

Market Advisory Council: WG 2 EU Markets

Traceability questionnaire: Initial results and reflections

MARE D.4

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General information

- 138 companies and associations from the fisheries, aquaculture, seafood transformation and commercialization sectors have provided answers.
- Among them 55 (40%) were small, local scaled organizations (number and %) while 83 (60%) were mostly operating at a national or international level.
- Companies from fifteen MS were represented.
- Additionnally, we had targeted exchanges with some stakeholders

1. LOTS

Do you foresee any challenges or technical requirements for the recording, transmission, or handling of information required for the following ?

The answers tend to indicate that most of the challenges concern lots created by merging or splitting others lots.

Overall the main takeaways are the following :

- Implementation of aggregation rules: For example, for small and merged lots, and the standardization of digital tools.
- Be guided by alleviate the administrative burden for operators reorganizing lots on a daily basis
- Improving interoperability and reducing discrepancies between the IT tools used by each actor.

2. DATA RECORDING AND STORAGE

- A majority of respondents declared retaining data between three and five years.
- More than half of the respondents use both digital and paper format for storage. When only one of those means is used it is in 75% cases digital format.
- The main takeaways are the following :

Attention to coordination and consistent documentation for imported products and catch certificates

- EU scaled harmonization between format and reporting tools used by actors.
- Clarifying the requirement regarding the data on vessels identifiers, fishing methods or FAO codes of the species to ensure general reporting compliance

3. DIGITAL TRANSMISSION

Have you identified any challenges or technical needs related to the digital transmission of traceability information or providing digital access to it?

42% of the respondents transmit digitally the information requested in article 58 (5) to the Member State authorities, and 54% transmit it to their receiving operators.

28% of the respondents apply some kind of internationally recognized standards, most frequently GS1 and GSDT

The main takeaways are the following :

- The need for more harmonized EU wide data formats and technical specifications, to avoid interoperability problems between suppliers, customers, and authorities.
- Impact of the IT investment required, in particular for ERP adaptation, interface development, labelling systems, and staff training.

4. MARKING OF LOTS

Have you encountered any challenges or technical needs related to marking lots of fishery and aquaculture products? If yes, please provide details on those challenges and requirements

40% of the respondents have declared applying internationally recognized standards” for the marking of the products, the others using internal company specific lot numbering systems or national labelling rules or sector specific practices.

The key takeaway are the following :

- Implementing framework to consider complexities when lots are frequently split, merged, repacked, or re labelled, especially in high volume environments.
- Improving interoperability when different customers require different barcode formats or data structures.
- Harmonizing EU guidance on minimum marking requirements and accepted formats.

Thank you for your attention



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