



## **Kroger Statement on Human Rights Violations in the Seafood Supply Chain in Southeast Asia**

*Updated 3/25/2015*

Kroger is deeply concerned by the findings of the Associated Press investigation into forced labor and slavery in the seafood supply chain in Southeast Asia.

We are investigating to determine if any of our suppliers was working with the companies described in the article.

In addition, we plan to increase the number of social compliance audits we conduct in this region. We will be working directly with suppliers, industry groups, and other stakeholders to take appropriate actions to end these human rights violations and prevent them from occurring in the future.

The complexity of the global seafood supply chain is no excuse for human rights violations in the supply chain. Kroger calls on everyone in the industry, from retailers to suppliers to local fisheries, to take the necessary steps to ensure this never happens again.

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On March 10, 2015, Kroger received a non-specific report of potential labor and human rights violations in the seafood supply chain, in Southeast Asia. We take these reports very seriously. While we were not able to uncover specific information about the country or supplier, or even confirm the alleged violations are in our supply chain, we immediately contacted all of our seafood suppliers in Southeast Asia to determine what actions must be taken to address these concerns.

We have zero tolerance for human rights violations in our supply chain. We require our suppliers to adhere to a code of conduct that reflects our company values of safety and respect, and we are firm in our expectation that suppliers will follow those standards.