

# The Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability

A global standard for seafood traceability

*“Traceability is not a competitive space, it’s a collaborative space. Everyone must participate for it to work.” (Tokar and Swink 2018).*

Open Forum Meeting – Seafood Expo North America  
17<sup>th</sup> March 2026



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on Seafood Traceability

# Bringing Traceability into a Digital World

Today, traceability is largely backward-looking. Data can arrive weeks or months after events occurred, forcing companies to react to problems they can no longer change. Supply chains remain opaque, relationships between buyers and suppliers are unclear, and data is often incomplete.

*THE FUTURE WITH GDST: By adopting and implementing the GDST standard, companies move from reacting to historic issues to managing supply chains in near-real time. Interoperable digital data allows buyers to clearly identify the vessels and farms they source from, undertake spot and veracity checks as events occur, and transact with confidence—knowing products meet their own requirements, customer expectations, and government policy.*

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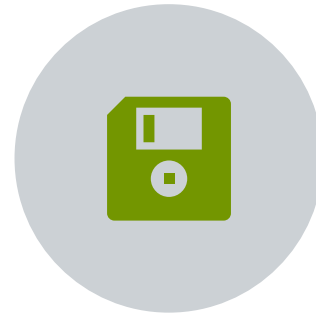
# The GDST traceability standard defines:



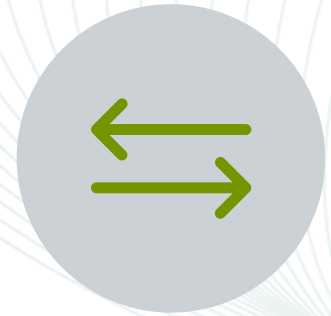
*WHAT DATA SHOULD BE COLLECTED*



*WHEN THAT DATA SHOULD BE COLLECTED*



*HOW DATA SHOULD BE FORMATTED*



*HOW DATA SHOULD BE SHARED*

We do not define **what solution** you use, **what data architecture** is used, **how you** decide to **send, receive and share data** or indeed **which data** you choose to collect – we solely create the scalable global standard



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# GDST Today

>130 partners of which 4 seafood certification standard owners, 32 software solutions and 20 NGOs are partners

Est. 2017 and transitioned to industry not for profit foundation in 2022 for legacy public benefit

Launching modular standard on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026 to allow soy, palm, rice and other components of aquafeed to be developed (independent of that purpose beef & leather module already underway)

Established capability test to demonstrate software solution compliance with standard – 16 capable solutions and 150+ solutions in some stage of engagement

Working with 11 governments including Indonesia, EU member states, USA, Peru, Ecuador, Chile, Mexico

Support from FAO, UN Global Compact and UN Transparency Protocol

Whilst traceability is in the name – it is about digital interoperable data exchange enabling traceability & transparency



# Adoption

*'Interoperability using the GDST standard will be the most meaningful change to traceability to date, and I cannot emphasize enough how essential this is for our entire industry.'* Steve Philips, Wegmans Food Markets



# 3rd Party Certification Standard Holders in Support of the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST)

A Call to Action: [\(link\)](#)

We, the undersigned certification standard holders, encourage all our certificate holders and partners to explore **the GDST journey** by:

- **Learning about the GDST** and the benefits interoperable digital data exchange and traceability can provide your business.
- **Mapping your supply chains** to understand data flows and traceability gaps;
- **Assessing the software and hardware systems** currently used to manage traceability and certification information; and
- **Encouraging your technology providers** to collaborate with the GDST and pursue **GDST-verified capability**, ensuring that their systems can exchange standardized digital traceability data.

Signatories of Call to Action:

Marine Stewardship Council – [Traceability Enhancement Project](#)

Global Seafood Alliance – [Prism Platform](#)

MarinTrust – chain of custody standard development and [traceability data](#)

Aquaculture Stewardship Council - [TraceASC](#)

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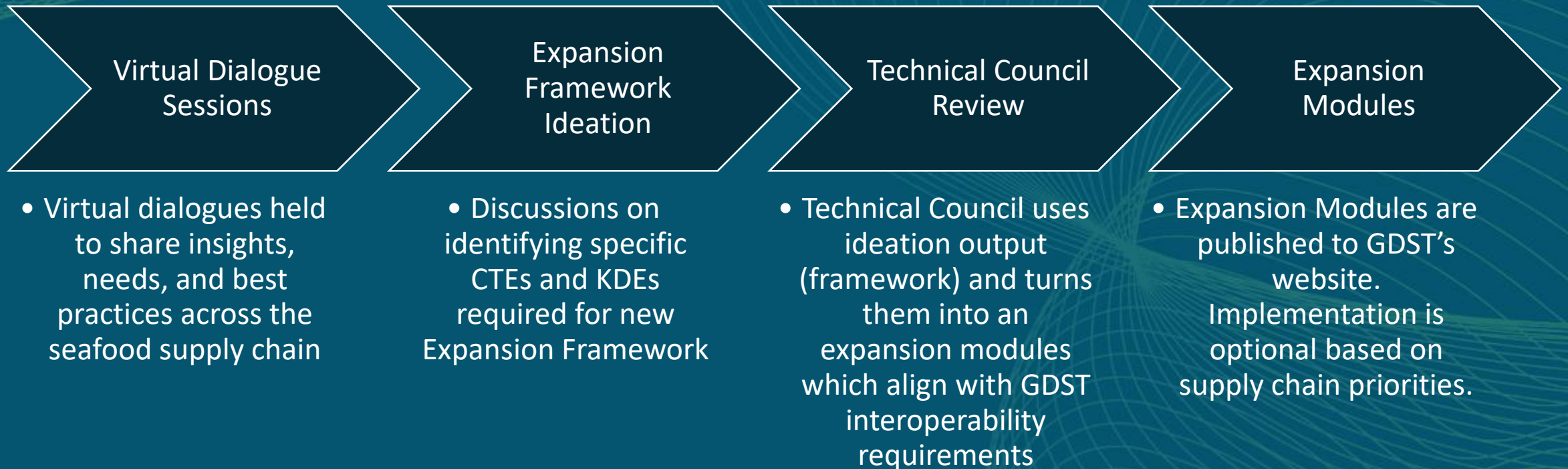


# Expansion Modules & Standard Updates



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# How Virtual Dialogues Inform GDST's Expansion Module Development



# GDST Expansion Modules Progress To-Date

## 2026 Module Development

- Marine Ingredient module - Tested by MarinTrust, to launch in July 2026
- Aquatic animal welfare & Labour & human rights expansion frameworks currently under review by technical council

## Dialogues planned for 2026

- IUU
- Small scale fisheries & aquaculture
- By-catch – initially birds then marine mammals
- Fisheries IDs

*All dialogues are led by a GDST partner*

# GDST Standard 2.0 Revision

## Structural Updates

- GDST re-structuring existing Standard to support a modular framework
- GDST will support creation and maintenance of Expansion Frameworks but implementation will be optional

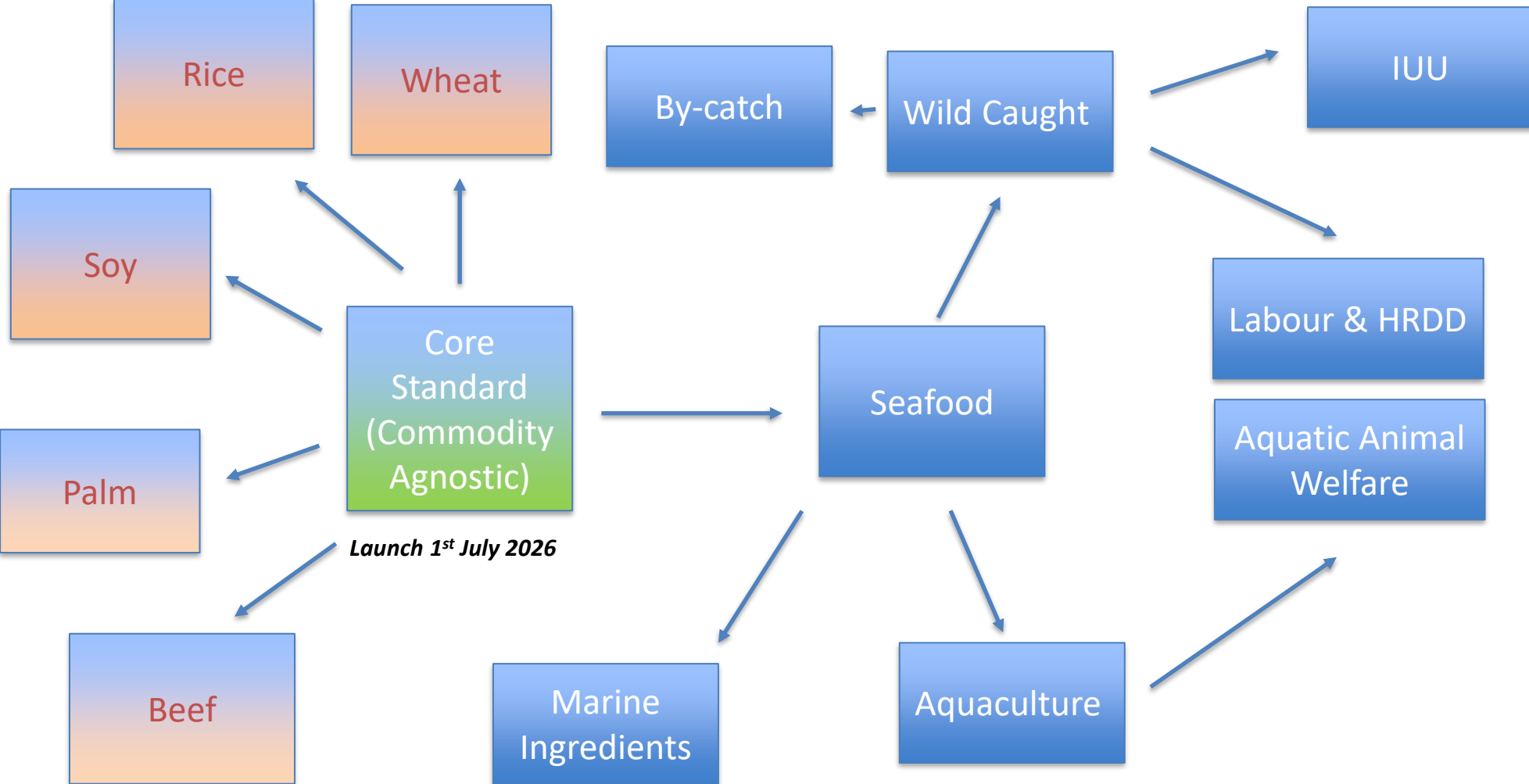
## Maintenance Updates

- Harmonizing and simplifying requirements for aquaculture and wild catch
- Consolidating documentation
- Revising language and format

60 Day Public Consultation Opened 11th March



# From Dialogue to a Modular GDST Standard Framework



# Global Regulatory Advocacy



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# Indonesian Government Implementation Plan - 2025 to 2027

- 2025
  - STELINA Traceability legislation including use of GDST in force January
  - STELINA achieves GDST capability ~ Achieved October!
- 2026
  - Blue swimming crab, farmed shrimp & tuna supply chains enter digital data from harvest to processing into STELINA using GDST capable solutions
  - Week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> April capacity building workshop in Jakarta & detailed road map to 2030
- 2027
  - Digital data from BSC, shrimp and tuna flows to 3<sup>rd</sup> country market state

# GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT AND POLICY INFLUENCE

**UNITED STATES**  
GDST engagement focused on interoperability with existing traceability and import control systems.

**EUROPEAN UNION**  
GDST identified as best practice within the revised Fisheries Control Regulation (10 January 2026).

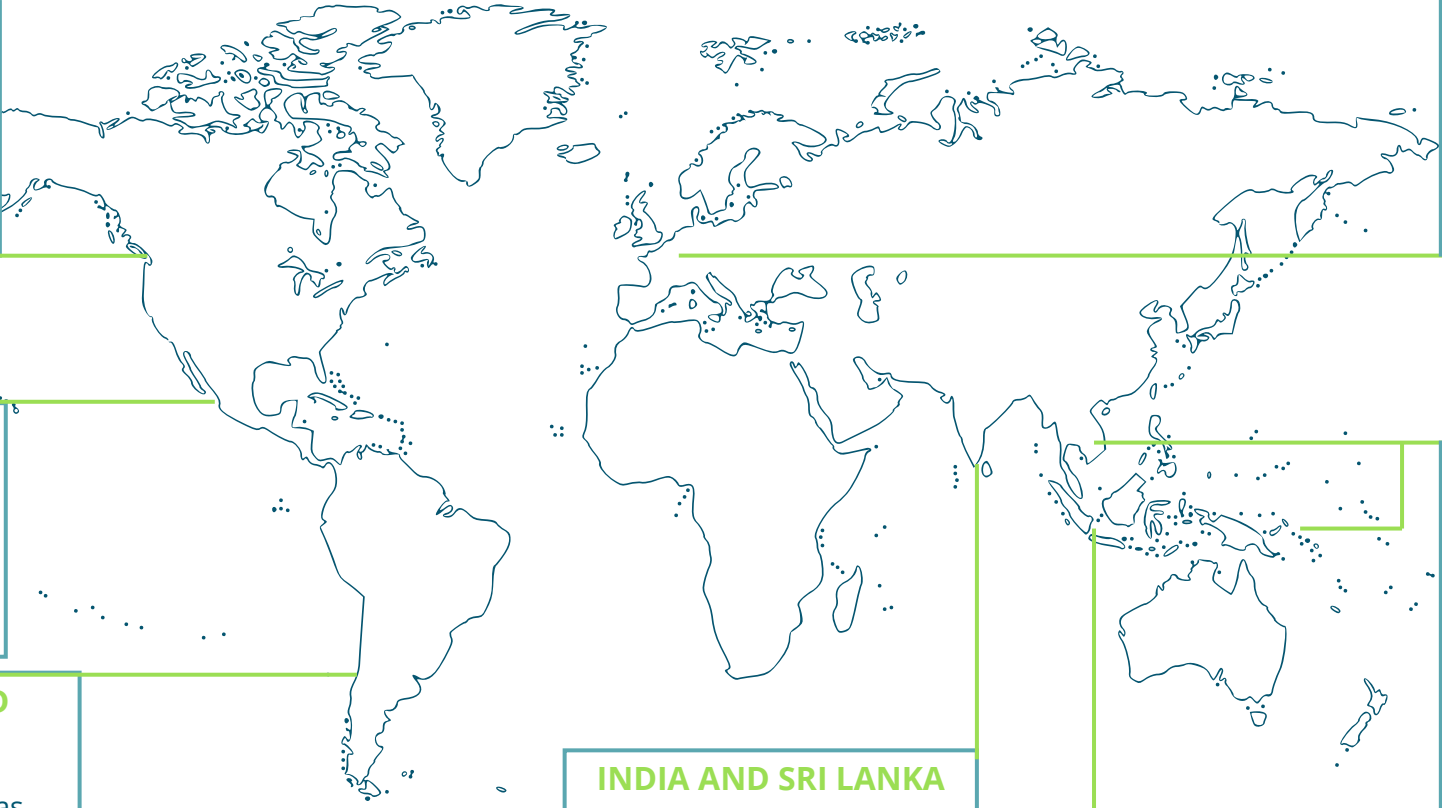
**MEXICO**  
On the pathway to use GDST as a reference framework, following the same pathway as Indonesia.

**THAILAND, VIETNAM  
PNG, SOLOMON  
ISLANDS**  
GDST has supported government and industry discussions on the transition towards standardised digital data exchange.

**CHILE, PERU AND  
ECUDOR**  
GDST engagement has supported discussions on harmonising digital traceability.

**INDIA AND SRI LANKA**  
GDST is increasingly referenced in policy frameworks.

**INDONESIA**  
STELINA verified as GDST-capable in October 2025.



# Open Questions



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# Thank you

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