Comprehensive Electronic Catch Documentation and Traceability (eCDT) Principles

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About SALT

The Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability (SALT) is a global community of governments, the seafood industry, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working together to share ideas and collaborate on solutions for legal and sustainable seafood, with a particular focus on traceability— the ability to track the movement of seafood through supply chains. SALT is a public-private partnership between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Packard, Moore, and Walton Family Foundations, and is implemented by FishWise, a sustainable seafood consultancy.

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Introduction

Governments across the world are increasingly recognizing the importance of more transparent seafood supply chains. One potential tool governments and the private industry have leveraged to create more transparency is digitally tracking seafood products as they move throughout the supply chain.

> The practice of digitally collecting, sharing, and tracking verifiable information about the harvesting, processing, and transportation of seafood products is electronic catch documentation and traceability (eCDT). Data from the harvest and movement of products—when captured and shared electronically—facilitate a quicker exchange of information and enable broader use and more thorough verification by governments and within supply chains.

The network of technologies involved in electronic traceability have the potential to improve operational efficiency and responsiveness of supply chains, identify sources of risk, and streamline reporting and compliance processes for participating companies. Traceability programs are designed to interface with and manage information from these technology networks. When traceability programs are implemented at the government or regional fisheries management level, those potential benefits can be extended.

When social, ecological, and economic data accompany seafood products, governments can use that information to strengthen fisheries management, support legal and equitable work conditions for seafood laborers, and identify and prevent illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) and mislabeled products from entering domestic or international supply chains and markets. The data collected from eCDT programs can feed into the relevant government institutions, agencies, or industry systems to achieve these diverse objectives.

| **Using data captured from traceability programs to support ecological, social, and economic objectives is called a comprehensive approach.**

A number of existing resources—such as the FAO's Voluntary Guidance for Catch Documentation Schemes—identify best practices for particular harvest methods or specific regions. However, there is no one document that incorporates all best practices. There is a need for broad guidance that identifies the best practices for governments in the design and implementation of seafood traceability programs to achieve comprehensive goals (ecological, social, and economic). Without this guidance, governments may create a program that only addresses one problem, such as a new market import requirement or other emerging need. As a result, they may miss out on reaping all the potential benefits that an eCDT program can provide.
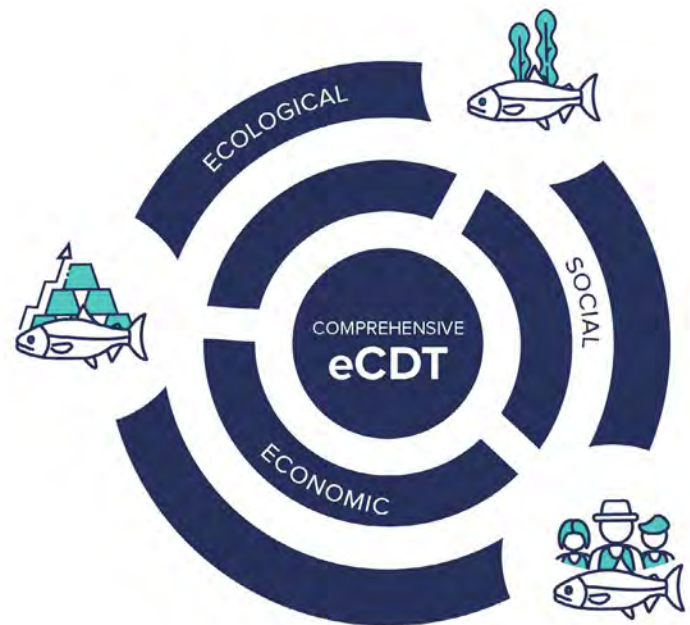
The Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability (SALT) facilitated a Consultative Committee made up of 35 stakeholders from 18 countries to address this need. The Committee identified six Comprehensive eCDT Principles and developed a Pathway to apply them. The Principles serve as best practices for seafood producing country governments as they move towards a comprehensive approach to initiate, design, implement, and/or improve their traceability programs.

The Comprehensive eCDT Principles were designed primarily for governments of seafood producing countries, or countries that are a source for seafood. However, SALT expects the Principles to also be relevant to the traceability efforts of many other stakeholders (e.g., fishers, seafood companies, local communities, social/labor groups and environmental NGOs, traceability technology providers, and partner governments).

> The Principles are high-level and flexible so that technological solutions and implementation strategies can vary to reach a country's goals. The Principles are not presented in any priority order, nor are they intended to be sequential.

To support application of the Principles, the online Pathway to the Principles provides steps on how to put the Principles into practice. The Pathway breaks down the process of implementing a comprehensive traceability program into three phases: **Initiate**, **Design**, and **Implement**.

Visit SALT's website for more information about the Principles, and for relevant resources, case studies, and guidance that are linked with each step of the Pathway. If you are interested in applying these Principles to your work, SALT may be able to help. Reach out to us at SALT@FishWise.org.

Traceability Principles

Traceability Principles

Overview

Creating and administering a plan to collect useful data from fishing activities is a complex undertaking for governments and companies alike. But once collected, multiple stakeholders could take advantage of this information to address ecological, social, and economic goals. Building that triple-impact, or "comprehensive", approach into the design and implementation of a country's eCDT program is one method to help meet all these goals.

To make this process easier to navigate, the Comprehensive eCDT Principles were created. They are the core themes to keep in mind throughout the process of designing, implementing, or improving an eCDT program to achieve comprehensive (ecological, social, and economic) goals. They are not presented in any sequence or priority order; rather, they all hold equal importance and should all be considered throughout the entire process.

These Principles may be applied differently depending on how far along a government is in implementing an eCDT program (whether the design has just begun or there already exists a solid foundation for improvements). The Principles are intentionally flexible so that anyone—no matter where they are in the process—can use them to work towards a more comprehensive eCDT program.
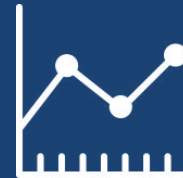
Credit: Iakov Kalinin - AdobeStock.com

Comprehensive Electronic Catch Documentation and Traceability (eCDT) Principles

Maximize Ecological, Social, and Economic Benefits

Understand the ecological, social, and economic aspects of the eCDT program to maximize benefits using a comprehensive approach

Use Data to Inform Decision-Making

Put the necessary information into the hands of the right people, so they can act upon it and make data-driven decisions while designing, implementing, and improving the eCDT program

Create a Program that is Electronic, Interoperable, and Data Secure

Increase alignment across the seafood sector by prioritizing the seamless exchange of digital data with existing traceability systems. Choose technologies that are cost-effective and meet the needs for data analysis and security

Be Inclusive and Collaborative with Stakeholders

Collaborate early and often with those who will use the eCDT program, those affected by it, and advocates of both groups to improve program uptake and oversight

Build a Lasting and Scalable Program

Generate and maintain support for the eCDT program—politically, financially, and with users—so it can expand beyond the pilot phase

Address Data and Verification Needs Across Fisheries and Supply Chains

Data and verification needs will differ across stakeholders and nodes of the supply chain. Recognize these unique needs while also considering how to safely and equitably collect, store, and share those data without compromising workers' rights

SALTtraceability.org/traceability-principles

The Pathway to the Principles

The Pathway to the Principles provides guidance to put the Principles into practice. It details steps to apply the Principles when designing, implementing, or improving a comprehensive eCDT program.

This series of steps extends through three phases:

1. **Initiate**, which includes early research, goal setting, and stakeholder engagement;

2. **Design**, which includes identifying technology, assigning responsibilities, and creating the systems to support the program; and

3. **Implement**, which includes piloting the program, adaptively managing, and scaling it.

This guidance has been divided into these three phases to both ease navigation and allow anyone—regardless of which phase they are in—to see how these Principles come into play. Every step featured in the Pathway has at least one Principle associated with it, which is denoted by an icon.

To find more information and relevant resources, visit the Pathway to the Principles on SALT's website:

SALTtraceability.org/traceability-principles/apply-them/
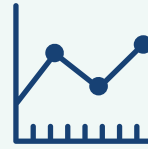
Pathway to the Principles Steps

INITIATE:
Research & Engage

Icon	Principle	Pathway Step
	Be Inclusive and Collaborative with Stakeholders	**1. Define goals and scale of eCDT program**
	Use Data to Inform Decision-Making	**2. Learn from existing programs** • Review past eCDT programs and lessons learned to avoid common pitfalls. Consider reviewing recommendations from traceability programs outside of seafood to understand data needs
	Use Data to Inform Decision-Making	**3. Conduct research, assessment, or gap analyses on the existing programs and enabling environment to identify supporting regulatory frameworks, enforcement, and political will** • Identify and access what exists to support the comprehensive eCDT program (i.e., infrastructure, data and data systems architecture, regulatory enforcement measures, interested institutions, or relevant private sector initiatives)

Icon	Principle	Pathway Step
		• Assess stakeholder and institutional perceptions of the possibility of an entirely new program, including its socio-economic impacts (cost implications of developing, adopting, using, etc.) to mitigate unintended consequences such as negative environmental or human rights impacts • Consider analyzing the different impacts to men/women and other key stakeholder demographics • Leverage existing or encourage creation of supportive partnerships between governments and businesses in order for both groups to best fulfill their complementary roles as outlined in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights • Check for norms, policies, and government enforcement regarding health and safety, core human rights principles (i.e., the ILO core conventions, engagement with national or global trade unions), and the right to free speech without fear of retribution to stay abreast of the law or identify any human rights gaps
	Use Data to Inform Decision-Making	**4. Characterize the supply chain** • Conduct a general overview of involved fisheries, including current catch documentation, reporting, and social responsibility data collection practices across government agencies

	Use Data to Inform Decision-Making	**5. Assess existing exposures and risks**
		• Assess existing exposures and risks of IUU fishing for relevant stocks and supply chains, including enabling mechanisms to mitigate the seafood value chain risks (if any)
		    • Specify risk data sources and needs
		    • Identify related governing agencies or departments

Icon	Principle	Pathway Step

		• Assess existing exposures and risks of human rights abuse for people working in or associated with relevant stocks and supply chains, including enabling mechanisms to strengthen policy for worker protections, such as the right to freely associate and collectively bargain, and/or general social safeguards, such as protections for free speech and human rights defenders
		
		  • Specify existing risk data sources and needs, including time spent at sea, captain's logs, or instances of at-sea transshipment, recruitment dynamics, and risks to fishers' families
		
		  • Identify related civil society organizations, worker associations including trade unions, governing agencies, or departments (such as Departments of Labor or Employment) that work on human rights risk, abuse, policy, and/or data collection

⬡ (three overlapping circles icon)	Maximize Ecological, Social, and Economic Benefits	**6. Gather economic data to prepare for cost-benefit analysis** • Collect baseline data of costs involved with current fisheries management program, including food safety and regulatory compliance • Set expectations around a feasible return on investment, as financial returns may take time to manifest
(three people icon)	Be Inclusive and Collaborative with Stakeholders	**7. Be inclusive in identifying stakeholders** • Properly identify the stakeholders from governments, affected fisheries (including small-scale), technology/service providers, supply chain companies, trade unions and other worker/labor groups, whether aiming to develop an eCDT program on an international, national, or regional level that meets those stakeholders' needs
(three people icon)	Be Inclusive and Collaborative with Stakeholders	**8. Communicate incentives/benefits to foster stakeholder participation** • Identify and clarify the value proposition of eCDT to a variety of stakeholders (business, compliance, science, workers, etc.)

Icon	Principle	Pathway Step
		• Be transparent with stakeholders about the potential benefits of the program that have been demonstrated in other programs, the intended scope, and the degree to which there is flexibility
	Be Inclusive and Collaborative with Stakeholders	**9. Consult stakeholders early, repeatedly, and with sensitivity to their needs** • Identify the preferred form of communication and makeup of stakeholder groups—ensuring equitable inclusion across marginalized and disenfranchised groups—which will depend on scope, objectives, and fishery characteristics • Via stakeholders' preferred outreach method, integrate knowledge and build accountability and trust • Consider power dynamics and relationships among stakeholders in the consultation process (e.g., workers and businesses, men and women, government and private sector) • Identify key stakeholders, such as trade unions and other fishers' rights organizations, to support sensitive program needs, such as workers' access to grievance and remedy • Civil society organizations can support workers and program implementers in upholding key human rights needs (e.g., grievance and remedy) by helping uphold workers' rights, which often requires specialized skills and experience
	Be Inclusive and Collaborative with Stakeholders	**10. In consultation with stakeholders, clearly define objectives (ecological, social, and economic) of the comprehensive eCDT program**

DESIGN:
*Infrastructure,
Coordination,
Technology, &
Institutionalize*

Icon	Principle	Pathway Step
	Address Data Verification Needs Across Fisheries and Supply Chains	**11. Map data needs and constraints along full supply chain** • Define the minimum data required to meet program objectives • Identify where more information is needed to define data/tech needs • Map key data elements (KDEs) to critical tracking events (CTEs) within affected supply chains and identify where CTEs start and end given the different jurisdictions among different players (e.g., regulators, stakeholders, regional bodies) • Avoid requiring duplicative information • Minimize exemptions from eCDT program data collection, but state clearly where they do exist (e.g., small-scale fishers, certain vessel types, instances in which data collection on workers may be used against them) • Where appropriate, ensure that the program is vendor neutral and that transparency mechanisms (public requests for proposals, for example) are mandatory when competing for government contracts

Icon	Principle	Pathway Step
	Address Data Verification Needs Across Fisheries and Supply Chains	**12 . Design eCDT program with verification needs and challenges in mind** • Create a data quality assurance protocol that includes a plan for verification • Identify how and where data will be verified
	Address Data Verification Needs Across Fisheries and Supply Chains	**13. Ensure data security and data access protocols** • Clearly define who has access to the data and for what purpose, with special considerations to worker privacy • Prioritize informed consent and participant access to data
	Build a Lasting and Scalable Program	**14. Identify potential pilot sites** • Select supply chains that are well-understood and sites that have on the ground (industry and NGO) support
	Maximize Ecological, Social, and Economic Benefits	**15. Design eCDT program to fit within larger fisheries management program** • To inform alignment decisions, identify differences between the proposed eCDT program and the existing national strategy for fisheries management • Consider those who may not have had any input in the design of the existing program, and how their perspectives and opinions might have changed the design • Align data collection with stock assessment and/or integrate with existing fisheries management plans to ensure sustainable fishery management and promote biodiversity conservation
	Maximize Ecological, Social, and Economic Benefits	**16. Identify how worker welfare will be monitored and supported** • Identify governing agencies that have jurisdiction over data related to worker welfare and data security issues (e.g., Departments of Labor and/or Employment and enforcement of minimum wage, immigration status, and healthcare requirements) to increase the relevance and interoperability of any social data collected by the eCDT program

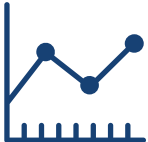| Icon	Principle	Pathway Step
		• Identify existing protocols for how to share social data with agencies that oversee worker information, and revise or create new protocols as need to improve worker welfare outcomes
	Maximize Ecological, Social, and Economic Benefits	**17. Implement safeguards to mitigate negative impacts of data collection to worker rights and privacy** • Consult existing data privacy laws, and identify processes, accountability mechanisms or new schemes for responding to privacy considerations and stakeholder/ user concerns as needed • Confirm fishers and other workers have access to confidential grievance and remedy systems • See definitions for 'grievance mechanisms' and 'remedy' in the Glossary • Connect eCDT program implementers and stakeholders to other rights monitoring, advocacy, and social support organizations and systems (e.g. trade unions, migrant advocacy organizations, human rights advocates, and other civil society organizations)
	Create a Program that is Electronic, Interoperable, and Data Secure	**18. Seek to minimize costs** • Require only the minimum technology adoption and data collection needed to meet eCDT program objectives • Identify technology that adds value to businesses' bottom line; ensure there is a built-in cost-recovery scheme
	Create a Program that is Electronic, Interoperable, and Data Secure	**19. Avoid creating trade barriers** • Ensure that the program is compatible with the traceability requirements of major importers (e.g., SIMP, European Union)

Icon	Principle	Pathway Step
	Be Inclusive and Collaborative with Stakeholders	**20. Clarify roles, responsibilities, and needs by stakeholder** • Identify expertise and capacity of stakeholders and leverage existing expertise • Be aware that implementation roles and responsibilities for eCDT programs will vary across nations (e.g., flag, coastal, port, processing, end-market) • Be aware that financial or capacity support may differ between developed and developing nations • Define roles and capacity of both private sector and government bodies, especially within the various government agencies implementing the principles including labor, employment, and food safety (e.g., Who will cover the costs? Will the development process involve partnerships between government and industry?) • Identify existing worker groups that can contribute to identifying worker roles, responsibilities, and needs (e.g., worker committees, trade unions, and other civil society organizations) • Outline the role of individuals or companies collecting, verifying, and submitting data • Identify opportunities for stakeholders—particularly civil society organizations—to provide oversight of the eCDT program and governance structures
	Be Inclusive and Collaborative with Stakeholders	**21. As needed, formulate agreements between agencies for the sharing of information and responsibilities** • Explicitly identify the responsibilities and authorities of each agency as it pertains to the goals of the comprehensive eCDT program • Determine how to best integrate processes of various involved agencies for efficacy of the program • Determine whether agencies require technical assistance or capacity building to construct the data management system, and if so how they can obtain that assistance

Icon	Principle	Pathway Step
	Be Inclusive and Collaborative with Stakeholders	**22. Ensure stakeholders from relevant supply chains formally agree to support the eCDT program** • Obtain both commitment and action (implementation, monitoring, control, and enforcement) all the way along supply chains to derive counter-IUU fishing and worker protection benefits • Recruit influencers to support program adoption (e.g., community leaders, association heads, industry champions, thought leaders, key local government officials) and to test the program
	Create a Program that is Electronic, Interoperable, and Data Secure	**23. Identify eCDT technologies to fulfill data collection and analysis needs** • Let data collection, program objectives, and user need drive eCDT tool selection • Define the architecture of the system (e.g., Central repository, distributed ledger)
	Create a Program that is Electronic, Interoperable, and Data Secure	**24. Develop eCDT programs and technologies with "human-centered design" approaches** • Use site-specific approaches or designs where possible, but customization should still support interoperability • Consult with technology users before and during implementation (see: 'Initiate' section) • Use co-creation to develop the program as it can foster buy-in and ownership among users
	Create a Program that is Electronic, Interoperable, and Data Secure	**25. Prioritize interoperability with existing traceability programs and data** • Build on existing and planned investments • Use standardized data formats (i.e., KDEs) • Consider alignment with industry data standards (e.g., GDST Version 1.0) and import data requirements of market states (e.g., U.S. SIMP)

Icon	Principle	Pathway Step
		• Where there are national electronic traceability platforms, allow them to interface with eCDT systems, including private sector systems • Develop interoperability with programs that extend across multiple countries
	Build a Lasting and Scalable Program	**26. Encourage the adoption of these Principles into policy** • Encourage policy adoption/development to strengthen eCDT support at the governmental level
	Build a Lasting and Scalable Program	**27. Estimate funding needs and responsibilities to fund the program sustainably** • Develop plan for long-term funding to support all steps of program implementation
	Use Data to Inform Decision-Making	**28. Plan to adaptively manage the eCDT program** • Build in designated time periods for monitoring and adaptation, particularly from the entities providing oversight • Design the program with a forward-thinking mindset by enabling possible use of modern and emerging technology in data analytics • Avoid prescribing a specific technology so that the program can adapt to change

IMPLEMENT:
Training, Uptake, Scale, & Adaptive Management
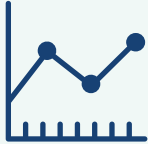
Icon	Principle	Pathway Step
	Build a Lasting and Scalable Program	**29. Pilot test the eCDT program** • Formalize partnership with the users and supporters who will be the first implementers • Deploy technology • Implement mechanism to receive and integrate feedback from the first implementers
	Be Inclusive and Collaborative with Stakeholders	**30. Provide user assistance, technical support, and capacity building as needed** • Provide training to stakeholders across the supply chain • Training and support could be to encourage uptake of the program, promote maintenance, or build capacity for the analysis and interpretation of data collected • Use culturally effective methods and ensure instructions are available in useful formats • Conduct stakeholder consultation to gather feedback
	Maximize Ecological, Social, and Economic Benefits	**31. Monitor and evaluate the efficacy of the eCDT program by analyzing data to determine if objectives (ecological, social, and economic) are being met**

Icon	Principle	Pathway Step
	Maximize Ecological, Social, and Economic Benefits	**32. Document the costs of the eCDT program implementation and project costs of long-term operation** • Conduct cost–benefit analysis and/or a return-on-investment (ROI) study using the collected baseline economic data • Consider conducting an economic impact study for government initiatives to advocate for sustained funding from state budgets • Identify other business drivers (facilitation, trade preference) • Consider documenting and publicly reporting environmental, social, and ecological benefits
	Maximize Ecological, Social, and Economic Benefits	**33. Assess the benefits, limitations, and challenges of the program in relation to equity and worker welfare** • Analyze worker participation in the creation and implementation of the eCDT program • Track and resolve concerns raised from workers regarding the program's efficacy and privacy • Monitor, evaluate, and adapt as needed • Evaluate the alignment and complementarity (as well as any gaps) in the roles of eCDT implementers and governmental agencies that monitor labor • Continue to strengthen the dialogue between fisheries operators and labor monitoring agencies to confirm that the data gathered is used for implementation and/or enforcement of human rights laws and other social benefits
	Maximize Ecological, Social, and Economic Benefits	**34. Evaluate whether data is accessed timely and analyzed usefully for fisheries management** • Ensure necessary agencies have clear data flows for assessing efficacy of the fisheries management strategy

Icon	Principle	Pathway Step
	Use Data to Inform Decision-Making	**35. Utilize monitoring and evaluation tools to a5sess eCDT program performance and identify opportunities for adaptive management** • Adapt and scale technology based on user feedback
	Build a Lasting and Scalable Program	**36. Outline scope and objective for scaling**
	Build a Lasting and Scalable Program	**37. Identify differences between the pilot and other areas for implementation** • Determine how objectives of the scaled program overlap and differ from that of the pilot • Assess resources for scaling: are the funds, staff, infrastructure, political will, and resource commitments still present and appropriate for the scope?
		38. Return to the 'Initiate' section when necessary

Apply the Principles

Apply Them to Your Work

The next step of this work is to apply and test the Comprehensive eCDT Principles and Pathway with implementers. If you are interested in applying these Principles to your work, let SALT know as we may be able to support your efforts. Please contact us with a request to have an informational session to discuss the opportunity and determine interest, needs, etc.

If you have any feedback or questions, reach out to us at: SALT@FishWise.org.
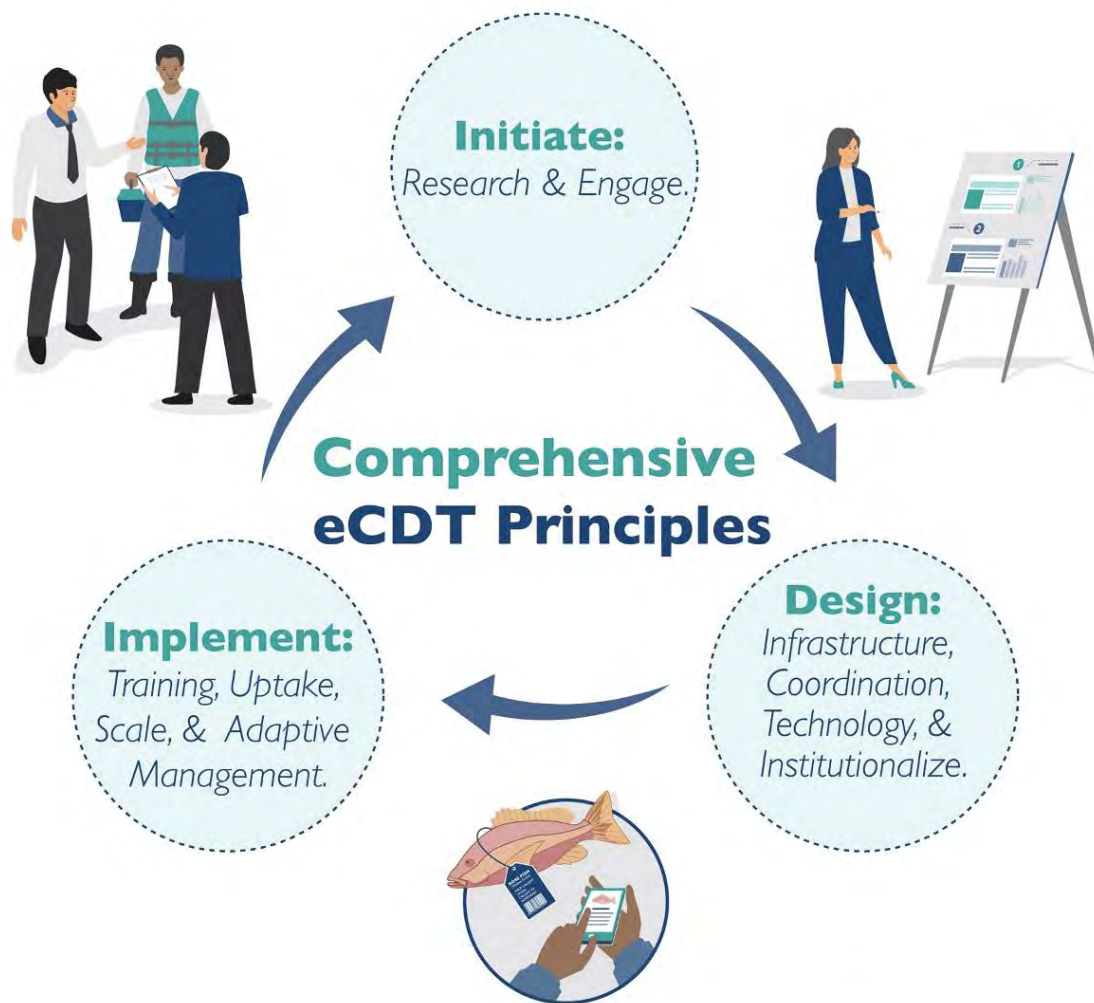
- eCDT

  The practice of digitally collecting, sharing, and tracking verifiable information about the harvesting, processing, and transportation of seafood products is electronic catch documentation and traceability (eCDT). Data from the harvest and movement of products–when captured and shared electronically–facilitate a quicker exchange of information, and enable broader use and more thorough verification by governments and within supply chains.

- Comprehensive

  A comprehensive approach is when data captured from eCDT systems is used to support ecological, social, and economic objectives. Using ecological, social, and economic data collected via electronic traceability, governments can strengthen the effectiveness of fisheries management, support legal and equitable human welfare conditions for seafood laborers, and identify and prevent illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) and mislabeled products from entering domestic and international markets.

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- Civil Society Organization (CSO)

  CSOs are non-State, not-for-profit, voluntary entities formed by people in the social sphere that are separate from the State and the market. CSOs represent a wide range of interests and ties. They can include community-based organizations as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In the context of the UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework, CSOs do not include business or for-profit associations. CSOs can include trade unions or other worker-led organizations.[1]

- Critical tracking event (CTE)

  CTEs are a specific point along a supply chain where certain key data elements need to be captured for the purpose of enabling traceability of a product. CTEs for seafood include harvest, landing, primary processing, aggregation, packaging, shipping, receiving, and sale.[2]

- Data verification

  Data verification is the capacity to cross-check product or company-level information at any point in the supply chain with data supplied by other stakeholders or vetted by third parties. Data verification is critical for proving the legitimacy of the data and for preventing what might develop as traceability fraud. Verification can include mass-balance; data entry checks; restrictions on the ability to delete or modify data at a later date; verification of data accuracy via fish tickets or landing documents; verification of legal fishing through vessel monitoring systems (VMS) or automatic identification system (AIS) operations; and certificate status for health code or chain of custody compliance.[2]

- Disenfranchised groups

    Disenfranchised groups are those deprived of some right, privilege, or immunity,[3] including women, youth, religious and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, LGBTI individuals, and indigenous peoples.[3]

- Electronic traceability

    Electronic traceability is when seafood product information relevant to traceability is recorded, stored, shared, and accessed via electronic means as opposed to using a paper based system. Elements of electronic traceability may include computerized or cloud-based databases, enterprise resource planning (ERP), Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), data standards, and barcodes or RFID systems (to name a few).[2]

- Gap analyses

    A "gap" refers to the space between the present state ("where we are") and the target state ("where we want to be"). It could also be viewed as a "needs assessment" or "need-gap analysis" in that challenges and opportunities are presented alongside priorities and timeframes to bridge the gap towards current capabilities and an ideal eCDT system.[5]

- Grievance Mechanism

    A grievance is understood to be a perceived injustice evoking an individual's or a group's sense of entitlement, which may be based on law, contract, explicit or implicit promises, customary practice, or general notions of fairness of aggrieved communities. The term grievance mechanism is used to indicate any routinized, State-based or non-State-based, judicial or non-judicial process through which grievances concerning business-related human rights abuse can be raised and remedy can be sought.[6]

- Human-centered design

    Human-centered design (HCD) is a way of thinking that places the people you're trying to serve and other important stakeholders at the center of the design and implementation process.[7]

- Human rights

    Human rights are the rights people are entitled to simply because they are human beings, irrespective of their citizenship, nationality, race, ethnicity, language, gender, etc. This term refers to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights which lists 30 articles defining those rights, including that "all humans are born free and equal...have a right to life, liberty and security of person...shall not be held in slavery or servitude...everyone has a right to leave any country...everyone has a right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment"[8]

- Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU)

    "Illegal fishing activities are those being conducted without permission or in violation of formal laws and regulations. Unreported fishing occurs when landings are not reported to the government or fishery management authority. Unregulated fishing is the harvesting of fish and shellfish stocks for which there are no conservation or management measures in place."[2]

- Interoperability

    Interoperability refers to the ability of different information technology systems or software programs to communicate seamlessly for the purpose of exchanging and using data. For systems to be truly interoperable, they must have both semantic (common meaning) and syntactic (common format) interoperability.[2]

- Key data elements (KDE)

    KDEs are the different pieces of information that capture the who, what, where, and when of a seafood product as it moves through different Critical Tracking Events in the supply chain. Industry-wide agreement about what information needs to be captured continues to be a work-in-progress.[2]

- Labor Protections

    "Labour protection aims to promote decent working conditions and focuses on the economic, temporal and physical aspects of the individual at work: wages, working time, and occupational safety and health".[9]

- Marginalized groups

  Marginalized groups are different groups of people within a given culture, context and history at risk of being subjected to multiple discrimination due to the interplay of different personal characteristics or grounds, such as sex, gender, age, ethnicity, religion or belief, health status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, education or income, or living in various geographic localities.[10]

- Remedy

  Remedies, often provided by grievance mechanisms, take a range of forms designed to "counteract or make good any human rights harms that have occurred. Remedy may include apologies, restitution, rehabilitation, financial or non-financial compensation and punitive sanctions (whether criminal or administrative, such as fines), as well as the prevention of harm through, for example, injunctions or guarantees of non-repetition. Procedures for the provision of remedy should be impartial, protected from corruption and free from political or other attempts to influence the outcome."[6]

- Social safeguards

  Social safeguard policies are essential tools to prevent and mitigate undue harm to people during the development process. When identifying and designing a project, safeguards should help assess the potential social risks and impacts (positive or negative) associated with a development intervention. Safeguards should help define measures and processes to effectively manage risks and enhance positive impacts.[11]

- Stakeholder

  Stakeholders are the individuals, groups, or institutions who affect or are affected by a decision or activity.[12]

- Supply chain

  People and businesses involved with the production, processing, brokering, and distribution of seafood from fisher to consumer comprise the supply chain. Seafood may be transformed multiple times along the supply chain as it changes hands from one member of the supply chain to another.[2]

For definitions of other terms related to seafood traceability, visit Future of Fish's Glossary.

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