

3. Task Force II

Inventory of transparency and traceability initiatives in the seafood industry relevant for SeaBOS

Session 3

14:15-15:15, May 14

This document introduces a selection of global initiatives of relevance for SeaBOS members, and preliminary recommendations for engagement, to be presented and discussed at the meeting.

The wealth of initiatives working towards improving transparency and/or traceability in the seafood industry, in different countries, settings, and with different focus areas, species, and sectors, is inspiring. While unpractical to engage with all of them, the secretariat sees value for SeaBOS companies to engage in a few, targeted initiatives. With the help of expertise from our networks, the secretariat has reviewed existing initiatives globally. This document highlights seven initiatives which some SeaBOS members may already be involved in, and for which the secretariat encourages further engagement among members not currently doing so. Two important criteria for an initiative to be included in this document are:

- It must have a global geographical scope;
- It must aim to deliver a structured process for improving traceability/transparency to corporate actors in the seafood industry (and be of direct relevance to SeaBOS members).

Each selected initiative is briefly described in pages 2-4 and some suggestions for engagement are provided.

A complementary list of relevant initiatives working with traceability and/or transparency issues but not meeting all the criteria for entering the main list is given in pages 5-6. They may be relevant for some SeaBOS members. The Secretariat collaborates with some of the initiatives listed, and observes the developments made by others.

Apart from the initiatives outlined in the present report, SeaBOS will continue discussing with key regional initiatives and individual companies wherever appropriate.

Task Force II would like to acknowledge the contributions of: Blake Lee-Harwood (Sustainable Fisheries Partnership), Caroline Tippett (WWF), Ghislaine Llewellyn (WWF), Josh Madeira (Monterey Bay Aquarium), Marta Marrero Martin (The Nature Conservancy),

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Oliver Knowles (Greenpeace), and Sven Biermann (FITI). The views and opinions expressed in this working document are those of the secretariat and do not necessarily reflect the position of the contributors or of SeaBOS members.



GLOBAL DIALOGUE
on Seafood Traceability

<http://traceability-dialogue.org/>

Established in 2016

TRACEABILITY | AQUACULTURE | CAPTURE FISHERIES

Mission: ‘To advance a unified framework for interoperable seafood traceability practices. The Dialogue brings together a broad spectrum of seafood industry stakeholders from across different parts of the supply chain, as well as relevant civil society experts from diverse regions.’

Convener: WWF and the Institute of Food Technologists’ Global Food Traceability Centre

Membership: 33 registered companies. NGOs and civil society stakeholders may join the Dialogue Advisory Group. Open to companies in all the seafood supply chain.

SeaBOS engagement

- GDST is a key partner to SeaBOS Task Force II, whose co-lead Darian McBain (Thai Union) is actively involved in working groups at GDST.
- SeaBOS members are encouraged to showcase their endorsement of GDST’s goals.
- All SeaBOS members are also encouraged, when relevant, to participate in GDST and contribute in the immediate future to their working groups, whose work has already started. This is a unique opportunity to influence future standards for traceability.
- CPF, Nissui and Thai Union are already involved.

Ocean Disclosure Project

<https://oceandisclosureproject.org/>

Established in 2015

TRANSPARENCY | CAPTURE FISHERIES

Mission: ‘To promote transparency in wild-caught seafood through encouraging companies to identify the fisheries where they source products alongside information on the environmental performance of each fishery. The ODP therefore represents a pioneering commitment to supply chain transparency for companies sourcing from the world’s wild fisheries.’

Convener: Sustainable Fisheries Partnership

Membership: 12 companies disclose information about their fisheries. Participation in the ODP is free and is open to all businesses that source wild-caught seafood.

SeaBOS engagement

- SeaBOS members in the wild capture sector are encouraged to make voluntary disclosures about their fisheries to ODP.
- Cargill and Skretting are already involved.



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

<http://fisheriestransparency.org/>

Established in 2015

TRANSPARENCY | CAPTURE FISHERIES

Mission: 'To increase transparency and participation in fisheries governance for the benefit of a more sustainable management of marine fisheries. At the heart of the initiative is the FiTI Standard, an agreement on what information on fisheries should be published by public authorities.'

Convener: The Humboldt-Viadrina Governance Platform acts as its international secretariat.

Membership: Aimed at governments. Membership will be contingent on following the FiTI Standard.

SeaBOS engagement

- SeaBOS members are encouraged to express interest in only sourcing from FiTI countries, and to encourage governments to engage in transparency processes such as FiTI.
- SeaBOS members will be able to become members of the FiTI Association when it is established (expected in 2018-2019).



GLOBAL
SALMON
INITIATIVE

<https://globalsalmoninitiative.org/>

Established in 2012

TRANSPARENCY | AQUACULTURE

Mission: 'To provide a healthy and sustainable source of protein to feed a growing population, while minimizing their environmental footprint, and continuing to improve their social contribution.'

Convener: CEO-led organisation

Membership: 16 members (salmon farming companies) and 8 associate members (fish feed and health companies), representing 50% of global production of salmon.

SeaBOS engagement

- SeaBOS Task Force II's co-lead Wenche Grønbrekk (Cermaq) is also involved in GSI.
- SeaBOS members could draw inspiration and knowledge from GSI's experience.
- Cargill, Cermaq, Marine Harvest and Skretting are already involved.

GSI is also a Voluntary Environmental Programme (See Background Brief on VEPs)



<http://www.iffo.net/>

Established in 2001

TRANSPARENCY | AQUACULTURE

Mission: ‘To represent and promote the marine ingredients industry, such as fishmeal, fish oil and other related industries. [...] IFFO works to strengthen the global standing of the industry, while supporting responsible supply worldwide.’ IFFO also created the Global Standard for Responsible Supply (IFFO RS), a business-to-business certification programme for the production of marine ingredients.

Membership: 230 members (across 55 countries), representing 50% of world’s fishmeal and fish oil. Membership is divided into ‘premium members’; ‘producer members’, ‘non-producer members’. Membership is contingent on following a mandatory code.

SeaBOS engagement

- SeaBOS members could promote traceability and transparency within the IFFO.
- Cargill Aqua Nutrition, CPF, Marine Harvest, Maruha Nichiro, and Skretting are already involved.

IFFO is also a Voluntary Environmental Programme (See Background Brief on VEPs)



<http://www.ourgssi.org/>

Established in 2014

CERTIFICATION | AQUACULTURE | CAPTURE FISHERIES

Mission: ‘The mission of GSSI is to ensure confidence in the supply and promotion of certified seafood as well as to promote improvement in the seafood certification schemes.’ GSSI produces a Global Benchmark Tool that assesses seafood certification schemes.

Membership: More than 50 partners globally. These partners consist of Funding Partners from the seafood industry, and non-profit Affiliated Partners.

SeaBOS engagement

- SeaBOS members may become Partners of GSSI, i.e. commit to support all GSSI recognized seafood certifications schemes, and participate in its expert working groups.
- SeaBOS members may seek certification from certification schemes recognized by GSSI. <http://www.ourgssi.org/benchmarking/recognized-schemes/>
- Marine Harvest, Thai Union and Nissui are already involved.

Complementary list of transparency and traceability initiatives

Benchmarking initiative

Seafood Stewardship Index (Index Initiative)

<https://www.indexinitiative.org/>

‘We are a center of expertise that seeks to propel the use of benchmarks to engage companies in delivering on the SDGs. Our purpose is to bring clarity on the role and performance of companies in contributing to the SDGs closest to their core business. We do this by independently and objectively benchmarking the performance of companies against stakeholder expectations. Our research and benchmarks are free and accessible to all.’ **Note:** The Index Initiative is in the process of creating a Seafood Stewardship Index, which will benchmark many of the SeaBOS members.

Industry initiatives

Seafood Task Force

<http://www.seafoodtaskforce.global>

‘We are a group of seafood processors, feed producers, buyers, retailers, government representatives and NGOs who have come together to address issues surrounding labour and illegal fishing in seafood supply chains currently focusing on the seas around Thailand.’

Tuna 2020 Traceability Declaration (WEF)

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/06/tuna-2020-traceability-declaration-stopping-illegal-tuna-from-coming-to-market/>

‘The Tuna 2020 Traceability Declaration is a non-legally binding declaration [...] that will focus on implementation of SDG 14. The Declaration is endorsed by leaders of the world’s biggest retailers, tuna processors, marketers, traders and/or harvesters, with the support of influential civil society organizations, and governments.’

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) and Association (ISSA)

<https://iss-foundation.org/>, <http://iss-association.org/>

‘The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) is committed to improving the sustainability of global tuna stocks by developing and implementing verifiable, science-based practices, commitments and international management measures that result in tuna fisheries meeting the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) standard without conditions, and becoming the industry standard for vessel owners, traders, processors and marketers.’

‘The ISSA is a trade association whose members are tuna processors, traders and/or marketers that [...] agree to follow the conservation measures implemented by the ISSF.’

Data collection and publication initiatives

FishSource (Sustainable Fisheries Partnership)

<https://www.fishsource.org>

‘FishSource compiles and summarizes publicly available scientific and technical information about the status of fisheries and seafood stocks into an easily interpretable form. It aims to make

information about the health of stocks, the quality of their management, and the impact of fisheries on the rest of the ecosystem more accessible to seafood buyers and help them take actions to improve the sustainability of the seafood they purchase.’

Global Fishing Watch (Oceana, Skytruth and Google)

<http://globalfishingwatch.org/>

‘We provide a uniquely public view of global commercial fishing and specific vessel behaviors and, by making our data freely available for research, we are enabling more rapid advances in our knowledge of how commercial fishing impacts the world’s fisheries.’

Initiatives offering services to the seafood industry

FishWise

<https://www.fishwise.org/>

‘FishWise promotes the health and recovery of ocean ecosystems by providing innovative market-based tools to the seafood industry, supporting sustainability through environmentally and socially responsible business practices.’

Future of Fish

<http://futureoffish.org/content/traceability-101>

‘We are a nonprofit systems change incubator. We work with industry players, technologists, and NGOs to create business solutions to ocean challenges.’

Global Food Traceability Center (Institute of Food Technologists)

<http://www.ift.org/gftc.aspx>

‘The Mission: To serve all aspects of the global food system by generating knowledge that addresses informational gaps while delivering applied research, objective advice, and practical expertise about food product traceability and data collaboration for private benefit and public good.’

Note: The GFTC provided critical input to the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability.

Provenance

<https://www.provenance.org/>

‘Provenance is a platform that empowers brands to take steps toward greater transparency by tracing the origins and histories of products. With our technology, you can easily gather and verify stories, keep them connected to physical things and embed them anywhere online.’

Trade Association for Seafood Traceability Technology (TAST-T)

<https://www.tastt.org/>

‘TAST-T is an alliance of traceability technology vendors that work together to provide full-chain seafood traceability technology solutions. TAST-T works in a precompetitive collaboration to address and resolve barriers to full-chain traceability, making the path to implementing traceability from water to plate clearer, simpler, and easier to navigate. Over time, TAST-T aims to build demand for traceability technology, and to ensure that there are multiple technology companies with integrity able to meet that demand.’