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## Background Information

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### About The GDST:

- The GDST was launched in April 2017 as a “business-to-business” forum mandated to draft the first-ever industry-wide standards for seafood traceability.
- Participating and endorsing companies represent over \$35 billion in annual seafood production (not including sales of seafood products by retailers and wholesalers).
- GDST companies are from all over Asia, Europe, and the US, with a few also from Africa and the Middle East. The entire supply chain is represented from fisher/farmer to retail, from the very smallest (including associations representing individual artisanal fishers and farmers) to several of the world’s largest seafood multinationals. Among the notable companies and associations that participated in the Dialogue are (this is only a selection, a full list members can be found [here](#)):

Retailers/wholesalers/brands: Ahold Delhaize (Netherlands), Anova (US), Bolton Foods (EU), Bumble Bee (USA), Chicken of the Sea (USA), Morrisons (UK), Metro AG (EU), Sainsbury's (UK), Whole Foods (USA).

Mid-supply chain processors and distributors: 178 Degrees (Hong Kong), CPF (Charoen Pokphand Foods) (Thailand), Citra Mina Group (Philippines), Envisible (US), Espersens (Denmark), Karoo Catch (South Africa), Labeyrie Fine Foods (France), Mount Cook Alpine Salmon (New Zealand), New England Seafood (UK), Nissui (Japan), Orca Bay Foods (US), Seacore (Canada), Sea Delight (US), Seachill (UK), Seafresh (Netherlands), Stavix Seafoods, The Fishin’ Company (US), Thai Union (Thailand), Young's Seafood (UK).

Producers and primary processors: Indonesian Pole & Line and Handline Fisheries Association (AP2HI) (Indonesia), China Aquatic Products Processing & Marketing Alliance (CAPPMA), General Tuna Corporation (Philippines), Socskargen Federation (Philippines), Thai Tuna Association, Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Processors (VASEP), Vietnam Tuna Association.

- The GDST is governed by an international steering committee consisting of eleven companies and the two NGO organizers, [WWF](#) and [IFT](#). Company members are: [Culinary Collaborations](#), [Indonesian Pole & Line and Handline Fisheries Association \(AP2HI\)](#), [Labeyrie Fine Foods](#), [Metro AG](#), [New England Seafoods](#), [Orca Bay Foods](#), [Sainsburys](#), [Thai Union](#), [The Fishin’ Company](#), [Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Processors \(VASEP\)](#), and [Whole Foods Market](#).

### About the Standards:

- The [GDST 1.0 standards](#) identify the minimum data elements to be documented and transmitted within seafood supply chains, and the standardized technical formats and nomenclatures for sharing that data.
- The result is to achieve “interoperability” across the myriad traceability systems in use among thousands of companies in the global seafood sector.
- The standards are “open source” and freely available.

The deep technical work done to prepare the standards makes them “ready to use” – and leading companies have already begun implementation.