Taking the First Steps Towards Full Chain Traceability

STEP 1: Understand the definitions and functions of full-chain traceability

Robust traceability is end-to-end, water to plate

6 ATTRIBUTES
6 principles of effective traceability for wild capture

5 FUNCTIONS
5 core functions of robust full-chain traceability

STEP 2: Establish your baselines: internal and external

You need to know where you stand in order to know what you need

a Review your current internal and external traceability capabilities

b Review your current internal capacity and practices
note: Multiple proprietary or publicly available risk assessment and benchmarking tools exist to help with (a) and (b). See: Advisory Note for the UK Supply Chain.

c Make sure to identify: traceability data currently in play; the ability to scale to enable full-chain traceability; internal traceability mechanisms to best meet the needs and goals of business; and internal traceability team (i.e. who needs to be part of decision-making)

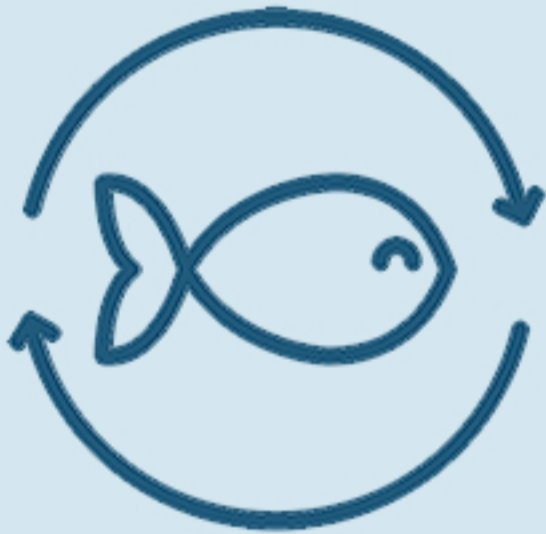**STEP 3:** Evaluate supply chain-level traceability needs and goals

Traceability is a supply chain decision: engage your trading partners

• Identify goals of traceability investment (see questionnaire here)
• Each trading partner needs to map their supply chain
• Determine intent of traceability implementation for each partner, e.g.:

Meeting compliance

Fulfilling transparency or sustainability commitments

Reaching new markets

STEP 4: Engage traceability technology providers

Full-chain traceability likely requires multiple technology providers to meet all services

To find the right traceability technology partners, we recommend a public Request For Proposal (RFP) process (coming soon).

WHY?
• Saves time on researching and finding vendors—they come to you
• Allows for competitive (and cost-reducing) bids
• Encourages joint-proposals from multiple vendors to meet data needs via interoperable systems
• Detailed RFP encourages customized proposals to fit company and supply chain needs
• Can scale to release multiple, coordinated RFPs simultaneously across a group of trading partners

For more details on these steps, please see the comprehensive document "Taking the First Steps Towards Full-Chain Traceability: a Preliminary Guide for Industry" published in December 2017.

Additional resources available:

• educational resources about traceability
• tools to help industry assess company-level or supply chain-specific traceability needs and requirements
• educational activities to help guide individual companies or groups of trading partners through the educational and implementation process