

TRACEABILITY THAT WORKS FOR SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

GDST Expansion Framework Dialogue: Small-Scale Fisheries (Wild Capture)

CASS Conference - Fish Market Session

Day Two, 23 September 2026

Facilitated by the Small-Scale Fishery Intermediary Collective (SSFIC)
In collaboration with the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST)



SSFIC

Small-Scale Fishery Tech & Markets
Intermediary Collective



What is the Small Scale Fishery Tech & Markets Intermediary Collective?

A global collective strengthening sustainable and socially just market access for small-scale fishers

THE PROBLEM

~50%

of world's seafood landed
by small-scale fishers

<1%

of global ocean
investment
reaches small-scale
fisheries

\$83B

in annual lost benefit from
underperforming fisheries
(World Bank)

The Missing Middle

SSF intermediaries are the connective tissue of small-scale fisheries.

Positioned at the first mile of the value chain, they aggregate catch, ensure quality and traceability, integrate technology, and support cooperative development.

Despite their pivotal role, they fall into the blind spot of conventional ocean finance.

The SSF Intermediary Collective brings together 38+ organisations — social enterprises, NGOs, tech platforms, cooperatives — operating across 20+ countries.

We share a conviction: we are stronger, more visible, and more able to support small-scale fishers by channeling investments and collaborating together rather than working apart.



What Is the SSF Intermediary Collective?



Why We Exist

To unite the 'enablers' of small-scale fisheries globally — sharing knowledge, co-developing tools, and building a collective voice to shift systems that constrain SSF.



Who We Are

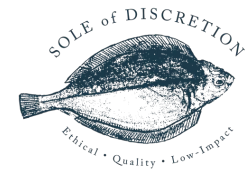
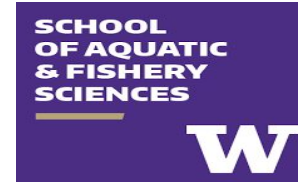
38+ organisations spanning social enterprises, NGOs, tech platforms, research and finance specialists. Members operate across Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.

How We Operate

Monthly virtual peer exchanges, an active LinkedIn community, a shared resource library, collaborative projects and an annual in-person convening — held first in Cape Town, August 2025.

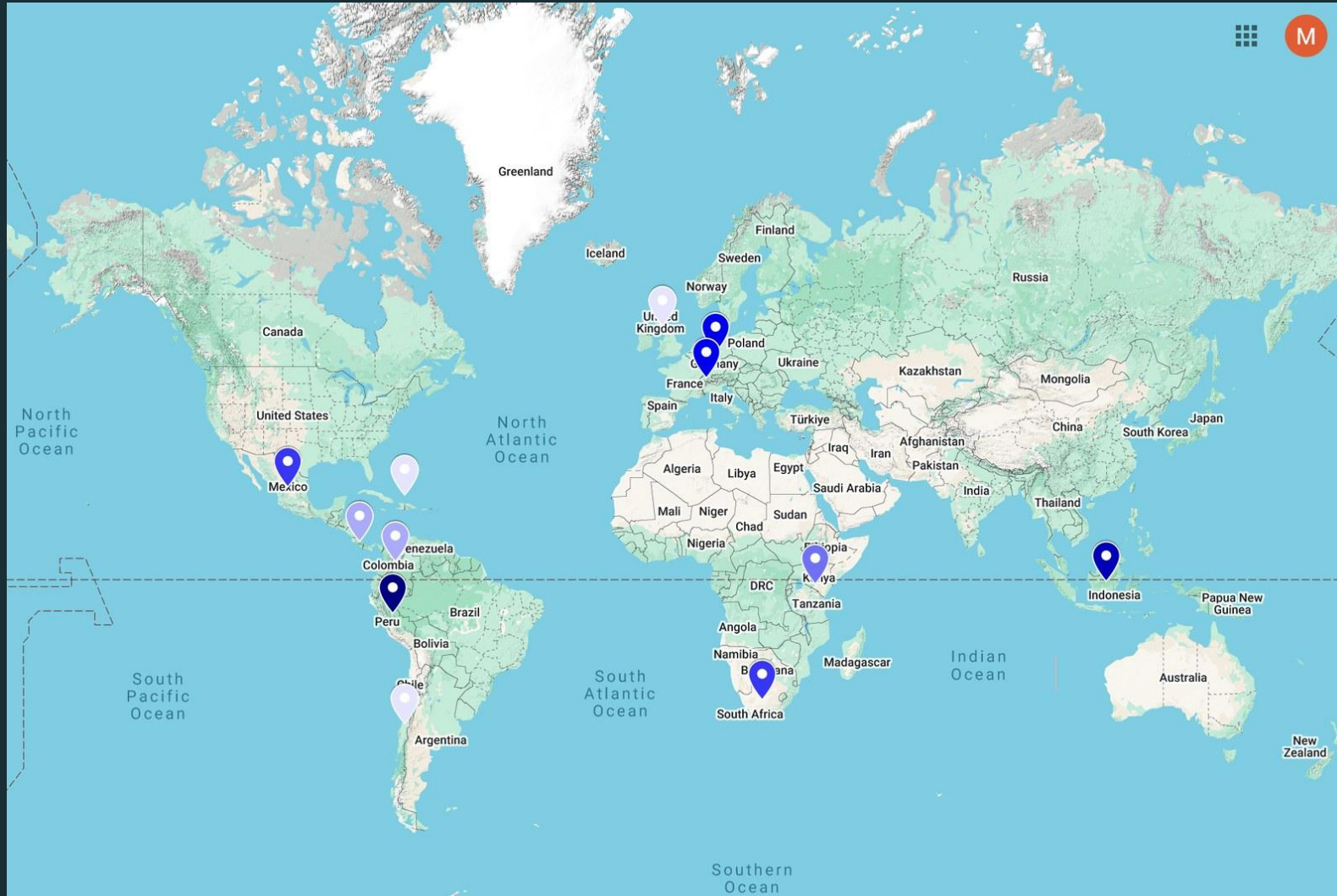
WHO WE ARE

38+ organisations spanning social enterprises, NGOs, tech platforms, research & finance



...and growing. Members include intermediaries, tech providers, NGOs, research institutions and finance specialists.

A Global Network, Rooted in Local Practice



Latin America

Mexico · Peru · Chile · Colombia · Costa Rica

West & Southern Africa

South Africa · Ghana · Kenya

South & SE Asia

Indonesia · Philippines · Malaysia

Europe

UK · Switzerland · Netherlands · Ireland

North America

USA · Canada

Caribbean

Turks & Caicos

38+ Organisations

20+ Countries

31,481 Fishers Reached

24.7M kg Seafood Traded

2025–26: What We Are Building



Activity

- ❑ **Global community of practice** with virtual and in-person collaborative working sessions.
- ❑ **Shared SSF impact metrics framework** for common indicators and collective impact measurement.
- ❑ **SSF Equitable Markets Fund investment case** exploring scalable financing solutions for SSF.
- ❑ **GDST Expansion Framework dialogue** leadership to make standard achievable for SSF
- ❑ **Sector engagement and thought leadership** through conferences, publications, and webinars.

Collective Reach – initial shared metrics

31,481

fishers reached (target: 100k)

24.7M kg

seafood traded across members

\$19.7M

combined annual revenue

28.75%

avg fisher price increase achieved

\$26.5M

combined capital raise target

~Masters

thesis on SSF metrics near completion

GDST Expansion Framework dialogue for SSF Wild Capture Fisheries

What this dialogue is for:

Making the GDST standard achievable for small-scale fisheries (wild capture).

How the dialogue runs:

- **Meetings** Virtual calls every 6–8 weeks for one year, from July 2026
- **Between-call work** Document review between calls
- **Working groups** Small working groups if and when are needed.



Why is this conversation important?

Traceability should create opportunities, not barriers.

Most traceability systems, certifications, and market requirements were designed around large-scale, industrial fisheries with greater resources, infrastructure, and data capacity. When the same requirements are applied uniformly to small-scale fisheries, they can unintentionally become barriers to market access rather than pathways to inclusion.

Equity is not about lowering standards—it is about ensuring everyone has a fair opportunity to meet them.

The GDST Expansion Framework for SSF seeks to reduce the obstacles that exclude—or make it disproportionately difficult for—small-scale fisheries to meet traceability requirements and participate in formal markets.



GDST Common Language

The GDST Key Data Elements (KDEs) and Critical Tracking Events (CTEs) are essential components of the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) standard.

- KDEs are specific pieces of information that must be captured and shared at various points in the seafood supply chain to ensure traceability and transparency. These elements help verify the origin, legality, and sustainability of seafood products
- Critical Tracking Events (CTEs) are specific points in the supply chain where data (KDE) capture is essential to maintain traceability.

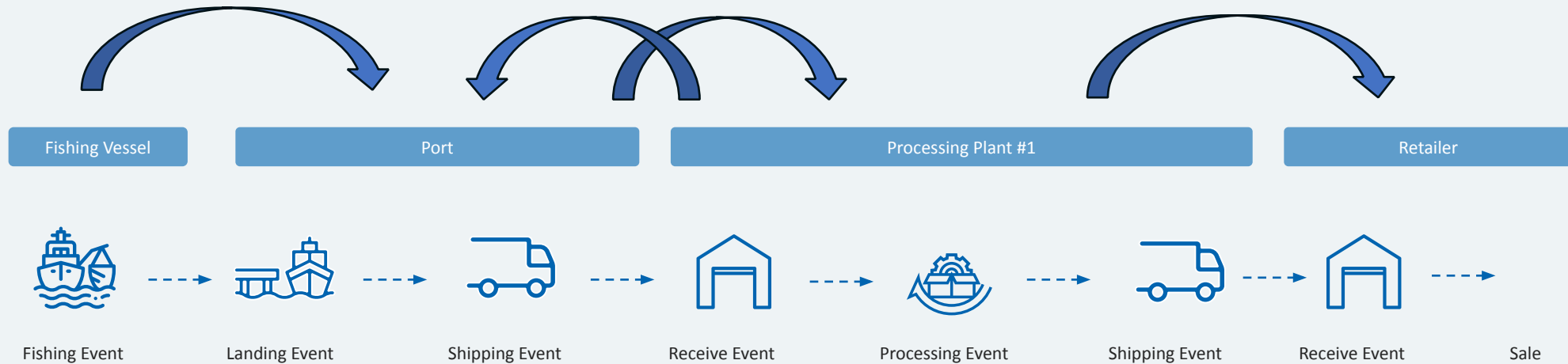
GDST will work with the Small-Scale Fisheries dialogue during 2026 and into 2027 to obtain a consensus output of a set of KDEs specific to these fisheries and where in the supply chain (CTE) this data needs to be obtained.

*Currently there are a number of specific KDEs for Wild capture Fishery and Aquaculture, and these are being re-categorized in the next iteration of the standard – due out in Sept 2026



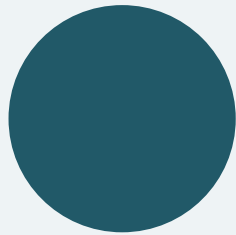
The key challenge is not LACK of data ...

.. the key challenge is how we effectively share data on critical events through the supply chain with inconsistent language & data formats ... and then addressing data (in)completeness



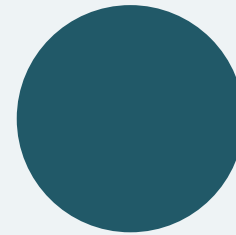
A shared Industry vision on traceability data exchange through cross-sector collaboration is key.

Process:



Assess the core standard

Identify where SSF can and can't yet meet the core GDST standard.



Identify SSF-appropriate additions

Determine what modifications are needed, by SSF-appropriate means.



GDST CTEs & KDEs (wild capture)

Fishing	On Vessel Processing	Transshipment	Landing	Aggregation/ Disaggregation	Shipping/Receiving	Processing
Who - Vessel name - Vessel registration - Unique vessel identification - Public vessel registry hyperlink - Vessel flag - Satellite vessel tracking authority - Product Ownership - Information Provider	Who - Vessel name - Vessel registration - Unique vessel identification - Public vessel registry hyperlink - Vessel flag - Product Ownership - Information Provider	Who - Transshipment Vessel Name - Transshipment Vessel Unique Vessel ID - Transshipment Vessel Registration - Transshipment Vessel Flag - Product Ownership - Information Provider	Who - Product Ownership - Information Provider	Who - Product Ownership - Information Provider	Who - Product Ownership - Information Provider	Who - Product Ownership - Information Provider
What - Species - Product form - Item/SKU/UPC/GTIN - Linking KDE (batch, lot, or serial number) - Weight or quantity - Unit of measure	What - Species - Product form - Item/SKU/UPC/GTIN - Linking KDE (batch, lot, or serial number) - Weight or quantity - Unit of measure	What - Species - Product form - Item/SKU/UPC/GTIN - Linking KDE (batch, lot, or serial number) - Weight or quantity - Unit of measure	What - Species - Product form - Item/SKU/UPC/GTIN - Linking KDE (batch, lot, or serial number) - Weight or quantity - Unit of measure	What - Species - Product form - Item/SKU/UPC/GTIN - Linking KDE (batch, lot, or serial number) - Weight or quantity - Unit of measure	What - Species - Product form - Item/SKU/UPC/GTIN - Linking KDE (batch, lot, or serial number) - Weight or quantity - Unit of measure	What - Species - Product form - Item/SKU/UPC/GTIN - Linking KDE (batch, lot, or serial number) - Weight or quantity - Unit of measure
Where - Availability of catch coordinates - Catch area - FIP - Event Read Point (Geo Location)	Where - Product Origin - Event Read Point (Geo Location)	Where - Transshipment Location - Event Read Point (Geo Location)	Where - Landing Location - Event Read Point (Geo Location)	Where Event Read Point (Geo Location)	Where - Event Read Point (Geo Location) - Source Location - Destination Location	Where - Product Origin - Event Read Point (Geo Location)
When - Vessel trip dates - Dates of capture - Event ID - Event Date, Time and Time Zone	When - Expiration/Production Date - Event ID - Event Date, Time and Time Zone	When - Dates of Transshipment - Event ID - Event Date, Time and Time Zone	When - Dates of Landing - Event ID - Event Date, Time and Time Zone	When - Event ID - Event Date, Time and Time Zone	When - Event ID - Event Date, Time and Time Zone	When - Expiration or Production Date - Event ID - Event Date, Time and Time Zone
IUU Specific - Gear type - Production method - Fishing authorization - Harvest certification - Existence of human welfare policy - Human welfare policy standards	IUU Specific - Chain of Custody Certification - Existence of Human Welfare Policy - Human Welfare Policy Standards	IUU Specific - Chain of Custody Certification - Transshipment Authorization - Existence of Human Welfare Policy - Human Welfare Policy Standards	IUU Specific - Landing Authorization - Existence of Human Welfare Policy - Human Welfare Policy Standards	IUU Specific Chain of Custody Certification	IUU Specific Chain of Custody Certification	IUU Specific - Chain of Custody Certification - Existence of Human Welfare Policy - Human Welfare Policy Standards

On Vessel Processing

Who

- Vessel name
- Vessel registration
- Unique vessel identification
- Public vessel registry hyperlink
- Vessel flag
- Product Ownership
- Information Provider

What

- Species
- Product form
- Item/SKU/UPC/GTIN
- Linking KDE (batch, lot, or serial number)
- Weight or quantity
- Unit of measure

Where

- Product Origin
- Event Read Point (Geo Location)

CASS CONFERENCE - FISH MARKET

- Who should join this fish market session:
 - Do you work with SSF and do you have experience implementing a traceability system? This session is perfect for you, though all are welcome.
- What we will discuss:
 - Issues and roadblocks with SSF traceability systems
 - Observations on selected KDEs

Want to stay involved?

CONTACT:

Momo Kochen - kochenmomo@gmail.com

Cristina Liberati - cristina@smartfishac.org

REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXPANSION FRAMEWORK DIALOGUE PROCESS:

(note: this is separate from your participation in the CASS Conference Fish Market Session)

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe-TJgvv5RkZFcRT-AbzxY_IT9IRP76-3Upmx5GR0ST1s_ymGw/viewform



Thank you!