Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability

TRACEABILITY COMMITMENT LANGUAGE TOOLKIT



GLOBAL DIALOGUE
on Seafood Traceability

INTRODUCTION

The Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) is both a movement and a mechanism for transforming the sustainability of global seafood supply through digital traceability.

The GDST is a non-profit, business-to-business initiative established to advance a common language for traceability across global seafood supply chains. Since its establishment in 2017, the GDST has brought together businesses, industry associations, civil society organizations, technology providers, and other stakeholders to develop practical approaches to digital seafood traceability.

At the heart of the GDST is a simple principle: seafood supply chains need to be able to reliably capture, share, and understand traceability information across businesses and systems. The GDST Standard provides a common framework for doing this, defining the key data that should be collected at critical points in the supply chain and how that data can be formatted and exchanged to support interoperability between different traceability systems.

By promoting a common approach, the GDST aims to make digital traceability more practical, scalable, and accessible across seafood supply chains – from fishing vessels and farms through to processors, traders, distributors, retailers, and foodservice. Interoperable traceability can help businesses improve the reliability of supply chain information, manage risk, respond to regulatory and customer expectations, and build greater visibility into the products they buy and sell.

ABOUT THIS TOOLKIT

The **GDST Traceability Commitment Language Toolkit** is designed to make it easier for seafood businesses to communicate their commitment to GDST-aligned traceability in their own policies and business documents.

The toolkit provides ready-to-use, cut-and-paste language that organizations can incorporate into **seafood sourcing policies, supplier requirements, product specifications, Requests for Proposals (RFPs), and other procurement or sourcing documents.** It is intended for any organization that buys, sells, processes, distributes, trades, or otherwise handles seafood and wants to reference the GDST and its approach to traceability in a clear and consistent way.

The templates are designed to help companies translate an interest in GDST into practical language that can be incorporated into existing sourcing and procurement processes. Depending on the organization's needs, the language can be used to:

- Communicate a commitment to improving digital traceability and supply chain transparency;
- Reference the GDST Standard as part of seafood sourcing or supplier requirements;
- Signal expectations for suppliers and business partners around traceability data and interoperability; and
- Provide a consistent foundation for incorporating GDST-aligned traceability expectations into procurement, sourcing, and commercial documents.

The language in this toolkit is intended to be adaptable. Companies can select, modify, and combine the templates according to their own sourcing models, supply chain priorities, and level of commitment to GDST implementation.

THE GOAL IS SIMPLE:
to make it easier for more seafood businesses to put traceability commitments into practice – and to create greater alignment across the seafood supply chain around a common, interoperable approach.

HOW TO USE THE TOOLKIT

The sections below detail pre-prepared **cut-and-paste template text** for inclusion in seafood sourcing policies, specifications, and Request For Proposals (RFPs) – for any organization that buys, sells, or trades seafood.

To use this template, choose the tier or category that reflects where your organization is today, copy the boxed paragraph directly into your sourcing policy, specification, or RFP, and replace bracketed [placeholders].

You may adapt wording to your house style, but please retain references to the **"GDST Standard," "Key Data Elements (KDEs),"** and **"Critical Tracking Events (CTEs)"** so your commitment remains recognizable and verifiable industry wide.

EACH PART IS TAILORED FOR A DIFFERENT AUDIENCE:

PART A covers overall sourcing policy language for companies (page 5)

PART B covers RFPs, supplier specifications, codes of conduct, ESG disclosure, and supplier screening (page 7)

PART C covers language for governments and regulators (page 10)

PART D covers language for NGOs and civil society (page 12)

PART E covers language for seafood industry associations (page 14)

PART F covers language for benchmarking and rating organizations (page 16)

PART G covers language for investors and asset managers (page 18).

PART A — SEAFOOD SOURCING POLICY

TIER 1 — Foundational Commitment

Best for: organizations beginning their traceability journey, with no fixed deadline yet.

"[Organization] supports the goal of full-chain seafood traceability and recognizes the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) Standard as the seafood industry's leading framework for interoperable, digital traceability. We are working toward alignment with the GDST Standard across our [wild-capture and aquaculture] seafood supply chains, and we encourage our suppliers and trading partners to build the digital data capture and sharing capabilities needed to support this goal."

TIER 2 — Committed Adoption with Timeline

Best for: organizations that have formally committed to GDST alignment and set a target date.

"By [year], [Organization] will require that all [wild-capture and farmed] seafood in our supply chain be traceable in accordance with the GDST Standard's Key Data Elements (KDEs), recorded at each applicable Critical Tracking Event (CTE). We will work collaboratively with our suppliers and trading partners to agree the KDEs we require and build GDST-capable digital traceability systems, and we will prioritize suppliers who can demonstrate GDST alignment or who are actively working toward it."

TIER 3 — Mandatory Requirement

Best for: organizations mandating GDST capability as a condition of doing business.

"All seafood suppliers and trading partners to [Organization] must implement a GDST-capable, interoperable digital traceability system and be able to transmit the agreed GDST Standard's Key Data Elements (KDEs) for every Critical Tracking Event (CTE) in the product's journey, from point of catch or harvest to final sale. Suppliers are encouraged, though not required, to use a solution provider that has passed the GDST Capability Test."

Notes for companies when using the suggested language above:

- Keep language interoperability-neutral — require GDST capability, not a named software vendor, so all suppliers (including smaller operators) can comply using the system of their choice.
- GDST has supported the development of software development kits and a traceability driver to support software development to achieve GDST capability irrespective of size and scale of the technology/ solution providers present within their supply chain
- Tiers are a progression, not a ceiling — organizations are encouraged to move from Tier 1 to Tier 3 as internal and supplier capability matures.
- Legal, procurement, and sustainability teams should review adapted language before publication, particularly regarding enforceability and regional regulatory context (e.g., EU IUU Regulation, US FSMA 204).
- GDST has support resources on **www.thegdst.org** that can assist stakeholders at all stages of their journey to adopt and implement the GDST standard including our **digital transformation journey** – the GDST team is here to support and email **info@thegdst.org** if you have any questions
- In February 2026 4 seafood certification standard owners - Aquaculture Stewardship Council, Global Seafood Alliance, MarinTrust and Marine Stewardship Council issued a **call to action in support of GDST** adoption and implementation – consider adding GDST language next to any existing language about these schemes in your policies

PART B — RFPs, SPECIFICATIONS & OTHER SUPPLIER-FACING DOCUMENTS

RFP / Tender — Supplier Qualification Criteria

Best for: screening bidders on traceability capability as part of technical evaluation.

"Bidders must describe their current or planned capability to capture, digitize and share the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) Standard's Key Data Elements (KDEs) at each Critical Tracking Event (CTE) in their supply chain. Bidders should indicate whether their traceability system (or that of their software provider) has passed the GDST Capability Test, and describe their roadmap and timeline to full GDST alignment if not yet capable."

RFP / Tender — Scoring Rubric Language

Best for: embedding GDST readiness into a weighted supplier scoring rubric.

"Traceability & Transparency (weight: [X]%): Full marks awarded to bidders whose traceability system has passed the GDST Capability Test and can transmit GDST-standard KDEs today. Partial marks awarded to bidders with a documented, time-bound roadmap to GDST alignment. No marks awarded to bidders unable to describe a traceability approach consistent with GDST principles."

Supplier Specification — Data Delivery Requirement

Best for: operationalizing GDST into product specs and contractual terms with existing suppliers.

"Supplier shall capture and, upon request, transmit the agreed GDST Key Data Elements (KDEs) for this product in a GDST-interoperable digital format (e.g., GS1 EPCIS-based)."

Supplier Specification — Interoperability Requirement

Best for: avoiding lock-in to a single proprietary traceability platform.

"Supplier's traceability system must be interoperable with GDST capable platforms and aligned standards. [Organization] does not mandate use of a specific software provider, but requires that any system used be capable of exchanging GDST Standard-compliant data with [Organization]'s systems and, where applicable, with customers."

Code of Conduct / Supplier Manual

Best for: setting a general expectation without creating a hard contractual trigger.

"Suppliers are expected to progressively build capacity to meet the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) Standard, recognized as the seafood industry's common framework for digital, interoperable traceability. [Organization] will work with suppliers to support this transition and may request evidence of progress as part of periodic supplier reviews."

Sustainability / ESG Report Disclosure

Best for: publicly reporting GDST implementation progress for benchmarking purposes.

"As of [date], [X]% of our seafood volume by [weight/value] is sourced through supply chains capable of providing GDST Standard Key Data Elements. Our target is [X]% by [year]. We report this metric annually and disclose our methodology at [link]."

RFI (Request for Information) — Pre-RFP Screening Questions

Best for: gathering baseline supplier information before issuing a formal RFP.

"1) Is your organization familiar with the GDST Standard? 2) Does your current traceability system capture GDST-defined Key Data Elements? 3) Has your system (or your software provider's system) passed the GDST Capability Test? If not, what is your timeline to achieve this? 4) Can you share Critical Tracking Event data electronically, on request, in a structured digital format?"

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Notes for companies when using the suggested language above:

- Keep RFP and specification language interoperability-neutral — require GDST capability and passage of the GDST Capability Test, not a named software vendor, so bidders and suppliers of all sizes can compete and comply using the system of their choice.

- GDST has supported the development of software development kits and a traceability driver so suppliers and their software providers can achieve GDST capability irrespective of size and scale — point smaller bidders to these resources rather than assuming they must build custom integrations.

- Use the RFI and RFP qualification language to screen for current capability, and the scoring rubric language to reward a credible roadmap where a bidder is not yet GDST-capable — this keeps the door open to committed suppliers who are still building capacity.

- Procurement and legal teams should confirm that any GDST-related scoring weight or data-delivery requirement is enforceable within the applicable contract and regional regulatory context (e.g., EU IUU Regulation, US FSMA 204) before publication.

- GDST has support resources on **www.thegdst.org** that can assist stakeholder at all stages of their journey to adopt and implement the GDST standard including our **digital transformation journey** – the GDST team is here to support and email **info@thegdst.org** if you have any questions

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PART C — GOVERNMENT POLICY & REGULATORY LANGUAGE

Best Practice — Voluntary Policy Guidance

Best for: fisheries ministries or agencies issuing non-binding guidance to industry.

"[Ministry/Agency] encourages seafood businesses operating in [jurisdiction] to adopt digital, interoperable traceability systems aligned with the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) Standard, recognized internationally as the seafood industry's leading framework for interoperable Key Data Elements (KDEs) and Critical Tracking Events (CTEs). [Ministry/Agency] will support voluntary industry uptake through [guidance, technical assistance, or pilot programs] and will review progress before considering future regulatory measures."

Regulatory Language — Phased Mandatory Requirement

Best for: governments introducing a phased, legally binding traceability requirement.

"Operators that [land, process, import, or export] seafood products in [jurisdiction] shall, by [date], be capable of capturing and transmitting the Key Data Elements (KDEs) required under [regulation name] at each applicable Critical Tracking Event (CTE), using a digital traceability system interoperable with the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) Standard. [Agency] recognizes the GDST Capability Test as an accepted means of demonstrating this interoperability. This requirement shall be phased in beginning with [product category or fleet segment], with full application by [date]."

Catch Documentation & Import Control Reference

Best for: linking GDST-formatted data to existing catch documentation or import control schemes.

"Where importers or their suppliers submit traceability data electronically in support of [catch documentation scheme / import control regulation], [Agency] will accept data structured and transmitted in accordance with the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) Standard's Key Data Elements (KDEs) and Critical Tracking Events (CTEs) as satisfying the data-format requirements of that scheme, without prejudice to its substantive legality-verification requirements."

Public Procurement Policy

Best for: government agencies purchasing seafood (e.g., school meals, defense, correctional or healthcare institutions).

"Suppliers bidding for [Government/Agency] seafood procurement contracts must describe their capability to provide Key Data Elements (KDEs) for each Critical Tracking Event (CTE) in accordance with the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) Standard. Preference will be given to bidders whose traceability systems, or those of their suppliers, have passed the GDST Capability Test."

Notes for governments and regulators when using the suggested language above:

- Reference the GDST Standard as a technical data framework that can support, not replace, existing legal instruments such as the EU IUU Regulation, US Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP), and FSMA 204.
- Keep requirements technology-neutral — require GDST-aligned capability rather than mandating a named software vendor, so operators of all sizes can comply.
- Consider phased timelines and technical assistance for small-scale, artisanal, and developing-country fleets, who may need longer lead times or shared infrastructure to reach GDST capability.
- Coordinate with regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and neighboring jurisdictions so reporting requirements remain consistent and do not create conflicting data demands on operators.
- Legal teams should confirm alignment with existing international obligations and domestic administrative law before adopting binding language.
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PART D — NGO & CIVIL SOCIETY LANGUAGE

General Support Statement

Best for: NGOs publicly endorsing GDST in reports, statements, or on their websites.

"[NGO] recognizes the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) Standard as the seafood industry's leading framework for full-chain, interoperable digital traceability, and supports its adoption as a critical tool for increasing transparency and reducing risks in seafood supply chains. We encourage governments, companies, and industry bodies to adopt and implement the GDST Standard's Key Data Elements (KDEs) and Critical Tracking Events (CTEs)."

Partnership Agreement / Grant Condition Language

Best for: NGOs setting expectations with grantees, partners, or funded projects.

"As a condition of this partnership, [Partner Organization] agrees to work toward implementing digital traceability systems capable of capturing and sharing the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) Standard's Key Data Elements (KDEs) at each applicable Critical Tracking Event (CTE), and to report progress toward GDST alignment as part of [reporting requirement]."

Policy Advocacy / Regulatory Submission Language

Best for: NGOs submitting comments or recommendations to governments or multilateral bodies.

"[NGO] recommends that [government or regulatory body] reference the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) Standard as the preferred technical framework for interoperable digital traceability and ensure that any new seafood traceability requirements are technology-neutral, harmonized with existing international standards, and achievable by operators of all sizes, including small-scale and artisanal fisheries."

Certification or Improvement Program Integration

Best for: NGOs running certification, ratings, or fishery/aquaculture improvement programs.

"[Program/Scheme] recognizes traceability systems that have passed the GDST Capability Test, or that can otherwise demonstrate the ability to capture and transmit the GDST Standard's Key Data Elements (KDEs), as supporting the overall traceability and chain of custody requirements of [certification or rating scheme]."

Notes for NGOs when using the suggested language above:

- Distinguish between supporting GDST as a voluntary best practice and requiring it as a condition of funding or certification — the two carry different obligations for partners.
- Where possible, cite GDST alongside complementary initiatives (e.g., SDGs, IUU-fishing commitments) rather than positioning it as a stand-alone requirement.
- Recognize that small-scale, artisanal, and developing-country partners may need capacity-building support or shared platforms to reach GDST capability — avoid language that penalizes lack of resources rather than lack of will.
- Point partners to GDST's own support resources at **www.thegdst.org** rather than duplicating technical guidance.
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PART E — SEAFOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION & PRE-COMPETITIVE COLLABORATION LANGUAGE (FOR MEMBERS)

Association-Wide Commitment Statement

Best for: associations formally adopting the GDST Standard on behalf of their membership.

"[Association] has adopted the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) Standard on behalf of its membership and encourages all member companies to build the digital data capture and sharing capabilities needed to achieve full alignment with the GDST Standard's Key Data Elements (KDEs) and Critical Tracking Events (CTEs), strengthening the transparency, legality, and market access of [sector] products from [region]."

Member Responsible Sourcing Policy Language

Best for: associations incorporating GDST into a shared Responsible Sourcing Policy (RSP) for members.

"As part of our Responsible Sourcing Policy, [Association] members commit to progressively implementing GDST-capable digital traceability systems, ensuring that [species, catch or harvest method, vessel or farm identification, and area of catch or farm location] can be captured and shared electronically for every [purchase order/ lot number]. Members are encouraged to use traceability platforms that have passed the GDST Capability Test."

Shared Platform / Common Infrastructure Language

Best for: associations offering members shared access to a GDST-capable traceability system.

"[Association] provides member companies with access to [platform name], a traceability system that has passed the GDST Capability Test, enabling members to capture and transmit GDST Standard Key Data Elements without individually investing in bespoke traceability infrastructure. We encourage all members, and the downstream customers who source from them, to request and exchange traceability data in this format."

Member Communication Language

Best for: newsletters, circulars, or informal encouragement to membership.

"We encourage all [Association] members to become familiar with the GDST Standard and to begin capturing Key Data Elements (KDEs) at each Critical Tracking Event (CTE) in their operations. Members already using a GDST Capable system are encouraged to display the 'GDST Capable' logo, and members not yet capable are encouraged to speak with their software provider about a roadmap to achieve this status."

Notes for industry associations when using the suggested language above:

- Associations such as the Fishing Industry Association of Papua New Guinea and Pacifical have both incorporated GDST into existing Responsible Sourcing Policies and shared traceability platforms rather than creating parallel requirements — consider building on infrastructure members already use.
- Where the association operates or endorses a shared platform, confirm it has passed (or is pursuing) the GDST Capability Test before referencing it as GDST-capable.
- Distinguish clearly between association-level adoption of the GDST Standard and individual member-level implementation — members may be at different stages of the journey.
- Smaller and artisanal members may need extended timelines or pooled resources to reach GDST capability; avoid language that functions as a de facto barrier to membership.
- GDST has support resources on **www.thegdst.org** that can assist stakeholder at all stages of their journey to adopt and implement the GDST standard including our **digital transformation journey** – the GDST team is here to support and email **info@thegdst.org** if you have any questions
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PART F — BENCHMARKING & RATING ORGANIZATION LANGUAGE

Traceability Indicator — Commitment Disclosure

Best for: benchmarks assessing whether a company has made a traceability commitment.

"The company discloses a public commitment to achieving full-chain traceability of its seafood products, specifying whether this commitment includes alignment with an internationally recognized interoperable traceability standard such as the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) Standard, and the timeframe by which this will be achieved."

Traceability Indicator — Implementation Disclosure

Best for: benchmarks assessing whether commitments are being translated into practice.

"The company discloses evidence that it is implementing digital traceability systems capable of capturing and sharing the Key Data Elements (KDEs) required by the GDST Standard at each applicable Critical Tracking Event (CTE), including the proportion of sourcing volume or supplier base covered, and whether its traceability system(s) have passed the GDST Capability Test."

Scoring Guideline Language

Best for: methodology documents explaining how points are awarded against a traceability indicator.

"Full points are awarded where the company discloses that its traceability system(s), or those of its key suppliers, have passed the GDST Capability Test and can transmit GDST Standard-aligned Key Data Elements for the majority of its sourcing volume. Partial points are awarded where the company discloses a time-bound roadmap toward GDST alignment without yet demonstrating implementation. No points are awarded where no traceability commitment is disclosed, or where only a general traceability statement is made without reference to a recognized interoperable standard."

Company Guidance — What Benchmarks Look For

Best for: helping companies understand what to disclose to score well on traceability benchmarks.

"To score well against traceability benchmarks, companies should publicly disclose: (i) the scope of their traceability commitment (all seafood products, marine ingredients; (ii) a traceability commitment referencing the GDST Standard; (iii) the proportion of sourcing volume covered by GDST-aligned data capture; (iv) whether traceability systems have passed the GDST Capability Test; and (v) year-on-year progress against a stated target."

Notes for benchmarking and rating organizations when using the suggested language above:

- Benchmarking organizations often have impact frameworks that already scores traceability commitment and implementation, including GDST alignment, as part of their methodology — align indicator wording with existing frameworks like this to reduce duplicative disclosure burden on companies.

- Distinguish between a general traceability commitment and one that references a recognized interoperable standard — the GDST Standard is designed to be independently verifiable via the GDST Capability Test.

- Recognize phased or partial progress in scoring rather than a binary yes/no, since full-chain GDST alignment across complex, multi-tier supply chains is typically achieved incrementally.

- Specify whether disclosure must be independently verified or self-reported and be transparent about that distinction in published results.

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PART G — INVESTOR & ESG ENGAGEMENT LANGUAGE

Engagement Letter — Risk Acknowledgement Ask

Best for: investors opening a dialogue with a portfolio company on seafood supply chain transparency.

"[Investor/Asset Manager] asks [Company] to acknowledge, in its response to this engagement or in its next public disclosure, the environmental and social risks — including illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, seafood fraud, and labor abuses — that a lack of full-chain traceability poses to its seafood supply chains and, by extension, to [Investor/Asset Manager]'s investment."

Engagement Letter — Time-Bound Commitment Ask

Best for: investors requesting a company set a dated, full-chain traceability target and strategy.

"[Investor/Asset Manager] asks [Company] to set a time-bound commitment, supported by a published strategy, to implement full-chain traceability systems across all of its wild-capture and aquaculture seafood operations, and to align the scope, depth, breadth, and format of these systems with leading interoperable standards such as the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) Standard's Key Data Elements (KDEs) and Critical Tracking Events (CTEs)."

Engagement Letter — Disclosure & Verification Ask

Best for: investors requesting ongoing, verifiable progress reporting from portfolio companies.

"[Investor/Asset Manager] asks [Company] to report at least annually on its progress toward its traceability commitment — including the proportion of sourcing volume or supplier base covered, milestones achieved against its published timeline, and whether its traceability system(s) have passed the GDST Capability Test — and to encourage independent, third-party verification of this progress."

ESG Questionnaire / Stewardship & Voting Guideline Language

Best for: embedding traceability expectations into due diligence questionnaires, stewardship codes, or proxy voting guidelines.

"Seafood Traceability: [Investor/Asset Manager] expects portfolio companies with material seafood sourcing exposure to (i) acknowledge the environmental and social risks linked to a lack of supply chain transparency, (ii) hold a time-bound, full-chain traceability commitment aligned with the GDST Standard, and (iii) disclose year-on-year progress, including whether their systems have passed the GDST Capability Test. [Investor/Asset Manager] may factor performance against these expectations into engagement escalation and voting decisions."

Notes for investors and asset managers when using the suggested language above:

- This language mirrors the three-stage framework — acknowledge risk, commit with a time-bound strategy, and disclose progress with verification — developed through the **FAIRR Initiative's Seafood Traceability Engagement**, a collaborative investor engagement with major seafood companies — review FAIRR's published asks and progress reports before finalizing your own language.

- Reference GDST as a technology-neutral, interoperable standard rather than a single software platform, consistent with the approach recommended to companies and regulators elsewhere in this template.

- Where possible, align engagement questions and disclosure asks with existing benchmarks such as the World Benchmarking Alliance's methodology to reduce duplicative reporting burden on investee companies.

- Consider joining or supporting an existing collaborative engagement rather than launching a duplicative one-off outreach, to concentrate investor influence and reduce burden on companies covered by multiple investors.

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GLOSSARY

KEY CONCEPTS:

1. **GDST Standard** – provides the common framework for seafood traceability.
2. **KDEs (Key Data Elements)** – specify what information should be captured and shared.
3. **CTEs (Critical Tracking Events)** – specify when/where in the supply chain relevant information should be recorded.
4. **Interoperability** – ensures that different traceability systems can exchange and understand the data.
5. **GDST Capability Test** – provides a way to demonstrate that a system has the required GDST capability.

KEY WORD / PHRASE	DEFINITION
GDST (Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability)	A non-profit, business-to-business initiative established in 2017 to develop a common approach and language for digital traceability across global seafood supply chains.
GDST Standard	The common framework developed by GDST that defines the data seafood businesses should collect at important points in the supply chain and how that data should be formatted and exchanged so different traceability systems can work together.
GDST Capability Test	A test used to demonstrate that a traceability system has the technical capability to meet GDST interoperability requirements.
Traceability	The ability to track and document a product and relevant information about it through stages of its supply chain, from catch or harvest through processing, distribution, and sale.
Interoperability	The ability of different digital systems, platforms, or organizations to exchange and use traceability information with one another without requiring a single proprietary system.
Key Data Elements (KDEs)	Specific pieces of information that need to be captured and shared to support seafood traceability under the GDST Standard. Examples include species, product form, catch or production method, vessel or farm identification, location, and relevant dates.

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GLOSSARY

Critical Tracking Events (CTEs)	Important events or points in the seafood supply chain at which relevant traceability information should be recorded.
GS1 EPCIS	A standards-based approach for sharing information about events involving products and other objects in supply chains. The toolkit identifies an EPCIS-based format as an example of a GDST-interoperable digital format.
Software provider	A company or organization that supplies the software used by a business or supplier for traceability.
Point of catch or harvest	The stage at which seafood is caught from the wild or harvested from an aquaculture operation.
Landing	The point at which caught seafood is brought ashore or otherwise formally received after fishing.
Processing	Activities that transform or prepare seafood after catch or harvest, such as cleaning, cutting, freezing, packing, or other forms of preparation.
Product form	The physical or commercial form in which seafood is supplied, such as whole, filleted, frozen, processed, or otherwise prepared.
Catch / harvest method	The method used to obtain seafood, whether through a particular fishing method or aquaculture production method.
Vessel identification	Information used to identify the fishing vessel associated with seafood production or catch.
Farm identification	Information used to identify the aquaculture farm or production site associated with seafood.
RFP (Request for Proposals)	A formal procurement document through which an organization asks potential suppliers to submit proposals to provide goods or services.
RFI (Request for Information)	A process or document used to gather information about potential suppliers' capabilities before issuing a formal procurement request such as an RFP.
Responsible Sourcing Policy (RSP)	An organizational policy establishing expectations for sourcing products responsibly, including environmental, social, legality, and traceability considerations.
ESG	**Environmental, Social and Governance** factors used to assess or report on an organization's environmental and social impacts, practices, and governance.
Benchmarking	The assessment or comparison of organizations against defined indicators, standards, or methodologies.

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GLOSSARY

Certification scheme / program	A system under which products, companies, fisheries, farms, or practices are assessed against defined criteria and may receive certification or recognition.
Fishery improvement program	A structured initiative intended to improve the environmental, social, management, or operational performance of a fishery.
Software Development Kit (SDK)	A set of software tools and resources that developers can use to build applications or integrations supporting a particular technical capability or standard.
Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO)	An international organization through which countries cooperate to manage fisheries in a particular region or for particular fish stocks.
EU IUU Regulation	European Union rules addressing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and related controls on seafood entering the EU market.
US FSMA 204	Section 204 of the U.S. Food Safety Modernization Act, associated with enhanced traceability requirements for certain foods and supply-chain events.
US Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP)	A U.S. seafood import-control program requiring specified information for certain seafood products to help prevent illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and seafood fraud.
FAIRR Initiative	An investor network/initiative referenced in the toolkit in connection with collaborative engagement on seafood traceability and environmental, social, and investment risks.
World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA)	An organization that develops benchmarks and methodologies for assessing companies' performance and disclosure on sustainability-related issues.
Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC)	A seafood certification organization referenced in the toolkit as one of four certification standard owners that issued a February 2026 call to action supporting GDST adoption and implementation.
Global Seafood Alliance (GSA)	A seafood industry organization and certification standard owner referenced in the toolkit's February 2026 call to action concerning GDST adoption and implementation.
MarinTrust	A certification standard/program for marine ingredients referenced in the toolkit as one of the four certification standard owners supporting GDST adoption and implementation.
Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)	A seafood certification organization referenced in the toolkit as one of the four certification standard owners supporting GDST adoption and implementation.

Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability

TRACEABILITY COMMITMENT LANGUAGE TOOLKIT



GLOBAL DIALOGUE
on Seafood Traceability