

Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability

Overview

The Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability is a collaboration platform for knowledge exchange and action to strengthen sustainable fisheries management and combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUUF) through increased seafood traceability and sector modernization.

The Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability's objectives are to:

- 1) expand accessible, interoperable and electronic catch documentation and traceability,
- 2) increase source countries' capacity to adopt electronic catch documentation and traceability (eCDT) systems to strengthen fishery management and verify fisheries data
- 3) increase incentives and capacities for industry to adopt electronic traceability to ensure the legality of wild-caught fisheries products in their supply chains.

Approach

The Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability will catalyze action and accelerate learning through activities such as case studies, a web portal and in-person convenings of market countries, source countries, the seafood industry and other stakeholders, ultimately empowering a critical mass of seafood companies to implement traceability, for both wild capture and aquaculture. The Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability will enable stakeholders to clarify the needs, challenges and opportunities for working on IUUF and sustainable fisheries management and focus on those best addressed through collaboration. It will be a catalyst to create solutions that transform how traceability pilot projects, the seafood industry and governments collect, share, verify and ultimately utilize data in the pursuit of sustainable fisheries.

Value

The Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability will help countries meet their international commitments to sustainable and legal fisheries and provide additional value for a diverse group of stakeholders. For example:

- Industry will value increased traceability in supply chains, comply with import requirements, reduce risk, and contribute to more sustainable fisheries
- Source countries will understand and implement criteria for market access, as well as the value of using eCDT for improved management
- Market countries will be able to share information about their seafood import regulations, leading to enhanced compliance and strengthened demand for legal seafood
- All stakeholders will learn lessons from traceability and electronic data collection pilots and collaborate on how to act on those findings.

Origins & Next Steps

The Walton Family Foundation developed the Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability's initial concept note, which is in review by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). FishWise, a non-profit sustainable seafood consultancy, and key funding partners are now in the early stages of project design. If awarded, co-design process led by Washington D.C.-based CollaborateUp will begin in October 2017. A Co-Design Advisory Committee will likely consist of the Walton, Packard and Moore Foundations, USAID, State Department, and NOAA, as well as possible representatives from other NGOs, source and market country governments, and industry. The project will launch in 2018 and a Cross-Sectoral Leadership Group (CSLG) will take on a critical operational and leadership role with implementation led by FishWise.