasing the risk of abuse¹³.

On the other hand, a significant number of countries where forced labour practices have been identified -particularly China and certain Southeast Asian and African States- are exporters of fishery products to the European Union, increasing the risk that such products may enter the internal market¹⁴.

In this context, social sustainability cannot be understood merely as a general principle of sustainable development, but as a normative requirement aimed at guaranteeing fundamental rights, decent working conditions, and effective mechanisms of control and accountability. However, within the framework of the CFP, social considerations have traditionally been addressed in a limited and often indirect manner, with greater emphasis placed on environmental and economic objectives. Against this background, although all EU Member States have ratified the ILO Forced Labour Convention and are therefore under an obligation to act against this human rights violation, until 2024 the European Union lacked specific legislation enabling Member States to prevent products made with forced labour from entering the internal market. The adoption of Regulation (EU) 2024 on forced labour¹⁵, although not specifically targeted at the fisheries sector, is fully applicable to it. In this sense, the Regulation complement the CFP by indirectly strengthening its social dimension: by prohibiting the commercialization of products linked to forced labour, it contributes to protecting fishery workers, ensuring fairer competition, and reinforcing the social

¹¹ INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, *Towards freedom at sea. Handbook for the detention of forced labour in commercial fishing*, 2023. ISBN: 978-92-2-039531-8, pp. 8-12.

¹² INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS (ILO), *Work in Fishing Convention*, 2017 (No. 188).

¹³ DECKER SPARKS, Jessica, HSCHE, Leslie, "Complex Linkages between Forced Labor Slavery and Environmental Decline in Marine Fisheries." *Journal of Human Rights* 18(2), 2019, pp. 230-245.

¹⁴ EUROPEAN COMMISSION, "The EU Fish Market", *European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products (EUMOFA)*, 2025.

¹⁵ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 on prohibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937, OJ L, 12 December 2024.

sustainability of the sector.

Literature review

The idea of sustainable development as a public policy goal was first defined by the Brundtland Commission in 1987, following the United Nations General Assembly's mandate to develop a “global agenda for change”. In its report *Our Common Future*, sustainable development was defined as one that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs¹⁶. Since then, sustainable development has been structured around three fundamental pillars: environmental sustainability, economic sustainability and social sustainability¹⁷. Despite the three-dimensional conceptualization of sustainable development, traditionally, the social approach has been the least theorized¹⁸. Fundamentally, while ecological sustainability can be assessed through biophysical thresholds and economic sustainability through efficiency and viability indicators, the social pillar resists quantification and standardization¹⁹. To overcome this difficulty, it has been proposed to use a subsection of the broadest available social development indicators to assess the implementation of social sustainability measures²⁰. In this sense, one of the most comprehensive systems of indicators for measuring sustainable development, including its social dimension, is the one offered by the UN Global

¹⁶ GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF UNITED NATIONS, Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, A/42/427, 4 August 1987.

¹⁷ The structure in three fundamental pillars can be glimpsed for the first time in what is the foundational text of the concept of “sustainable development”, the Report of the Brundtland Commission, which defined it as a balance between economic growth, environmental protection and social equity. Subsequently, the Rio Declaration (1992) merged the link and introduced the idea of the “intergenerational principle”. Ten years later, the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg expressly named the structure of three pillars of the sustainable development.

¹⁸ For example, see: BOSTRÖM, Magnus, A missing pillar? Challenges in theorizing and practicing social sustainability: introduction to the special issue, *Sustainability: Science, Practice, & Policy* 8 (1), 2012, pp. 1-14. From a critical point of view, other authors consider that the concept of social sustainability is more subjective, ideological, local and less scientific than the environmental and economic aspects of sustainable development. See: KLINTMAN, M. 2012. Handling issues of scale in global accreditation of sustainable tourism schemes towards harmonized re-embeddedness, *Sustainability: Science, Practice, & Policy* 8(1), 2012, pp. 59-69, DOI: 10.1080/15487733.2012.11908085.

¹⁹ BEBBINGTON, Jan, DILLARD, Jesse, Social sustainability: an organizational-level analysis. In J. Dillard, V. Dujon, & M. King (Eds.), *Understanding the Social Dimension of Sustainability*, New York: Routledge, 2009, pp. 157–173.

²⁰ COLANTONIO, Andrea, Social sustainability: an exploratory analysis of its definition, assessment methods metrics and tools, EIBURS Working Paper Series 2007/01, Oxford Brooks University, Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development.

Indicator Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals²¹.

Added to this is the fact that the concept of “social sustainability” is a deeply controversial and changing concept, whose parameters of study remain diffuse. That vagueness is often seen as a weakness, as it forces those who talk about sustainability to explain what they mean, repeatedly²². Nevertheless, the academic literature has progressively shown a set of recurring key components that give the concept analytical structure and normative content. So, the emerging literature has named several guiding principles underlying social sustainability. In 2011, Dempsey et al., focused on community connections, well-being, resilience, and social participation²³. A recent study by Barron et al. named the following four elements: cohesion, inclusion, resilience and progress legitimacy²⁴. In relation to social sustainability in the European Union, a study by Jennifer McGuinn et al., commissioned by the EU Parliament, details the substantive elements that conceptualise social sustainability. Specifically, it refers to social development, access to basic needs, fair distribution of income, good working conditions and decent wages, equal rights, access to social and health services and education, as well as social cohesion and inclusion. They also consider that intergenerational equity and the balance between social development, environmental protection and economic growth are also key elements of the definition²⁵. Other authors identify the following four categories: equity, well-being, participation, and influence²⁶. At last, there are those who consider that all definitions have a common denominator: social sustainability necessarily implies an improvement in living conditions²⁷. For the purposes of this paper, our proposal is to encompass all the elements described by the academic literature as integral to the concept of social

²¹ GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, A/RES/71/313, 10 July 2017.

²² DAVIDSON, Mark, Social sustainability: a potential for politics? *Local Environment* 14(7), 2009, pp. 607–619.

²³ DEMPSEY, Nicola, et al. The Social Dimension of Sustainable Development: Defining Urban Social Sustainability, *Sustainable Development* 19 (5), pp. 289–300.

²⁴ BARRON et al., Social Sustainability in Development. Meeting the Challenges of the 21 St. Century. World Bank Group, 2023.

²⁵ MGUINN, Jennifer et al., *Social Sustainability. Concepts and Benchmarks*, Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies Directorate-General for Internal Policies, European Parliament, April 2020.

²⁶ NILSSON, Caroline et al., Navigating complexity with the four pillars of social sustainability, *Sustainable Development* 32 (6), 2024, pp. 5929–5947. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.2982>.

²⁷ TURHAN, Göneng, Social Sustainability. In: IDOWU, S. et al. (eds) *Encyclopedia of Sustainable Management*. Springer, 2023, pp. 1-5. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-02006-4_148-1.

sustainability in these four: decent work²⁸, equity²⁹, social cohesion³⁰, and well-being³¹. This is due to the internationalist law discipline in which this paper is framed, since these four elements are identified in normative instruments and international standards³².

Despite the challenges faced by social sustainability within the EU framework- particularly those related to difficulties in its measurement and its uniform application across Member States- its promotion is implicitly embedded among the objectives of the Union. Article 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) establishes that the Union shall establish an internal market and, to this end, work towards the sustainable development of Europe, promoting a high level of employment, social protection, and economic, social, and territorial cohesion among Member States. In this context, the European Union has played a key role in shaping the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which uniquely places the three pillars of sustainability - economic, environmental, and social- on an equal footing through its 17 Sustainable

²⁸ By “decent work” we mean, following the report presented in 1999 by Juan Somavia - the first Director-General of the ILO - that which aims to meet four strategic objectives: rights at work, employment opportunities, social protection and social dialogue.

²⁹ It is not defined in the constitutive treaties. However, the EU considers that “equity refers to the principle of justice and fair treatment adapted to the circumstances of each person or group, so that everyone can benefit from opportunities, access and results without factors such as their socio-economic origin, gender, disability or others negatively conditioning that access”. EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Communication (COM (2006) 481 final) — Efficiency and equity in European education and training systems, 8 September 2006.

³⁰ The Council of Europe defines social cohesion “as the capacity of a society to ensure the well-being of all its members -minimising disparities and avoiding marginalisation- to manage differences and divisions and ensure the means of achieving welfare for all members”. COUNCIL OF EUROPE, *New Strategy and Council of Europe Action Plan for Social Cohesion*, Strasbourg, France, 2010. For its part, the OECD defines a cohesive society as one that works towards the well-being of all its members, fights exclusion and marginalisation, creates a sense of belonging, promotes trust, and offers its members the opportunity of upward mobility”. ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD). *Perspectives on Global Development 2012: Social Cohesion in a Shifting World*, Paris, 2011. ISBN 9789264113145.

³¹ According to the World Health Organization, Well-being is a positive state experienced by individuals and societies. Like health, it is a resource for daily life and is determined by social, economic and environmental conditions. Well-being encompasses quality of life and the ability of people and societies to contribute to the world with a sense of meaning and purpose. Focusing on well-being supports the tracking of the equitable distribution of resources, overall thriving and sustainability. A society’s well-being can be determined by the extent to which it is resilient, builds capacity for action, and is prepared to transcend challenges. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, *Health Promotion Glossary of Terms 2021*, Geneva.

³² In addition to the Agenda for Sustainable Development, already mentioned, it is worth referring to: INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, *ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization*, 2008; INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, *Work for a brighter future. Global Commission on the Future of Work*, 2019; EUROPEAN COMMISSION, *European Pillar of Social Rights*, 2017.

Development Goals (SDGs)³³. Moreover, as a global actor, the EU has identified the implementation of the SDGs as an integral part of its overall sustainability strategy, emphasizing that they should guide the design of all EU policies³⁴. However, although social objectives have received increasing attention in EU policymaking over the past decade, the term social sustainability continues to be used only to a limited extent, and its role within the broader sustainable development discourse remains insufficiently defined³⁵.

In any case, regardless of the contours of the definition of social sustainability that is ultimately adopted, the achievement of this EU objective is clearly undermined by the persistence of forced labour. The ILO estimates that 27.6 million people are currently subjected to forced labour worldwide, including 3.3 million children. Of these, about 128,000 work in fisheries and aquaculture³⁶. These people are forced to work using violence, intimidation or indirect coercive mechanisms, such as debt manipulation, withholding of identity documents or threats to report them to the immigration authorities. As previously mentioned, the fishing sector is considered high risk. While some progress has been noted in some regions and countries, recent reports by the ILO and the Environmental Justice Foundation argue that forced labour continues to be present in the global fishing industry³⁷. In this context and considering that since 2016 the number of persons in forced labour has increased by 2.7 million - a rise which, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO), is entirely attributable to forced labour in the private economy³⁸ - the international community has reaffirmed its commitment to its eradication³⁹. This obligation also extends to the

³³ GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, A/RES/70/1, 21 October 2015. The term "social" used to describe the concept of "development" appears 39 times throughout the text.

³⁴ EUROPEAN COMMISSION, *Reflection paper. Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030*, COM (2019)22, 30 January 2019.

³⁵ MGUINN, et al. *Op. cit.*, p. 14.

³⁶ INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, *Forced labour and human trafficking in fisheries*, 2023.

³⁷ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION. *Blood and Water: Human Rights Abuse in the Seafood Industry*, Londres, 2019.

³⁸ INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, *Global estimates of modern slavery: Forced labour and forced marriage*, 2022, pp. 10-12.

³⁹ This obligation is incumbent on States, but also on international organizations, enterprises and individuals. SDG Goal 8 on promoting decent work and economic growth, with target 8.7 addressing the elimination of forced labour. In this regard, UNESCO's International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) has developed an indicator to measure the fulfilment of this target by assessing the policies and plans put in place to ensure that forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour are eliminated from the entire supply chain. See: ICCROM, Toolkit. Accessed in: [SDG 8.7: End Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Child Labour | ICCROM | Our Collections Matter](#)

European Union, which treats the eradication of forced labour as a priority, as reflected in its commitment to human rights and human dignity under Article 21 TEU. In pursuit of this principle, the EU recently adopted the Regulation (EU) 2024/3015, prohibiting the placing and making available on the EU market, as well as the export from the EU, of products made with forced labour.

This paper contributes to the debate on sustainability in the EU in relation to the fishing sector by addressing its social dimension, which has historically been overshadowed by environmental and economic concerns. By analysing the intersection between fishing, forced labour, and Regulation (EU) 2024/3015, it becomes evident that EU policies have the potential to strengthen labour rights, promote social cohesion, and enhance fairness across fishery supply chains. This article argues that the EU is taking significant steps towards integrating social sustainability as a main objective within its legal framework, including general or specific regulation applicable to the fisheries sector. This does not necessarily imply, however, that this objective has been fully achieved, as will be discussed below. To this end, the study employs a legal methodology based on the analysis of the EU regulatory framework and the relevant legal doctrine. Social sustainability is understood in this document as a legal objective of EU policy, expressly recognised in the Common Fisheries Policy. However, given the absence of a universally accepted definition of social sustainability, especially within the fisheries sector, its conceptualization continues to develop today. Consequently, this study takes a functional approach and operationalizes social sustainability through its constituent elements identified in the literature and in relevant international standards, namely decent work, equity, social cohesion and well-being. These elements are used as analytical categories that guide the analysis of EU fisheries instruments, Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 and other relevant EU legal acts. This methodological approach also allows for a critical assessment of the extent to which EU fisheries governance incorporates social sustainability objectives.

Discussion

The international legal framework addressing forced labour in the fisheries sector is characterised by a fragmented but complementary set of binding legal instruments and *soft law rules*. As noted above, the ILO establishes the prohibition of forced labour through the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and the Abolition of Forced

Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105). The Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) is the only sector-specific binding legal instrument regulating working conditions on board fishing vessels, thus indirectly contributing to the prevention of forced labour in fisheries. Alongside these hard law standards, a growing set of soft law instruments and technical tools adopted by FAO and the ILO plays an important role in shaping interpretative standards, combating forced labour in fisheries and promoting due diligence in global supply chains⁴⁰.

At EU level, Recital number 4 of Regulation (EU) 1380/2013, of 11 December 2013, on the Common Fisheries Policy, establishes that the CFP must ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities contribute to long-term environmental, economic and social sustainability. Despite this, the social approach has had a secondary implementation with respect to the other dimensions of sustainable development. EU fisheries legislation has primarily focused on conservation and resource management measures, such as the establishment of Total Allowable Catches (TACs), minimum conservation reference sizes, the protection of marine ecosystems, and the incorporation of the concept of Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). However, in the last decade this situation has gradually begun to change, through the incorporation of a social approach to the CFP. In the field of employment, Council Directive (EU) 2017/159, adopted on 19 December 2016, seeks to improve the working conditions of fishermen in the European Union. This is based on the ILO Work in Fishing Convention 2007 and sets minimum requirements for working on board fishing vessels, as well as conditions of service, accommodation, food, and protection of occupational safety and health⁴¹. For its part, Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 was adopted in 2021, establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) for the period 2021-2027. EMFAF supports innovative projects that contribute to the sustainable use and management of aquatic and marine resources. Priority 3: Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the development of fishing and aquaculture

⁴⁰ Among others, the following stand out: FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO), International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, 2001; FAO, Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 1995; FAO, Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, 2014; INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO) AND FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO), Policy Guidance on the elimination of child labour in fisheries and aquaculture, 2025.

⁴¹ COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, Council Directive (EU) 2017/159 of 19 December 2016 implementing the Agreement concerning the implementation of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 of the International Labour Organization, L 25/12. OJEU 31.1.2017.

communities, and specifically facilitates: the socio-economic attractiveness and generational renewal of the fisheries sector, regarding small-scale coastal fisheries, the improvement of skills and working conditions in fisheries and aquaculture, and the economic and social vitality of coastal communities.

In February 2023, the European Commission presented a comprehensive package of measures aimed at strengthening the sustainability and resilience of the EU fisheries and aquaculture sector within the framework of the CFP. It focuses on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector⁴². Also, the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems to achieve sustainable and resilient fisheries, expressly underlining the social impact on fishing communities, and recognizing the need to finance action plans aimed at strengthening environmental, economic and social sustainability in fisheries⁴³. For the purposes that concern us, it is especially relevant the strategy: “The common fisheries policy today and tomorrow: a Fisheries and Oceans Pact towards sustainable, science-based, innovative and inclusive fisheries management”⁴⁴, which is also part of this package of measures. It emphasizes the need to integrate the social dimension and stresses that existing data on employment, gender, vocational training or people's dependence on fishing activities should be considered more effectively by policymakers when proposing conservation measures in fisheries management. It emphasises, therefore, the need to carry out an exercise of balance between social sustainability and the economic and environmental dimensions of fisheries.

In this context, it is appropriate to analyze whether the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 represents a significant step towards the regulatory consolidation of social sustainability in fisheries. To this end, and in the absence of an agreed definition of the term, we will pay attention to the four elements mentioned above, namely: decent work, equity, social cohesion, and well-being. Obviously, this regulation has a

⁴² DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES, Communication from the Commission: On the Energy Transition of the EU Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector, COM (2023) 100 final, 21 February 2023.

⁴³ DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, EU Action Plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries, COM (2023) 102 final, 21 February 2023.

⁴⁴ The term “social” refers to the concepts of social dimension, social standards, and social service appears up to 22 times throughout the text. DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES, The common fisheries policy today and tomorrow: a Fisheries and Oceans Pact towards sustainable, science-based, innovative and inclusive fisheries management, COM (2023) 103 final, 21 February 2023.

particularly significant impact on the decent work dimension, as forced labour practices constitute its very antithesis. This does not, however, preclude the possibility of examining the regulation -albeit in a more indirect manner- in relation to the other elements that make up the concept of social sustainability.

The adoption of the new Regulation 2024/3015 was based on Arts. 114 and 207 TFEU. Its main objective is to ban products made with forced labour on the Union market (Relation 69). This regulation applies to both products manufactured within the EU and imported ones. In addition, it allows companies to be required to withdraw and dispose of these products. Although Regulation 2024/3015 does not specifically focus on fisheries policy or the direct management of marine resources, since it is a horizontal regulation not sectoral, it may have relevant implications for the fisheries and aquaculture sector. In this sense, the relevance of Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 for the fisheries sector is reinforced by the European Union's significant dependence on fishery and aquaculture products for domestic consumption. This reliance on complex and highly globalised supply chains increases the EU market's exposure to products that may be linked to forced labour practices in third countries, highlighting the relevance of Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 in the wider context of fisheries governance and food supply regulation⁴⁵.

The application of this Regulation means that each Member State would have until 14 December 2025 to appoint one or more competent authorities, responsible for monitoring compliance with the obligations set out in the Regulation. Likewise, before June 14, 2026, the European Commission should publish a database with dependable and verified information from international organizations, NGOs and academic institutions, about evidence on forced labour risks in certain geographical areas or specific products. It will do so to support the national competent authorities in identifying potential breaches of the ban on products made with forced labour and to help economic operators detect potential forced labour risks in their supply chains

⁴⁵ The EU is one of the world's largest markets and trading players for fishery products, with total trade in fishery and aquaculture products reaching approximately €40 billion in 2022. Fishery and aquaculture products are also a key component of the EU diet, with an estimated average apparent consumption of approximately 23.5 kg per capita per year, significantly higher than the global average. It should be noted that about 70–75% of this consumption comes from wild catches, and a considerable proportion comes from imports, given the limited capacity of domestic production to meet demand. EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Joint Research Centre, Scientific Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – The 2024 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (STECF-24-03 & STECF-24-07), Prellezo, R., Sabatella, E.C., Virtanen, J., Tardy Martorell, M., and Guillen, J. editor(s), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2024.

(Article 8). It should also provide economic operators with a set of due diligence guidelines to prevent forced labour. However, this Regulation does not provide for new obligations in this area. This is why the European Commission will have to resort to Directive 2024/1760, on corporate sustainability due diligence, which, however, has a limited scope of application to those companies that have at least 1. 000 employees and a net worldwide turnover of more than 450 million euros or be the ultimate parent company of a group that meets these requirements (Article 2)⁴⁶.

In relation to the promotion of decent work, the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 appears, at least at first sight, to be directly aligned with this objective. Recital 1 explicitly states that “forced labour constitutes a serious violation of human dignity and fundamental rights, contributes to the perpetuation of poverty and stands in the way of the achievement of decent work for all”. The ILO has likewise recognised the elimination of forced labour as a fundamental human rights principle. However, in line with Adoración Guzmán Hernández, with whose assessment we concur, Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 appears to reflect a partial shift away from a strictly human rights-centred approach in the fight against forced labour. The author situates the Regulation within a broader and longstanding debate linking human rights and trade policy, which at EU level gained prominence in 2018 with the inclusion of Trade and Sustainable Development chapters in EU trade agreements⁴⁷.

As a result, the Regulation does not incorporate measures specifically aimed at protecting victims of forced labour⁴⁸. Thus, for example, although the Regulation is based on the ILO Forced Labour Convention, to which it continually refers, the former differs from the latter in that it does not establish an obligation on Member States not to impose criminal sanctions. Nor does it establish reparation measures or provide means of access to justice for victims, as does the 2014 Protocol to the Convention on Forced Labour. In this sense, the Regulation is not primarily designed to promote decent work as such. It does not develop substantive measures aimed at improving working conditions (such as fair wages, social protection, or social dialogue). Rather,

⁴⁶ Directive (EU) 2024/1760 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on corporate sustainability due diligence, amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937 and Regulation (EU) 2023/2859, OJEU, 17 April 2024.

⁴⁷ INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, *ILO Centenary Declaration for the future of Work*, 2019, ISBN: 9789220315545. In its Declaration III. C (iii) clearly states that trade policies that favour decent work should be encouraged.

⁴⁸ GUAMÁN HERNÁNDEZ, Adoración, ¿Proteger derechos humanos mediante restricciones comerciales?: el Reglamento UE sobre trabajo forzoso y el olvido de las víctimas, *Trabajo y Derecho* 125, 2025.

its objective is to eradicate forced labour indirectly by discouraging its use through trade-related restrictions and by strengthening corporate due diligence obligations across supply chains, thereby contributing to human rights protection in an indirect and preventive way.

About the other elements that, in our view, structure the concept of social sustainability -namely social cohesion, equity, and well-being- the connection with Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 is even more attenuated. The Regulation is not directly linked to EU cohesion policy, although it may generate indirect social effects. Indeed, strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion constitutes one of the Union's objectives under Article 3(3) TEU⁴⁹, further developed in Articles 174 to 178 TFEU and in the regulatory framework governing the European Structural and Investment Funds (2021–2027)⁵⁰. However, when measured against the Council of Europe's understanding of social cohesion -which emphasises equal opportunities, employment, and social inclusion- these dimensions are scarcely reflected in the Regulation. The only relevant reference appears in Recital 7, which acknowledges that forced labour disproportionately affects vulnerable and marginalised groups such as children, women, migrants, refugees and Indigenous peoples, thereby requiring an intersectional and gender-sensitive approach.

From a much more abstract discursive level, “equity” would inspire the ultimate purpose of the Regulation to combat forced labour, not the consideration of concrete measures to satisfy victims' rights to reparation and access to justice, which are absent in this regulation. As for the “well-being” element, this is a teleological objective of the EU legal order. It has a constitutional basis as it is explicitly included in Article 3.1 TEU, as follows: “The Union's aim is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples”. It assembles economic and social policy, and defines the purpose of EU action, however, like equity, it is not usually concretized in secondary legislation, and Regulation 2024/3015 is not “the exception that proves the rule”.

⁴⁹ In terms of fisheries and aquaculture, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), which belongs to the ESI Funds, aims to promote these activities to be socially responsible, as we have pointed out above.

⁵⁰ The regulations are Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013, and Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, as well as the financial rules for those Funds and for the Asylum Fund, Migration and Integration, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy.

Conclusion

Although social sustainability was initially recognised as one of the three pillars of sustainable development, as is indirectly evidenced in Article 3(3) TEU, its integration into EU sectoral policies -especially the Common Fisheries Policy- has been slow and, in many respects, marginal. Only in recent years has the objective of social sustainability in fisheries moved beyond rhetorical commitment towards a framework that is increasingly normative and legally enforceable. In this scenario, the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 represents a significant step towards the regulatory consolidation of the social pillar. By making access to the internal market conditional on compliance with the rule prohibiting forced labour, the European Union reinforces its sustainability objectives, extending the requirement of social standards not only to the European fleet, but also to global supply chains. In any case, the examination of the aforementioned Regulation in the light of the elements which, in our view, make up the notion of social sustainability, leads us to conclude that the social approach to sustainability is only partially incorporated. Knowing that the objective of Regulation 2024/3015 is to fight against forced labour, the fact that it does not establish responsibilities for the companies that carry out these violations of labour rights and decent work, somewhat contradicts the aim it claims to pursue. The fact that it passes superficially (it only mentions them in recital 7) due to the need to take account of vulnerable groups is also a particularly relevant flaw in the fishing sector, where it is common for workers to be exposed to a high risk of being victims of forced labour.

While Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 strengthens the protection of fundamental labour rights by prohibiting products made with forced labour, its horizontal and market-based approach cannot substitute for a comprehensive sector-specific social framework, such as fishing. From the perspective of decent work, equity, cohesion, and well-being, the current regulatory landscape remains fragmented. Labor rights and social protection for fishing workers are not systematically integrated within the EU's own fisheries governance. This regulatory gap ultimately highlights the need to integrate social sustainability as a central and explicit pillar of EU fisheries policy, ensuring that the transition to sustainable fishing is not only ecologically appropriate and economically viable, but also socially just.

Overall, this article has shown that, while the European Union formally recognises social sustainability as part of its sustainable development objectives, its integration

into fisheries governance remains uneven and structurally limited. The analysis of Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 demonstrates that, although it constitutes an important development in the fight against forced labour and reinforces the EU's external regulatory reach over global supply chains, its contribution to social sustainability in the fisheries sector is primarily indirect and preventive rather than substantive or rights-based. As a result, significant gaps persist in the operationalisation of key social sustainability dimensions -particularly decent work, equity, social cohesion, and well-being- within the fisheries policy. This highlights a broader normative tension within EU fisheries governance: the coexistence of strong environmental and economic regulation with a still underdeveloped and fragmented social pillar. In this sense, the full realisation of socially sustainable fisheries in the EU would require a more explicit and structured integration of labour rights and social protection mechanisms into fisheries law, moving beyond market-based approaches towards a genuinely rights-centred model of sustainability.

References

- ALEXANDER, Karen A, KELLING, *Ingrid*, *Social sustainability in seafood systems: a rapid review*, *Cambridge Prisms: Coastal Futures 2 (1)*, 2023, pp. 1-8.
- BARRON et al., *Social Sustainability in Development. Meeting the Challenges of the 21 St. Century*. World Bank Group, 2023.
- BEBBINGTON, Jan, DILLARD, Jesse, *Social sustainability: an organizational-level analysis*. In J. Dillard, V. Dujon, & M. King (Eds.), *Understanding the Social Dimension of Sustainability*, New York: Routledge, 2009, pp. 157–173.
- BENÉ, Christophe, et al., *When food systems meet sustainability-current narratives and implications for actions*, *World Development* 113, 2019, pp. 116-130. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2018.08.011>
- BOSTRÖM, Magnus, *A missing pillar? Challenges in theorizing and practicing social sustainability: introduction to the special issue*, *Sustainability: Science, Practice, & Policy* 8 (1), 2012, pp. 1-14.
- COLANTONIO, Andrea, *Social sustainability: an exploratory analysis of its definition, assessment methods metrics and tools*, EIBURS Working Paper Series 2007/01, Oxford Brooks University, Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development.
- COUNCIL OF EUROPE, *New Strategy and Council of Europe Action Plan for Social Cohesion*, Strasbourg, France, 2010.
- COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, *Council Directive (EU) 2017/159 of 19 December 2016 implementing the Agreement concerning the implementation of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 of the International Labour Organization*, L 25/12. OJEU 31.1.2017.
- DAVIDSON, Mark, *Social sustainability: a potential for politics?* *Local Environment* 14(7), 2009, pp. 607–619.
- DEMPSEY, Nicola, et al. *The Social Dimension of Sustainable Development: Defining Urban Social Sustainability*, *Sustainable Development* 19 (5), pp. 289–300.
- DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES, *The common fisheries policy today and tomorrow: a Fisheries and Oceans Pact towards sustainable, science-based, innovative and inclusive fisheries management*, COM (2023) 103 final, 21 February 2023.
- DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES, *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, EU Action Plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries*, COM (2023) 102 final, 21 February 2023.

- DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES, Communication from the Commission: On the Energy Transition of the EU Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector, COM (2023) 100 final, 21 February 2023.
- ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION. *Blood and Water: Human Rights Abuse in the Seafood Industry*, Londres, 2019.
- EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Facts and Figures on the Common Fisheries Policy. Basic statistical data-2025. doi:10.10.2771/5212334.
- EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Joint Research Centre, Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) –The 2025 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (STECF 25-03 & 25-07), Prellezo, R., Sabatella, E.C., Virtanen, J. and Guillen, J. (eds.), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2025.
- EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Joint Research Centre, Scientific Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – The 2024 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (STECF-24-03 & STECF-24-07), Prellezo, R., Sabatella, E.C., Virtanen, J., Tardy Martorell, M., and Guillen, J. editor(s), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2024, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2760/5037826>, JRC139642.
- EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Communication (COM (2006) 481 final) — Efficiency and equity in European education and training systems, 8 September 2006.
- EUROPEAN COMMISSION, *Reflection paper. Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030*, COM (2019)22, 30 January 2019.
- EUROPEAN COMMISSION, *European Pillar of Social Rights*, 2017.
- EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, Directive (EU) 2024/1760 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on corporate sustainability due diligence, amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937 and Regulation (EU) 2023/2859, OJEU, 17 April 2024.
- EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, OJ L 354, 28 December 2013.
- EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, Regulation No. 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008, establishing a community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1936/2001 and (EC) No 601/2004 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1093/94 and (EC) No 1447/1999.
- EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013, OJ L 231/21., 30 June 2021.
- EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, as well as the financial rules for those Funds and for the Asylum Fund, Migration and Integration, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy.
- EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 on prohibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937, OJ L, 12 December 2024.
- EUROPEAN TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION, *The Common Fisheries Policy requires a stronger social dimension*, 2020.
- FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024. Blue Transformation in action*. Rome, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd0683en>
- FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO), Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, 2014.
- FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, Food and Agriculture Organization Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA), in Rome, Italy, on November 22, 2009.
- FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO), International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, 2001.

- FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO), Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 1995.
- GARCÍA LUPIOLA, Asier, La creciente relevancia del desarrollo sostenible en las estrategias globales de la Unión Europea, *Revista Española de Derecho Europeo* (82), 2022, pp. 77–114. https://doi.org/10.37417/REDE/num82_2022_861
- GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF UNITED NATIONS, Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, A/42/427, 4 August 1987.
- GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, A/RES/71/313, 10 July 2017.
- GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, A/RES/70/1, 21 October 2015. The term "social" used to describe the concept of "development" appears 39 times throughout the text.
- GUAMÁN HERNÁNDEZ, Adoración, ¿Proteger derechos humanos mediante restricciones comerciales?: el Reglamento UE sobre trabajo forzoso y el olvido de las víctimas, *Trabajo y Derecho* 125, 2025.
- ICCROM, Toolkit. Accessed in: [SDG 8.7: End Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Child Labour | ICCROM | Our Collections Matter](#)
- INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO) AND FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO), Policy Guidance on the elimination of child labour in fisheries and aquaculture, 2025.
- INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, *Towards freedom at sea. Handbook for the detention of forced labour in commercial fishing*, 2023. ISBN: 978-92-2-039531-8.
- INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, *ILO Centenary Declaration for the future of Work*, 2019, ISBN: 9789220315545.
- INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, *Forced labour and human trafficking in fisheries*, 2023.
- INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, *Work for a brighter future. Global Commission on the Future of Work*, 2019.
- INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, *Global estimates of modern slavery: Forced labour and forced marriage*, 2017. ISBN: 978-92-2-130131-8, p.33.
- INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, *ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization*, 2008.
- INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO), Convention Concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, 1930 (NO.29).
- INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS (ILO), Work in Fishing Convention, 2017 (No. 188).
- KLINTMAN, M. 2012. Handling issues of scale in global accreditation of sustainable tourism schemes towards harmonized re-embeddedness, *Sustainability: Science, Practice, & Policy* 8(1), 2012, pp. 59-69, DOI: 10.1080/15487733.2012.11908085.
- MGUINN, Jeniffer et al., *Social Sustainability. Concepts and Benchmarks*, Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies Directorate-General for Internal Policies, European Parliament, April 2020.
- NILSSON, Caroline et al., Navigating complexity with the four pillars of social sustainability, *Sustainable Development* 32 (6), 2024, pp. 5929–5947. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.2982>.
- ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD). *Perspectives on Global Development 2012: Social Cohesion in a Shifting World*, Paris, 2011. ISBN 9789264113145.
- TEIJO GARCÍA, C, The WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement and the Incomplete of Target 14.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, *Revista Española de Derecho Internacional* 7, 2025, pp. 193-217. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.36151/REDI.77.1.8>
- TEIJO GARCÍA, Carlos, JORGE URBINA, Julio, Criminal sanctions and IUU fishing: the case of Spain, *Marine Policy (Special Issue)*, 2022. ISSN: 0308-597X.
- TURHAN, Göneng, Social Sustainability. In: IDOWU, S. et al. (eds) *Encyclopedia of Sustainable Management*. Springer, 2023, pp. 1-5. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-02006-4_148-1.

Data de submissão do artigo: 28/02/2026

Data de aprovação do artigo: 28/04/2026

Edição e propriedade:

Universidade Portucalense Cooperativa de Ensino Superior, CRL

Rua Dr. António Bernardino de Almeida, 541 - 4200-072 Porto

Email: upt@upt.pt