Industry Leaders Strongly Endorse the Newly Reorganized GDST

All seafood industry businesses are urged to join the new GDST now

As members of the Steering Committee overseeing the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST), our companies are delighted to give our strong endorsement and support to the newly reorganized GDST. The announcement today that the GDST has been successfully reformulated into a legally and operationally independent, industry-based entity is an important milestone in our collective work to achieve business-smart traceability for the future of seafood worldwide.

Since 2017, we have worked alongside more than sixty companies around the world to draft and promote the first-ever global standards for seafood traceability. Since the publication of the GDST standards in 2020, dozens more have embraced the goal of making GDST standards as universal for seafood traceability as HACCP is for seafood health and safety. Today, the GDST standards are being widely recognized as a game-changer for our industry, and the momentum towards their widespread implementation is growing day by day.

The GDST is now making an important, positive, and necessary transition from an informal platform convened and facilitated by two leading NGOs into an independent organization. The new GDST will be self-sustaining and fully rooted in industry while maintaining broad stakeholder involvement. Under the leadership of a new Executive Director with thirty years of industry experience, the new organization will create a permanent home for maintaining the GDST standards and for delivering the practical tools and services needed to support their implementation.

We see traceability as essential for our businesses and for the sustainability and profitability of the seafood sector. The GDST standards are serving a critical need for our companies, our suppliers, and our customers. Already adopted by over 100 companies in 30 countries, they are also rapidly becoming benchmarks used by leading industry organizations and as a reference point in important discussions around emerging traceability regulations.

Going forward, we are confident the impact of the GDST standards will continue to grow on both business practices and government policies alike. Our participation in the new GDST will continue to bring real value to our companies, providing access to important information and tools while giving us a seat at the table within influential processes affecting business practices and the regulatory environment. We strongly encourage all businesses and stakeholders with an investment in seafood to join us by partnering with the new GDST to sustain the future of our industry and the future of seafood traceability for years to come.

October 3, 2022
Statement of the GDST Steering Committee – October 3, 2022 – p. 2 (signatures)

Adam Brennan
Group Director, Sustainability
Thai Union

Britta Gallus
Head of Corporate Responsibility
METRO AG

Carrie Brownstein
Principal Quality Standards Advisor, Seafood
Whole Foods Market

David Parker
Head of Aquaculture and Fisheries
Sainsbury’s

Estelle Brennan
Head of Sustainability
Labeyrie Fine Foods

Janti Djuari
Chairwoman
Indonesian Pole & Line and Handline Fisheries Association (AP2H)

Julianne Schindewolf
QA Manager
Orca Bay Foods, LLC

Justin Baugh
Director of Sustainability
The Fishin’ Co.

Michael McNicholas
Managing Director
Culinary Collaborations LLC

Nguyen Hoai Nam
Deputy General Secretary
Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP)

Ruth Hoban
Head of Sustainability
New England Seafood International Ltd.