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Traceability Enhancement Program (TEP)

Presented to the EU Market Advisory Council

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Agenda

1. Background
2. Overview of the MSC Traceability Enhancement Program (TEP)
3. Proposed Benefits to Partners
4. Current and Future Timelines

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Background

Traceability Enhancement Program - TEP

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MSC Introduction

- MSC is the leading global wild capture ecolabelling and certification solution for the seafood industry.
- Recognised by the UN FAO, TNFD and trusted by market actors and consumers.
- As a global not for profit, it offers an independent, non-partial and credible program to the seafood sector to demonstrate sustainable credentials.

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Background - Seafood Digital Traceability

- Global effort from regulators and industry to improve seafood traceability to fight against IUU and Food Fraud.

- Increased consumer interest in the provenance of food, how it is produced and the journey to plate.

- Evolving legislation EU, US, Japan, Korea & PRC requiring seafood supply chains to collect standardized traceability data in major seafood consuming markets often digitally.

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Evolving Regulation

- Increasingly legislation is requiring seafood supply chains to collect standardized traceability data in major seafood consuming markets with driving towards digital record keeping:

  - EU - Control Regulations, Article 58 (IUU) Jan 2024 -2026
  - US - Seafood Import Monitoring Program, SIMP (IUU) 2018
  - US - Food Safety Modernization Act FSMA 204 (Food Safety) Jan 2028
  - Japan - Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants (IUU) 2022
  - Korea - Distant Water Fisheries Development Act and Fishery Products Distribution and Support (IUU) 2024
  - China - General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods GB 7718-2025 (Food Safety) March 2027

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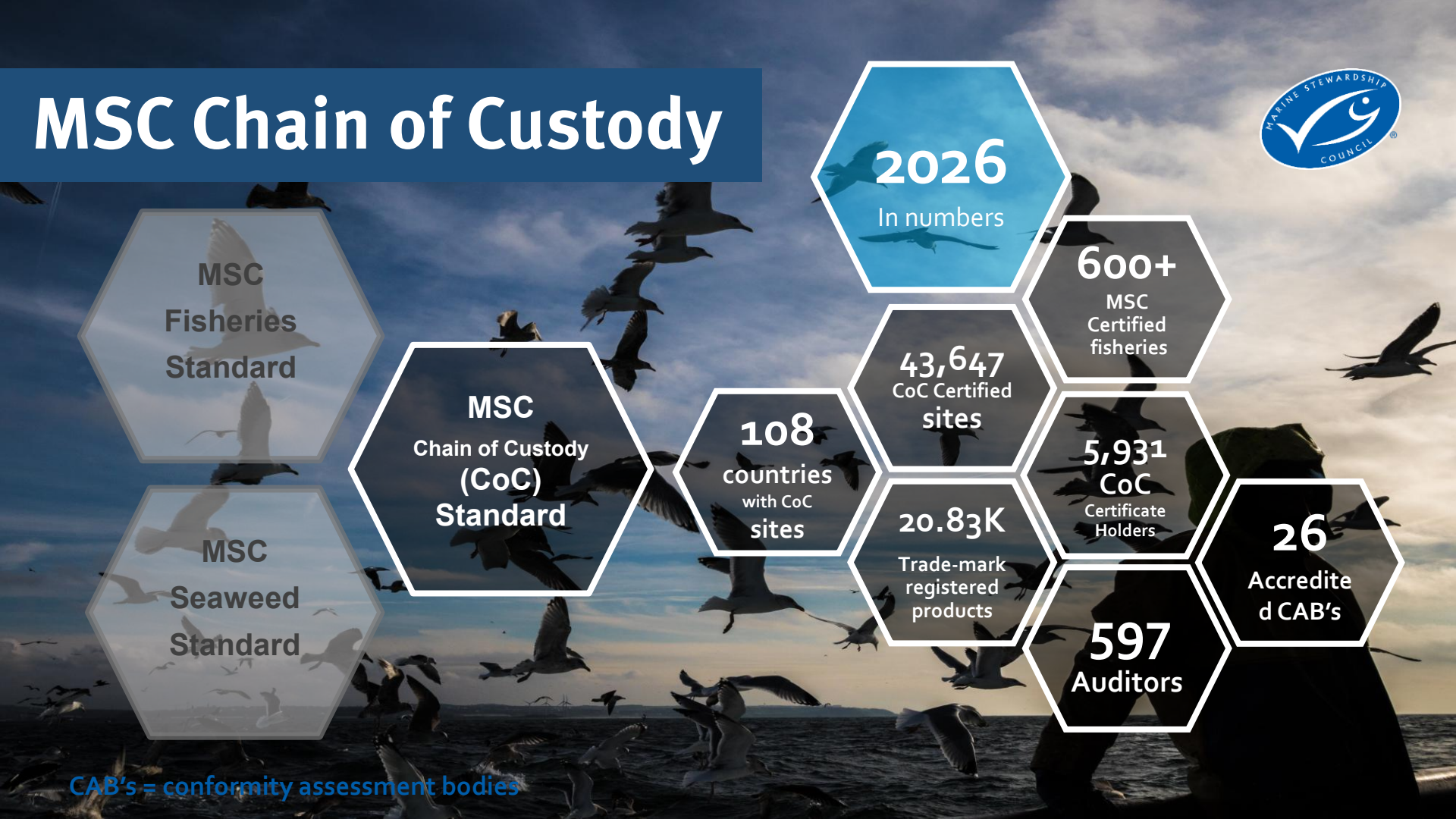
MSC Chain of Custody



CAB's = conformity assessment bodies

The MSC Chain of Custody Assurance

Principle 1
SOURCE

Companies must purchase certified product from a certified supplier

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Principle 2
IDENTIFY

Certified products are clearly identifiable

Principle 3
SEGREGATE

Certified products are separated from non-certified

Principle 4
TRACE + RECORD

Certified products are traceable and volumes are recorded

Principle 5
MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

The company's management system addresses CoC Standard requirements

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Overview of TEP

A Pathway to 2030: Evolving the MSC's Seafood Assurance Program

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MSC Traceability Enhancement Program Vision

- MSC CoC Standard includes new requirements for certificate holders to collect traceability data in a **standardized, digital** format.

- MSC implements **interoperable** software to perform automated traceability data verifications on certificate holders' data.

- Based on **EPCIS** data standard + the **Global Dialogue for Seafood Traceability** (GDST)'s interoperability standard

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Why did we go down this road?

Interoperability Seafood Industry does not have to invest in specific software

Globally recognised **common data standards** EPCIS

KDEs developed by GDST (Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability) for **Seafood Industry**

Potential to **reduce audit burden**, both time and cost

Decentralised data model, "**light touch" approach** MSC does not hold data to mitigate costs and risks

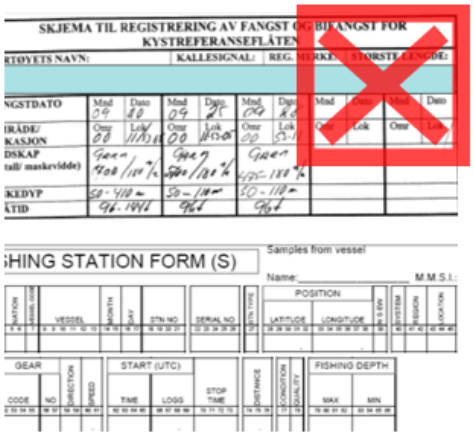
Certificate Holders' sensitive **commercial data anonymized and aggregated**

Integrate with IT Solution Providers for "**network effect**" to scale faster

TEP program is building the architecture to support partners

Importance of Data standardisation

Scanned Record



Digitized Data

Date	Species	Weight
4/23/21	Atlantic cod	500 kg
May 5, 2020	Pacific cod	482 lbs
26/6/2022	Bluefin tuna	.56 tons

Standardized Data

Date	Species	Weight
23/4/2021	Atlantic cod	500 kg
5/5/2020	Pacific cod	218.6 kg
26/6/2022	Bluefin tuna	560 kg

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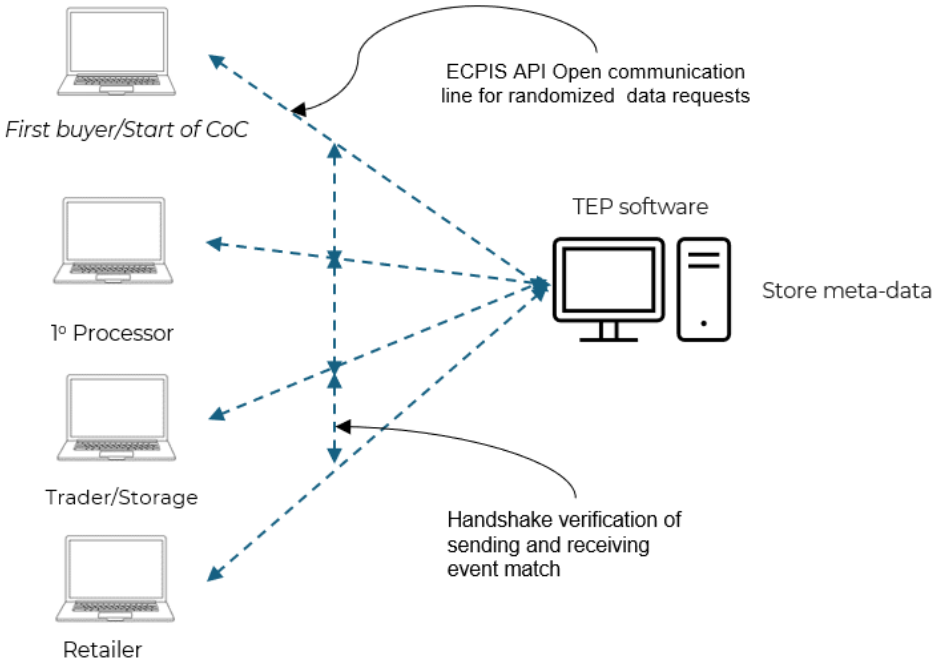
TEP Digital Verification Tool



- The tool is based on EPCIS common data language & the GDST Standards.
- The tool is “Interoperable”
- Performs digital verification against partner system to verify traceability data
- Deletes data once check performed, retains meta data

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Proposed Benefits to Partners

TEP Value Drivers – Partners

- Importance of data standardisation to support partners meeting regulatory requirements
- Mitigate partner reputational risk
- Risk based approach to reduce audit burden and reward best practice
- Red Flagging support Partners with Traceability Data Integrity
- Build trust in supply chain to share data by protecting partners data confidentiality

Potential Long-Term Benefits

- Benefit from sector alignment on **data standardization and harmonization**.
- Incentivize **implementation of digital traceability** systems for our certificate holders.
- An **interoperable** approach allows partners to choose a digital system that works for their business. It does not require partners to input data in a specific MSC platform.
- Potential for risk-based auditing which aims to **reduce audit burden** for certificate holders.
- **Reduce time spent on traceability tests** during audits**.**
- **More frequent, automated verification** of traceability data.

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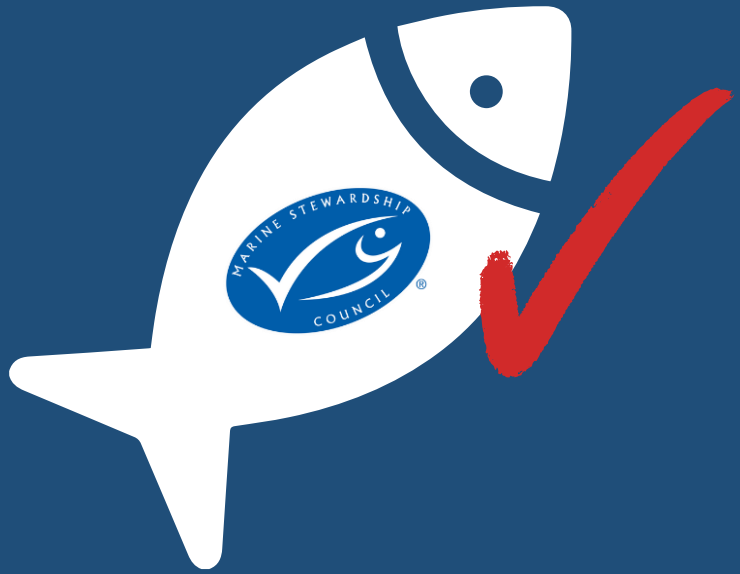
Current & Future Timelines

Traceability Enhancement Pilots



- Recognition of the importance of data **standardisation**, **digitalisation** and **interoperability** to address traceability needs across the seafood industry.

- The MSC Innovation Team is currently working with interested partners to participate in ongoing pilots:
  - Testing the interoperable verification tool
  - Standardising and digitising traceability requirements throughout the MSC program

MSC Pilots: Jan 25- September 26

Traceability data survey (Excel spreadsheet):

The goal: Test the completeness and relevance of the proposed MSC Critical Tracking Events (CTE) and Key Data Element (KDE) list.

Digital traceability verification tool:

The goal: Test the TEP verification tool using partner data to improve its functionality and assess its readiness.

Partner needs to have a GDST-capable system.

ERP (ie. SAP) is a digital system but not compatible with the verification tool.

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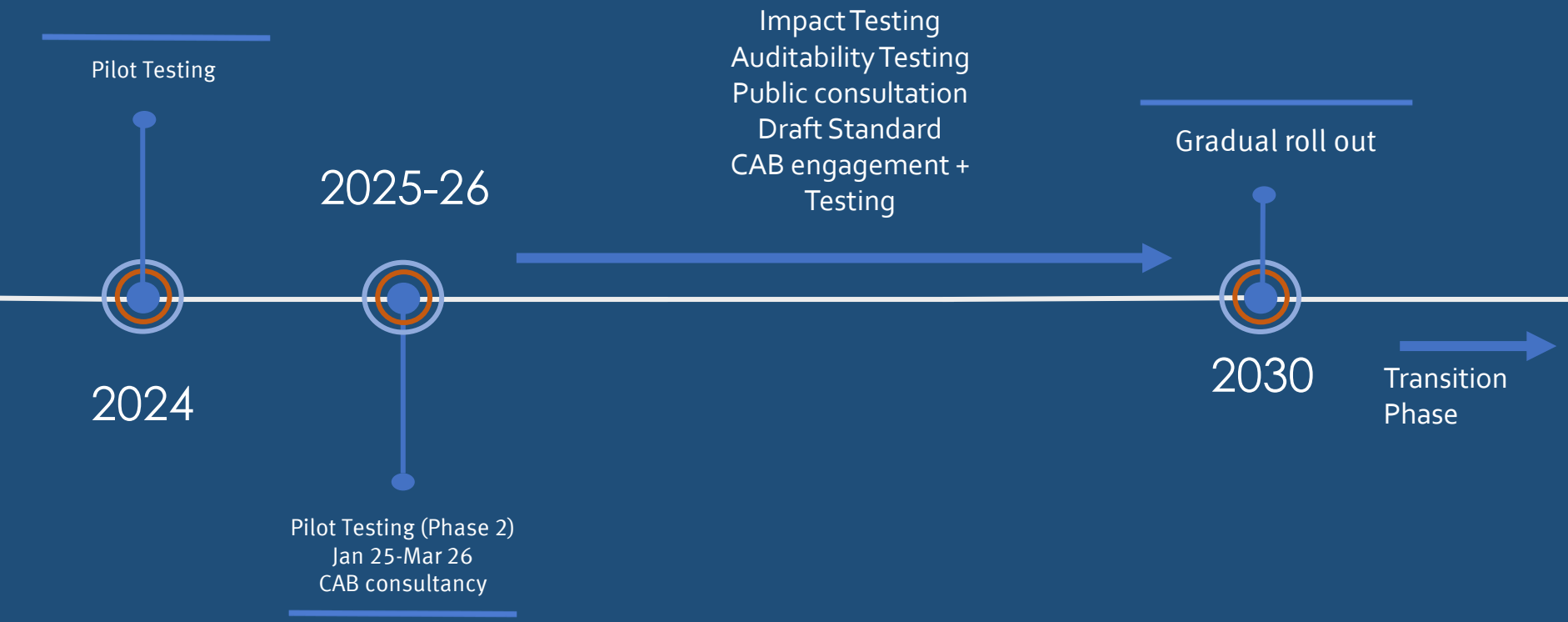
The Future


Pilot Testing
2024
2025-26
Pilot Testing (Phase 2)
Jan 25-Mar 26
CAB consultancy
Impact Testing
Auditability Testing
Public consultation
Draft Standard
CAB engagement +
Testing
Gradual roll out
2030
Transition
Phase

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Thank you!

Any Questions?

Included for reference and additional detail

Key Concepts

- **Event-based traceability:** breaks down complex supply chains into a series of events – like harvesting, shipping, processing, or receiving – that are common to all commodities. The practice of recording data at each of those events as a product moves through its supply chain is known as event-based
- **Critical Tracking Event (CTE):** The events that must be recorded to allow for the effective traceability of products in the supply chain (ie. shipping, receiving, processing).
- **Key Data Element (KDE):** The information necessary for traceability to be functional and verifiable. This includes the necessary data required to successfully trace a product and/or its ingredients through all relevant Critical Tracking Events (CTEs). (ie. species, product form, quantity, location name, etc).
- **Interoperable/interoperability**: Interoperability refers to the standards, protocols, technologies, and mechanisms that allow data to flow between diverse systems with minimal human intervention. It allows diverse systems to talk to each other and share information in real time.

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Benefits of Interoperability

Interoperability *refers to the standards, protocols, technologies, and mechanisms that allow data to flow between diverse systems with minimal human intervention. It allows diverse systems to talk to each other and share information in real time.*

- Benefits of Interoperability:
- **Streamline data management**: allows information to move more cohesively without being disrupted by system incompatibility or human processes
- **Enhance productivity**: provides effortless data sharing among disparate systems
- **Promote scalability**: share data at scale without being restricted by structural and operational limitations.
- **Reduce cost**: Non-interoperable systems must apply additional steps to ensure reliable and accurate data exchange. This may involve tasks like installing a middleware, which formats and distributes data between exchange points. Shifting to systems with better interoperability can reduce ongoing expenses.

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