

# **Responses to Greenpeace's report "*Fake My Catch: The Unreliable Traceability in our Tuna Cans.*"**

**Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture**

October 2023

## **Summary**

This report aims to respond to the allegations regarding systematic forced labor and illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing in Taiwan distant water fisheries raised in Greenpeace Foundation (hereinafter Greenpeace)'s report titled "*Fake My Catch: The Unreliable Traceability in our Tuna Cans.*" After conducting investigations on 23 Taiwan-flagged fishing vessels and 1 foreign-flagged fishing vessel and interviewing foreign crew members and relevant stakeholders, Taiwan Fisheries Agency (TFA) would like to share the findings with the public.

## **I. Preamble**

In the September 2022 report titled "*Fake My Catch: The Unreliable Traceability in our Tuna Cans,*" Greenpeace presented various viewpoints and suggestions concerning the management of Taiwan's fishing industry. To clarify, TFA carries out investigations on each alleged fishing vessel with determination to bring the violator to justice. However, for cases lacking adequate information or evidence, TFA will update the progress of investigation when receiving additional information.

## **II. Administrative Investigation Procedure of TFA**

Regarding the alleged infringements of crew members' rights and benefits on our fishing vessels, TFA investigates each allegation without prejudice and with consideration of crew member's privacy and personal security to safeguard their rights and benefits.

After receiving complaints or allegations, TFA reviews materials provided by complainant as the first step to access if there is adequate information for investigation. In cases where the information is insufficient, TFA then requests additional information to be provided by compliant to initiate an investigation.

For cases that undergo administrative investigation, the procedure is as follows:

- a. Inspecting relevant documents depending on the alleged cases, for example, employment/service contracts signed among crew members, fishing vessel operators, and recruitment agents, as well as salary slips, records of working hours, relevant records on fishing operation and supply.
- b. Arranging interviews with crew members, and if necessary, requesting operators or recruitment agents to provide statements. TFA also collects additional information or evidence for clarifications if deemed needed.
- c. If a case is found to be involved with crime or human trafficking, TFA will forward the case to the prosecutors.
- d. After an investigation is carried out, TFA analyzes the materials gathered and submit the investigation findings to the Grievance Reviewing Committee. Members of this Committee consist of government agencies, independent scholars, and NGO representatives. The Committee reviews and discusses the findings and makes recommendations, based on which TFA imposes sanction on the violator or adjusts the previous investigation approach. The whole investigation procedure is not only rigorous but also inclusive.

### **III. The Investigation of 24 Alleged Fishing Vessels**

1. General explanation:

In the report, Greenpeace allegedly indicated 23 Taiwan-flagged fishing vessels and 1 foreign-flagged fishing vessel invested by Taiwan national involved in forced labor practices. Yet Greenpeace claimed that it “*does not guarantee the promptness, accuracy and integrity of the information contained in this report.*” After carefully reviewing the report, TFA finds that the employment period of the crew members interviewed spanned from 2019 to 2021. Furthermore, it is important to note that the majority of the allegations lack clear evidence and detailed information, particularly the 5W1H (Who, What, When, here, Why, and How).

In response to TFA’s requests, Greenpeace on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 provided the interview records from the crew members employed on the said 24 fishing vessels. However, the content was still not specific enough for effective investigations. Consequently, TFA once again asked Greenpeace to provide additional information (see Annex 2). In addition, some of the fishing vessels in question have not entered Taiwanese ports, making it challenging for TFA to board those fishing vessels for investigation. For some cases, TFA has compared and analyzed the data and information to the extent possible by cross-checking the inspection and interview records done in the past and requesting operators or recruitment agents to provide relevant information. At this stage, among the 24 alleged cases, 15 cases are closed, and 9 cases are ongoing due to insufficient information.

Table 1: Current status of the investigations

<b>Cases closed (15 cases)</b>			
YU HSING HSIANG NO.168	JIA YU FA	REN HORNG WAY NO.368	REN HORNG CHUN NO.168
JIN CHUAN YI	DE CHAN NO.116	SHENG JYI HUEI NO.16	CHUN I NO.217
JIUN MING SHING NO.21	SHIN JYI WANG NO.6	JIN WEN NO.99	YI MAN
SHANG SHUN NO.622	SHENG I TSAI NO.368	JUBILEE	
<b>Unable to deepen investigation due to insufficient information (9 cases)</b>			
SHENG YU NO.38	EAGLE	CHUNG KUO NO.828	MAN CHI FENG
HUNG HUI NO.112	YI FENG NO.816	ZHEN FENG NO.8	SHENG I TSAI NO.313
SHIN YUA FU NO.111			

Table 2: A summary of TFA's findings according to Greenpeace's allegations

	Abuse of vulnerability 2	Deception	Isolation & Restriction of movement	Physical and sexual violence	Intimidation and threats	Retention of identity documents	Withholding of wages	Debt bondage	Abusive working and living conditions	Excessive overtime
No evidence to confirm allegations	9	1	1	2	2	10	11	8	7	10
TFA's finding matches allegation	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number	10	1	1	2	2	10	11	8	7	10

Note 1: For the cases closed, please refer to Annex 1: TFA's findings for the 15 alleged fishing vessels according to the ILO Indicators of Forced Labor.

Note 2: It is recommended that the indicator of abuse of vulnerability should be considered together with other indicators, e.g., does it lead to withholding of wages, or intimidation and threats, or if there is excessive overtime.

## 2. TFA's findings for three alleged cases in Greenpeace's report:

### (1) Fishing vessel JIN WEN NO.99

Greenpeace claimed that there were instances of insufficient food, excessive overtime, beating and threats from the master, and delays in providing medical treatment on fishing vessel JIN WEN NO.99 from 2019 to 2021. TFA interviews a total of ten crew members who were working on the fishing vessel at that time: eight crew members interviewed on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021, one crew member interviewed in April 2022, and one crew member via telephone interview in July 2022. TFA compiles the interview records with crew members, officers, and the master, along with data relating to sailing and fishing operations, and the findings are as follows:

Concerning the alleged instance of insufficient food, while some crew members felt that meals provided onboard were not enough, the operator and the Indonesian chef who also worked onboard responded that there was no restriction on food consumption. Additionally, a certain amount of food remained when the fishing vessel returned to Taiwan. While the distribution of food portion during the trip may have some imperfections and imbalances, there is no evidence of a shortage of food provided on the fishing vessel.

Regarding the alleged instance of excessive overtime, some crew members replied that they did not have adequate rest hours. After reviewing records on the fishing vessel's operations, TFA considers that crew members could have ten hours of rest on average. Besides, there is no other direct evidence to prove the claim of excessive working hours. Currently, TFA has already required the concerned operator to furnish working hour timesheet onboard. Additionally, on 4 October 2023, TFA has required distant water fishing vessels to install closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems within the respective timeframe, and it is expected to significantly aid in addressing such concerns in the future.

For the alleged instance of mistreatment, some crew members recalled an incident in June 2021 where the master was not satisfied with a crew member and the crew member talked back at him. Both had arguments and fellow crew members started to question the master. The master then tried to swing at one crew, but the crew member defended himself with his arms. The incident escalated when the crew member rushed into the master's room, so the master had to defend himself with a knife. Fortunately, with the intervention of some crew members, the tension defused. However, it led to a subsequent crew member strike, so the fishing vessel had to cease its fishing operation and return to port. Upon learning such information, TFA swiftly forwarded the case to prosecutor for investigation. The outcome of the investigation shows that no human trafficking is found.

Concerning the alleged instance of delaying in providing medical treatment, the interviewees recalled that there was an incident in May 2021 where an Indonesian crew member fell ill when the fishing vessel was operating on the high seas approximately 3000 kilometers off the east coast of New Zealand. Some crew members suggested the ill crew member should be hospitalized, and the master had the ill crew member transferred to another vessel on May 23 to bring him back to Taiwan. However, the ill crew member passed away during the Taiwan-bound trip. The autopsy report from the Pingtung District Prosecutors Office indicated that the crew member had died of natural causes. As for the strike mentioned in the Greenpeace's report, it took place about a month after this crew member was transferred to another vessel for medical treatment (22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021) and the incident mentioned in the preceding paragraph led to this strike.

## (2) Fishing vessel SHIN JYI WANG NO.6:

According to Greenpeace, two crew members stated that there were instances of abuse of vulnerability, isolation/restriction of movement,

retention of identity documents, withholding of wages, debt bondage, abusive working and living conditions, and excessive overtime onboard fishing vessel SHIN JYI WANG NO.6 during 2020 and 2021. TFA interviewed four crew members who used to work onboard the said fishing vessel but now work onboard other fishing vessels on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, and 30<sup>th</sup> March. The findings from interviews with crew members, operator, and recruitment agents, as well as analyzing relevant information on navigation, fishing operations and wage are summarized as follows:

Regarding the alleged instance of abuse of vulnerability, the said two crew members claimed that they were charged TWD 9,000 dollars by the recruitment agents for passport renewal. Two of the four crew members interviewed by TFA stated that they were charged USD 100 dollars and USD 250 dollars, respectively, for their passports, but the fishing vessel owner and the Taiwanese recruitment agents did not charge them. Furthermore, Greenpeace allegedly claimed that crew members did not sign employment contracts with the vessel owner and the Taiwanese recruitment agents, and did not possess a copy of the employment contracts. However, the interviewees responded that they did sign employment contracts with the fishing vessel owner and the Taiwanese recruitment agents, and were in possession of copies of the employment contracts.

With regard to the alleged instance of debt bondage, Greenpeace claimed that crew members were forced to cover their return airfare. After TFA's investigation, it is found that two crew had breached the requirement in the employment contracts by refusing to provide services, so they were required to cover their return airfare. As for the alleged instance of withholdings of wages, Greenpeace claimed that deposit was deducted from crew members' wages, whereas the crew members that TFA interviewed stated that deposits were not charged. However, they stated that the Indonesian recruitment agents did charge them for the agency fee, document fee and household



allowance. Considering that wages were distributed by the Indonesian recruitment agents at that time, the above-mentioned fees were deducted from the crew members' wages by the Indonesian recruitment agents. To prevent such instance, Taiwan has promulgated that wages shall be paid in full amount and shall not be paid by foreign agents in 2022.

Regarding the alleged instance of restriction of movement/isolation, the said two crew members claimed that the master stopped crew members from calling for assistance. Nonetheless, the crew members interviewed by TFA stated that they were able to have access to the internet and telephone when the fishing vessel was in port, and that they were able to stay in contact with their recruitment agents while at sea. Hence, the interviewees did not feel the master stopped them from contacting anyone. As for the alleged instance of retention of identity documents, the fishing vessel owner responded that all passports were collected and stored by the master for the purpose of immigration check when the fishing vessel entered or leaved a port. The crew members are free to reclaim their passports. While passports were collected and stored by the master, all crew members were provided with their passport copies. The crew members revealed that they can accept such arrangement. Hence, retention of identity document is not found.

Concerning the alleged instance of excessive overtime, the two crew members claimed that the rest time was four hours a day. After interviewing crew members and reviewing the information on fishing operation, it is found that within the total alleged period of 232 days, the fishing vessel was in port or was sailing for 124 days and the fishing operations took place for the rest of 108 days. Although it was reported that rest hours did not match the legal requirement, considering it was not severe and no concrete evidence is found, TFA has required the owner to precisely document crew members' attendance records.

Finally, a number of allegations concerning the life onboard the fishing vessel were made: the food provided were expired or moldy, the galley was locked up, the drinking water was rusty-colored and salty, the sleeping space was limited with bed bugs. After TFA conducted on-site inspection and interviewed with crew members, the findings are as follows: bed bugs were indeed an issue onboard, but the master did provide medical assistance; only clean filtered water would be provided for crew members; some crew members who went on strike would prepare their meals in the galley and would make it a mess and consequently burden the cook, therefore, the cook locked up the galley.

### (3) Fishing vessel DE CHAN NO.116 (regarding IUU fishing)

Greenpeace made several allegations against fishing vessel DE CHAN NO.116 that it was involved in IUU fishing, including fishing for a period of time it was not authorized to fish, unauthorized transshipment at sea, shark finning. After TFA reviews relevant information, the findings are as follows:

Concerning conducting fishing operations without authorization, fishing vessel DE CHAN NO.116 was authorized to conduct fishing operation from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 19<sup>th</sup> March in 2021. But before the end of the authorization, 19<sup>th</sup> March, the fishing vessel operator applied for an extension of its authorization on 26<sup>th</sup> February. TFA issued a new Permit, authorizing the fishing vessel to operate from 20<sup>th</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. Therefore, the fishing vessel was authorized to operate for the whole year in 2021, showing that the fishing vessel did not operate without authorization.

On unauthorized transshipment at sea, it was alleged that, “*According to its AIS data, during the period from March 2020 to August 2021, DE CHAN NO.116 has two encounters with DE CHAN NO.26 ...*” After reviewing the records at TFA Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC), the FMC was notified of

these two encounters in advance, the purposes of which were for transferring supply and bait. No evidence showing unauthorized transshipment of catches at sea is found.

Regarding the allegation on shark finning, TFA conducted a landing inspection on the said fishing vessel on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021. According to the landing inspection report, the fishing vessel was not in possession of any prohibited species promulgated by TFA. Furthermore, the fins of blue shark were naturally attached to or tied to corresponding carcasses. There is no evidence proving the shark finning alleged by the crew member interviewed by Greenpeace.

In addition, after receiving Greenpeace's request to probe the issue of authorization to fish, TFA has provided a detailed response within the requested timeframe and has confirmed that there is no such unauthorized operation.

#### **IV. Clarifications on forced labor indicators**

The Greenpeace's report categorized the grievances from interviewees into eleven types based on the International Labor Organization (ILO) forced labor indicators. Meeting one indicator may be mistaken for committing forced labor, while in fact, in very rare cases when meeting only one indicator and in a severe situation will be seen as forced labor. In most cases, the determination of forced labor is made when several indicators are met. For this reason, the alleged cases mentioned in the Greenpeace's report should be examined case by case.

Additionally, TFA would like to clarify on two common allegations that are often raised by Greenpeace to avoid misunderstanding:

## 1. Retention of identity documents:

TFA receives many grievances regarding retention of identity documents, but in practice, when a fishing vessel enters or leaves a port, travel documents will be required for immigration procedures. Also, to avoid crew member from losing their travel documents, passports are usually stored at the master or the officer onboard. However, crew members will have a copy of their passports and they can reclaim their passports whenever they wish. Therefore, seeing it as retention of identity documents may be too straightforward. Also, considering the control measures around fishing ports in Taiwan, whether a foreign crew member is in possession of his/her passport will not restrict his/her movement around the port. For this reason, the connection between not in possession of passport and restriction of movement resulted from retention of identity documents is low.

It might be possible that when interviewing crew members, Greenpeace saw a foreigner crew member not having his/her passport with him/her as meeting the criteria of retention of identity documents. TFA would like to encourage that, in the future, when conducting interviews with crew members, Greenpeace or other NGOs could delve into why passports are not with the passport holders themselves, instead of automatically pointing it to retention of identity documents that is one of the forced labor indicators.

## 2. Not in possession of a copy of employment contract

Based on crew members' statement of not having copies of employment contracts, the Greenpeace report accused 14 Taiwanese fishing vessels of abuse of vulnerability. However, it is required that the employment contract signed by any distant water fishing vessel operator and the foreign crew member shall follow the template stipulated by TFA (in multi-languages), which is to assure that foreign crew members' benefits and rights will be

safeguarded. As of 1st October 2019, before signing the contract, foreign crew members shall watch a video with translation of crew members' native language that explains their rights and benefits under Taiwan laws and regulations. Therefore, crew member not in possession of a copy of the employment contract does not automatically signal an abuse of vulnerability.

## **V. Conclusion**

TFA would like to call on all groups/ NGOs that pay close attention to crew members' rights and benefits to provide information in greater detail, so that TFA would be in a better position to carry out effective investigations in order to bring more clarity and safeguard rights of crew members as well as lawful owners/operators.

In recent years, management at regional fisheries management organization level has become stricter. For sustainability, that fisheries resources should be treasured and that they should establish a partnership with the crew members are shared among Taiwan fishing vessel owners and operators. Also, Taiwan Government and the industry strive to continue to strengthen crew members' living conditions and labor rights and benefits. For example, the Executive Yuan tasked the Ministry of Agriculture to call for comments from the public to take international regulations into consideration, and to consult other authorities concerned for putting forward an Action Plan for Fisheries and Human Rights. Approved on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022, this Action Plan allocated more than two billion NTD to, for example, impose phase-out measure on existing distant water fishing vessels that are incapable of improvement as well as to provide additional living care facilities for foreign crew members in major domestic fishing ports. This Plan aims to strengthen the living conditions and labor rights of crew, improve labor relations between vessel operators and foreign crews employed overseas, and implement core tenets of fisheries-related conventions adopted by the ILO.

Various actions in the Action Plan, such as full implementation of agreed labor conditions, improvement on living conditions and social protection, strengthening management of recruitment agents, increasing enforcement manpower and labor inspection frequency, strengthening management of FOC-vessels, establishing and deepening international cooperations, and promoting mutually-beneficial partnership, are envisaged to strengthen foreign crew members' rights and benefits and are expected to promote the relationship between the crew members and the vessel owner.

Annex 1: TFA's findings for 15 alleged fishing vessels according to the ILO Indicators of Forced Labor (as of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023)

Vessel Name	Flag	CT Number	1 Abuse of vulnerability	2 Deception	3 Restriction of movement	4 Isolation	5 Physical and sexual violence	6 Intimidation and threats	7 Retention of identity documents	8 Withholding of wages	9 Debt bondage	10 Abusive Working and living conditions	11 Excessive overtime
CHUN I NO.217	Taiwan	7-0353					U	U					
DE CHAN NO.116	Taiwan	6-1488	U						U	U	U	U	U
JIA YU FA	Taiwan	4-2606										U	
JIN CHUAN YI	Taiwan	4-2630	U						U	U	U		U
JIN WEN NO.99	Taiwan	6-1380	○				U★	U★		U	U	U	U
JIUN MING SHING NO.21	Taiwan	3-4835	U										
JUBILEE	Taiwan	6-1458							U	U			U
REN HORNG CHUN NO.168	Taiwan	6-1516	U						U	U	U		U
REN HORNG WAY NO.368	Taiwan	6-1487	U						U	U	U		U
SHANG SHUN NO.622	Taiwan	7-0541								U		U	U
SHENG I TSAI NO.368	Taiwan	4-2889	U						U	U	U	U	
SHENG JYI HUEI NO.16	Taiwan	4-2330	U						U	U		U	
SHIN JYI WANG NO.6	Taiwan	5-1824	U			U			U	U	U	U	U
YI MAN	Taiwan	4-3017							U				U
YU HSING HSIANG NO.168	Taiwan	7-0523	U	U					U	U	U		U

\*Note: U refers to insufficient evidence; ○ refers to TFA's finding matches the allegation ; ★ refers to the case forwarded to the prosecutor for addressing criminal matters.

## Annex 2: Correspondence with Greenpeace

<b>The Date TFA Requested Information from Greenpeace</b>	<b>The Date of Greenpeace's Response</b>	<b>Note</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> October 2022		
27 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2023	Greenpeace provided information regarding the alleged 24 fishing vessels mentioned in the report. After investigation, TFA is unable to deepen investigations on 9 of them with the provided information, please see the table in this annex.
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023		



Sender: Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan  
Recipient: Greenpeace (GP) Foundation  
Date: 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Subject: Regarding the ILO forced labor indicator that fishers reported having experienced on 24 Taiwanese-related fishing vessels in the report *Fake My Catch – the Unreliable Traceability in our Tuna Cans*, please assist in providing records of interviewing foreign crew members, specific allegations, and relevant supporting documents. Your response is highly appreciated.

Content:

1. This is being processed in accordance with the ILO forced labor indicators that fishers reporting having experienced on 24 Taiwanese-related fishing vessels on the pages of 31 and 32 of the report *Fake My Catch – the Unreliable Traceability in our Tuna Cans* published by Greenpeace on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022.
2. According to the said report, the period of interviewing foreign crew members was from 2019 to 2021; however, the Agency is unable to conduct investigation solely based on the said information. In order to clarify and investigate the allegations made in the report, please provide interview records involving allegations regarding labor issues, specific information (for example, those who were involved, who the allegation made against, details of the allegations, time and place when the allegation took place, and any other specific information), and relevant evidence, so that this Agency will be able to conduct investigations smoothly and safeguard crew members' benefits and rights.

Sender: Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan  
Recipient: Greenpeace (GP) Foundation  
Date: 27<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Subject: Regarding the ILO forced labor indicator that fishers reported having experienced on 24 Taiwanese-related fishing vessels in the report *Fake My Catch – the Unreliable Traceability in our Tuna Cans*, please assist in providing interview records with foreign crew members, concrete allegations, and relevant supporting documents. Your response is highly appreciated.

Content:

1. It is anticipated that you have received the letter from this Council dated 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022.
2. According to the report referred in the subject, the period of interviewing foreign crew members spans from 2019 to 2021, and the allegations made are not specific and clear, and without supporting information or documents. In order to carry out investigations on these allegations, this Agency has sent a letter seeking your assistance in providing interview records involving allegations regarding labor issues, specific information (for example, those who were involved, who the allegation made against, details of the allegations, time and place when the allegation took place, and any other specific information), and relevant evidence, so that this Agency will be able to conduct investigations smoothly and safeguard crew members' benefits and rights. Unfortunately, there is no response so far.
3. To continue our investigation, the Agency would like to invite you to provide specific information by 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023. If no response is received then, this Agency will close the cases after investigating based on the available information. If specific information is received at a later stage, this Agency will resume the investigation.

Sender: Greenpeace (GP) Foundation

Recipient: Fisheries Agency, Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

Subject: Please find attached relevant information for those 24 fishing vessels that meet forced labor indicator(s) mentioned in the report *Fake My Catch – the Unreliable Traceability in our Tuna Cans*. Your response will be appreciated.

Content:

1. In response to the letters from the Council of Agriculture dated 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and 27<sup>th</sup> December 2022.
2. The report referred in the subject was prepared by this Foundation after interviewing 27 foreign crew members and reviewing their employment contracts and their pay slips. It is found that 24 fishing vessels allegedly meet the forced labor indicators set forth by the International Labor Organization.
3. Please find attached the information of the said 24 fishing vessels along with their registration information available on the IMO website and the claims made by the interviewed crew members. Please conduct investigations on the said cases and publish investigation findings. With regard to the personal information of the interviewees, in order to show respect to them and to protect them, please explain the protection measures during the investigation in advance. This Foundation will respond after reviewing the appropriateness of the protection measures.

## TFA unable to deepen investigations on 9 alleged cases with the information provided by Greenpeace on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

FV name	CT number	Number of interviewee(s)	Abuse of vulnerability	Deception	Retention of identity documents	Withholding of wages	Debt bondage	Abusive working and living conditions	Excessive overtime
CHUNG KUO NO.828	FOC vessel	1				According to the interviewee, deposit was deducted from the wages.			
EAGLE	5- 1813	2			According to the interviewees, their passports were retained.	According to the interviewees, deposits were deducted from their wages.		According to the interviewees, they only had two meals a day and it was not enough. They did not have clothes to keep warm in winter. If rain boots were worn down, the crew members were asked to pay for them.	According to the interviewees, they only had 5-6 hours for sleep, and sometimes as little as 2 hours.
HUNG HUI No.112	6-1035	2	According to their employment contracts and the interviewees, they were not familiar with Taiwan laws and regulations and their rights and benefits, and they signed the contracts containing provisions that breached Regulations on the Authorization and Management of Overseas Employment of Foreign Crew Members. Not knowing they were entitled to have a copy of their service contracts with the Taiwanese recruitment agents, the interviewees only had copies of their contracts signed with the Indonesian recruitment agents.		According to the interviewees, their passports were retained.	According to the interviewees, deposits were deducted from their wages.	According to the interviewees, agency fee was deducted, besides deposits		
MAN CHI FENG	4-2876	2	According to their employment contracts and the interviewees, they were not familiar with Taiwan laws and regulations or their rights and benefits, and they signed the contracts containing the provisions that breached Regulations on the Authorization and Management of Overseas Employment of Foreign Crew Members (the contracts stipulated that they agreed to be transferred and work on other fishing vessel owned by the same owner, and the amount of insurance was less than TWD 1 million dollars). Not knowing they were entitled to have a copy of their employment and service contracts with the operator and Taiwanese recruitment agents, the interviewees only had copies of their contracts signed with the Indonesian recruitment agents.		According to the interviewees, their passports were retained.	According to the interviewees, deposits were deducted from their wages.	According to the interviewees, agency fee was deducted, besides deposits	According to the interviewees, they drank filtered water with a different taste for 5 months out of 8 months at sea.	According to the interviewees, they only had 2 hours of sleep on average while working onboard the fishing vessel.
SHENG YI TSAI NO.313	4-2465	2	According to the employment contracts and the interviewees, they did not know they were entitled to have a copy of their employment and service contracts with the operator and Taiwanese recruitment agents, so they did not have copies of their contracts.		According to the interviewees, their passports were retained.	According to the interviewees, deposits were deducted from their wages.	According to the interviewees, agency fee was deducted besides deposits		According to the interviewees, the working hours onboard were 14 hours a day on average.
SHENG YU NO.38	4-2589	1				According to the interviewee, wages were delayed.			
SHIN YUA FU NO.111	3-5368	1	According to the employment contract and the interviewee, he did not know he was entitled to have a copy of his employment and service contracts with the Taiwanese operator and recruitment agents, so he only had a copy of the contracts signed with the Indonesian recruitment agents.		According to the interviewee, his passport was retained.	According to the interviewee, deposit was deducted from the wages.	According to the interviewee, agency fee was deducted besides deposits	According to the interviewee, exhaustion from work led to health issue, but no medical resources (medicine) was available onboard. The	According to the interviewee, they only had 4-5 hours for sleep daily when working onboard.

								crew members could only take the medicine they brought.	
YI FENG NO.816	4-2852	1	According to the employment contract and the interviewee, he did not know he was entitled to have a copy of his employment and service contracts with the Taiwanese operator and recruitment agents, so he only had a copy of the contracts signed with the Indonesian recruitment agents.	According to the interviewee, crew member talked back at the operator. When they were back in Taiwan, the recruitment agents said they would get them new jobs, but the return tickets were ready and they were sent home.	According to the interviewee, his passport was retained.	According to the interviewee, deposit was deducted from the wages.	According to the interviewee, agency fee was deducted, besides deposits		
ZHEN FENG NO.8 (Now MAAN HSING CHYUU NO.36)	4-2813	1				According to the interviewee, deposit was deducted from the wages.			

Sender: Fisheries Agency, Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan  
Recipient: Greenpeace (GP) Foundation  
Date: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Subject: Regarding the 24 alleged forced labor cases mentioned in the report *Fake My Catch – the Unreliable Traceability in our Tuna Cans*, please find our comments as follows.

Content:

1. This is to respond to the letter from Greenpeace (GP) Foundation dated 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.
2. This Agency will continue to investigate based on the information provided in the previous letter; however, the Agency is unable to deepen the investigations on several cases due to several reasons: unable to scope the crew possibly interviewed by Greenpeace, Greenpeace only providing statements from interviewed crew members but without any supporting evidence, and the statements unclear. Please provide interviewees' personal information, employment contracts, pay slips (in cases where salaries were deducted or deposits were charged), so that the Agency may carry out the investigations more efficiently.
3. Regarding the protection for the interviewees during the investigation, this Agency will not disclose names of the interviewees, and will make specific interviewees indistinct when asking the fishing vessel owners to provide relevant information for investigation. Officials from this Agency will comply with Public Servant Services Act and Personal Data Protection Act when investigating, and they are required not to collect without permission or disclose crew members' information and the investigation details. The findings of the investigation will be published when deemed appropriate.