FIGURE 1
How slave labor feeds the seafood supply chain

Some fishing vessels operating in foreign waters employ slave labor to artificially reduce costs. A fish caught with slave labor enters the complex global supply chain, where it mingles with or is fed to legal seafood products and ends up on American plates.

Step 1: Harvest
Fishing vessels operating with slave labor stay at sea for years transhipping their product to larger vessels in exchange for fuel and supplies. By avoiding port they isolate victims onboard.

Step 2: Transport
The mothership mingles legal and illegal fish and brings a single load to shore.

Step 3: Processing
Illegal and legally caught fish are processed together into fillets, pet food, or fish feed for aquaculture facilities. Forced labor practices have also been uncovered in processing facilities.

Step 4: Transport
Processed and whole fish are sent across the globe. Approximately 90 percent of the fish Americans consume is processed abroad.

Step 5: Wholesaler
Different lots of fish are often combined and divided multiple times as they change hands at wholesale facilities and distributed across the country or overseas once more.

Step 6: Retail
Eventually the processed fish ends up in a store or restaurant.

Step 7: Dinner
Dinner for your family or pet.