**Interoperability:**

Facilitates *seamless communication* between your traceability systems and those of your customers and suppliers.

The GDST standards **support interoperability** by letting companies choose the traceability system that makes **business sense** for them **without worrying** about its compatibility with other systems.

**CONTACT US**

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@TheGDST  
@The Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability

The first-ever global standards to bring reliable, affordable, and efficient traceability to the seafood industry.
The Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) is the leading industry forum for the promotion of digital seafood traceability and the owner of the industry’s global interoperability standards. First convened as an informal dialogue platform in 2017 by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Institute of Food Technologists, the GDST brought together more than five dozen companies and associations from around the globe and across the seafood supply chain to draft traceability standards in support of responsible seafood production and trade. Since publication of the standards in March 2020, scores of companies have begun altering their traceability practices and solution providers are rushing to offer enabling software. In October 2022, the GDST completed its successful reorganization into a permanent new entity with full legal independence and a participatory, self-sustaining, industry-based structure.

Today, the GDST standards are being recognized as a game-changer across the seafood industry, and the GDST itself has evolved into one of the most influential B2B initiatives in the sector. The GDST Secretariat works to promote the uptake of the GDST standards, provide technical implementation support, maintain and update the standards, and address relevant policy and regulatory issues.

**BACKGROUND**

The GDST brings together more than 100 companies from around the world and across the seafood supply chain. With an industry-led steering committee of eleven leading companies and associations, the GDST also enjoys endorsements from other influential seafood industry platforms, including the Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship (SeaBOS) the Global Tuna Alliance (GTA), Sea Pact, UK SIA, and the Sustainable Seafood Coalition.

**SUPPORT FOR GDST**

GDST company partners get access to the tools and technical support they need to make a business-smart transition to interoperable, digital traceability. Partners also have a stronger voice to influence the future of the GDST standards and emerging regulations.

**THE ISSUE**

Routine and effective traceability remains a challenge for the seafood industry. Inconsistent demands for information and incompatible traceability technologies cause confusion, reduced flexibility, and higher costs across globally complex seafood supply chains.

**THE NEED**

Traceability is fundamental to a healthy and responsible sustainable seafood industry. And commercial and regulatory pressures increasingly require reliable and affordable traceability systems that can demonstrate the legal and ethical origins of all seafood products.

**THE GDST SOLUTION**

The GDST standards bring the industry together around common data requirements and data-sharing formats. These “ready-to-use” solutions tell you:

- **WHAT** product information is shared within seafood supply chains – Key Data Elements (KDE)
- **WHO** in the supply chain is responsible for that data capture – Critical Tracking Events (CTE)
- **HOW** information is digitally shared – standardized data formats, identifiers

**HOW IT HELPS BUSINESSES**

Traceability systems can benefit businesses and entire sectors, from a production, marketing, and value chain management perspective.

**BUSINESS BENEFITS**

- Supports core business needs
- Data verifiability
- Seamless data sharing
- Cost savings

**BUSINESS GAINS**

- Improved quality assurance
- Increased customer trust
- Helps ensure the legal origin of seafood
- Easier regulatory compliance

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

GDST company partners get access to the tools and technical support they need to make a business-smart transition to interoperable, digital traceability. Partners also have a stronger voice to influence the future of the GDST standards and emerging regulations.

Make a move that is good for your business, good for the seafood industry, and good for the world by joining the GDST by visiting [traceability-dialogue.org/get-involved](http://traceability-dialogue.org/get-involved).