



McAdams Fish LLC  
Statement from Rob McAdam  
February 14, 2024

“McAdam’s Fish, which has been employing crewmembers from the Philippines since 2011, is committed to the fair and above-board treatment of our people. The allegations of trafficking and the abandonment and mistreatment of crewmembers being put forward by the United 6 and their supporters are simply not true.

Our crews are made up of Philippine nationals who are contracted through an employment agency in Manila (Pescadores) that is overseen by the Philippine government via the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (“POEA”). They are paid a minimum wage set by an international convention that is governed by the ILO Joint Maritime Commission, but have the opportunity to make considerably more depending on the size of the year’s catch. The work is hard, but because of this significant upside and the professionalism of our operation we have many crewmembers coming back to us year after year. Crewmembers also have the opportunity to learn new skills on board – engineering is one example – and a number have done so, putting them in line for a greater share of catch profits.

Crewmembers are required by federal law to remain on board ship while in port because they do not have U.S. visas. It’s difficult to be stuck on board between fishing seasons but the crewmembers know that there will be times like these when they sign their annual contracts. All our crewmembers are provided with food and drink at company expense and can speak freely with family and friends through Starlink. The ships are in excellent condition and have regular bathrooms. McAdam’s has a full time employee based at our facility on the docks in Westport, Washington whose job it is to see to the needs of crew members, including shopping for food and other items, as well as providing transportation to necessary medical and dental treatment.

Crewmembers are free to return to the Philippines at anytime at company expense, and three had done so in the weeks before our facility in Westport was visited by Department of Homeland Security agents on December 27<sup>th</sup> for what the government called a health and safety check. Six crewmembers left our ships with DHS agents at that time, apparently hopeful of obtaining S-1 visas that will allow them to live and work in the U.S. It is worth noting that one of the crewman in the departing group had worked with us for six successive seasons. 18 crewmembers chose not to go with the agents, and have since returned to the Philippines. Most if not all of the 18 will be returning to Westport in March for the upcoming season.”