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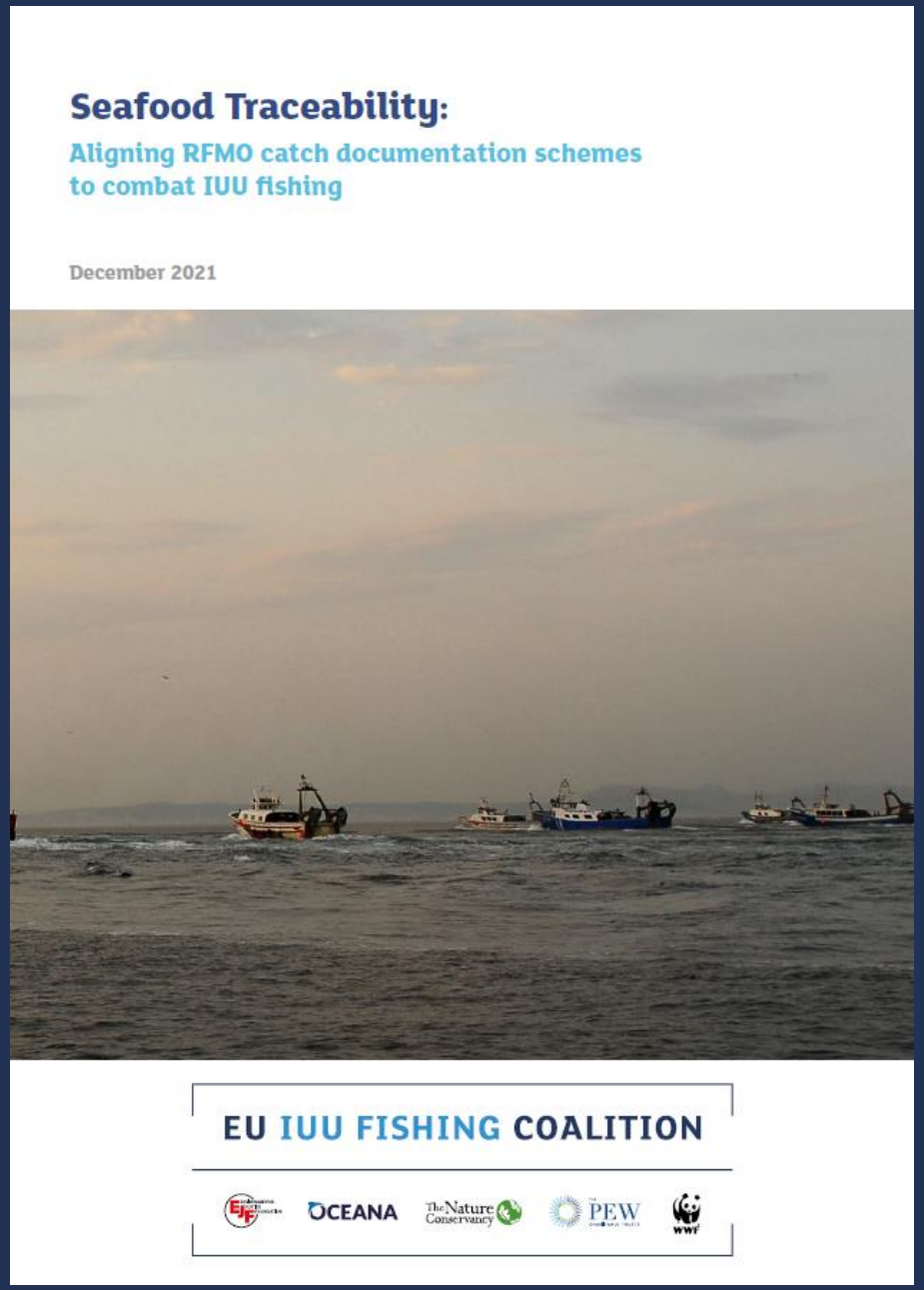
Why is Seafood Traceability Important in an Era of Climate Change?



Why seafood traceability is important in an era of Climate change?

Alexandre Cornet

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June 2022

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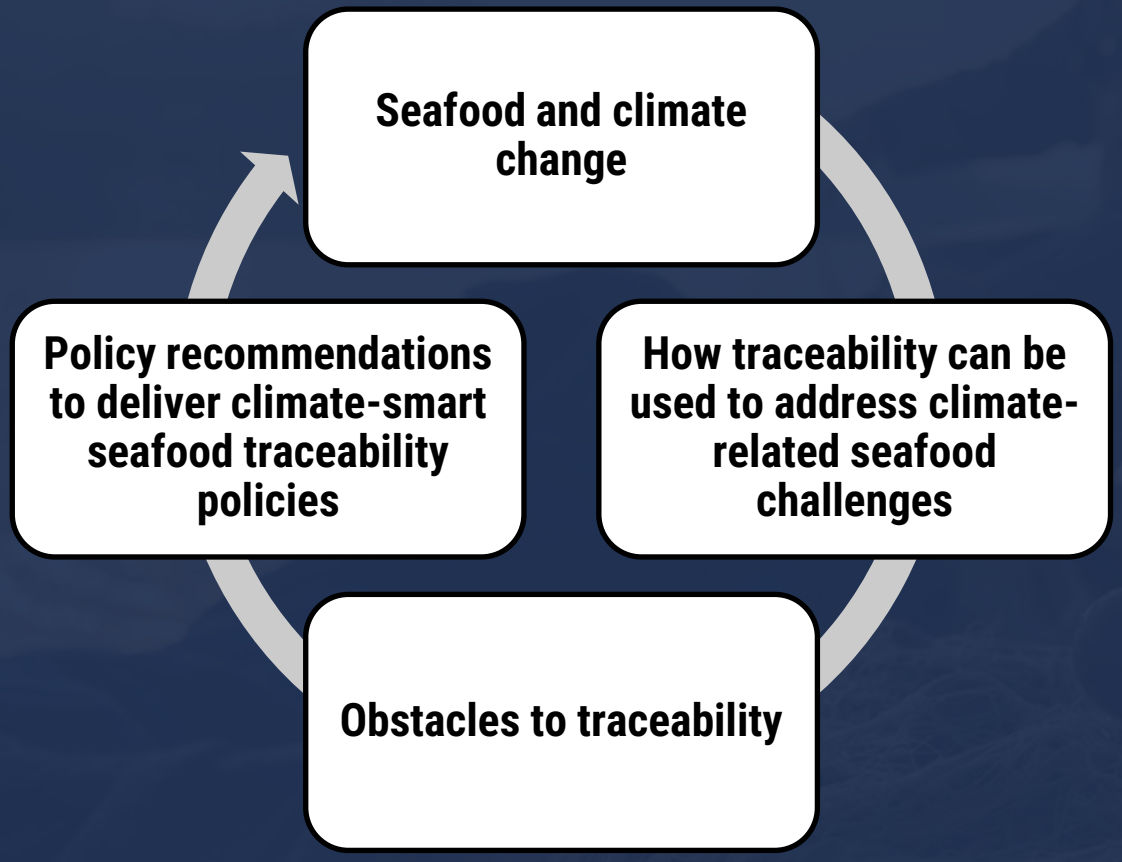

Seafood and climate change: what science tells us (IPCC)

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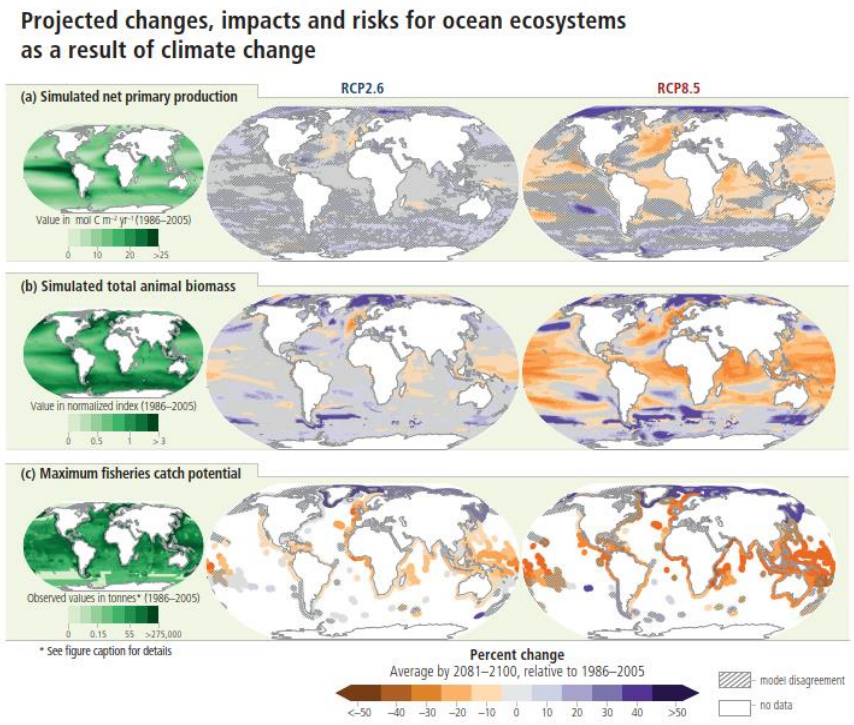

Projected risks for marine ecosystems…	… Cascading effects …	… On humans …
Decrease in : • Global biomass of marine animal communities • Production of marine animal communities **Shifts in species** : • Composition • Spatial distribution • Abundance	By 2100, a decrease of fisheries maximum catch potential of up to 25% relative to 1986–2005 under high emissions scenario	Affecting income, livelihoods, and food security of marine resource-dependent communities
		Challenging fisheries governance (sharing and regulating the use of fishing resources)
	Climate change-induced increased exposure to pathogens, organic pollutants, mercury… of marine plants and animals	Leading to risks for seafood safety particularly for communities with high consumption of seafood and for economic sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture

Seafood and climate: From science to policy objectives

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Reduce carbon emissions

Set up and implement science-based, forward looking and responsive fisheries management strategies to rebuild stocks and ensure the resilience of marine ecosystems and resources

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Safeguard the livelihoods of fisheries dependent communities (food security, incomes …)

Guarantee a level playing field and a fair access to fisheries resources in the face of increasing competition for resources and challenges to global fisheries governance

Ensure coordination and complementarity between national and transboundary regional policies

Address seafood safety risks

Mitigation

Adaptation

How can seafood traceability contribute to addressing climate change related fisheries and seafood challenges ?

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Traceability's role in the face of climate change

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Environmental objectives	Traceability's role
Set up and implement responsive, science-based, and forward looking fisheries management strategies to rebuild stocks and ensure the resilience of marine ecosystems and resources	Provides some of the necessary data to sustainable fisheries management strategies Helps combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which derails fisheries management strategies and devastate marine ecosystems
Reduce carbon emissions	Allows to evaluate the full life cycle carbon footprint of seafood products

Traceability's role in the face of climate change

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Governance and socio-economic objectives	Traceability's role
Safeguard the livelihoods of fisheries dependent communities (food security, employment…)	Provides the necessary data for sustainable fisheries : food security and incomes Helps combat IUU fishing: food security
Guarantee a level playing field for fisheries operators in the face of increasing competition for resources and challenges to global fisheries governance	Helps combat IUU fishing: fairness of marine resources uses and fairness of market competition
Address seafood safety risks	Allows to follow the movement of a food through specified stage(s) of production, processing and distribution Ensures sanitary quality during fishing operations, onboard processing and the subsequent stages of packaging, transport and storage before reaching the end consumer
Ensure coordination and complementarity between national and transboundary regional policies	Allows exchange of data between fisheries bodies and entities for integrated policies and measures

A bit of prospective: Traceability and ocean science

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- Remember! Need to ensure responsive, science-based, and forward looking fisheries and ocean policies

- To better understand how climate change affects the Ocean and how to improve marine resources management, ongoing development of scientific tools and digital models :
  - In Europe, Mercator Ocean, which provides an ocean simulation system (ocean digitial twin) supporting the conservation and the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources

- Seafood traceability is one of the most effective ways to generate data on ocean uses and the interactions between humans and marine ecosystems

- Better traceability and the associated data from the seafood industry could feed into a participatory and inclusive ocean science, which could then be effectively leveraged to better inform fisheries management strategies

So, what are the obstacles that still hinder traceability's effectiveness?

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Key traceability shortcomings

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Ahead of arrival on the EU market

- Current EU system of import controls characterized by **paper-based**, often **incompatible** Member State schemes **without centralized data collection or dissemination**

- Member States are permitted to develop their own risk assessment, lot inspection and rejection procedures in cases of non-conformity with EU regulations for imported seafood > **significant discrepancies leading to distortion of import trade flows** towards those Member States with seemingly the weakest rules or capacities

- **Failure to implement obligations or enforce often effective and dissuasive sanctions** with regard to fisheries control

- Imported products that have been **further or re-processed** present even **greater challenges**

Key traceability shortcomings

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Within the EU market

- **Limited cooperation and potential incompatibilities between traceability systems in fisheries control and public health** may be impacting the efficiency and effectiveness of both systems

- Terminology used in fisheries and food legislation may have **different meanings and/or definitions** between countries

- **Lack of effective control** in some Member States: with free movement of goods within the EU market, weakening of the whole EU fisheries control system

Key traceability shortcomings

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AT RFMOs level

- **Proliferation of CDS schemes**: complexity, administrative burden, economic cost
- **Discrepencies** leading to risks for inter-operabilty and possible gaps
- May lead to **missing important key data elements**
- **Limited geographic scope** while species can extend beyond RFMOs' areas

Table 4 | CDS key data element requirements

Recommended or applied in practice | Optional or needs to be improved | Not recommended or required

		Stakeholder recommendations for CDS			Current RFMO multilateral CDS practices				Current unilateral CDS practices		Current regional CDS practices
	Key Data Elements (KDEs)	**EU IUU fishing Coalition**	**FAO Voluntary Guidelines**	**GDST 1.0 Standard**	**ICCAT**	**CCSBT**	**CCAMLR**	**IOTC[i]**	**European Union**	**United States of America**	**Association of Southeast Asian Nations**
WHO	Vessel name		See article 1(b)								
	UVI (IMO number)		See article 1(b)								Only required for carrier vessels, not for fishing vessels
	Vessel flag		See article 1(b)								
	International Radio Call Sign (IRCS)		See article 1(b)								
	Information of exporter/re-exporter		See article 1(f)								
	Identity of import company		See article 1(g)								
WHAT	Product type (use of FAO Alpha code)		See article 1(d)								
	Species name embedded in the FAO/ASFIS 3-Alpha Code		See article 1(b)								
	Estimated live weight (kg)			Not specified between live or processed							
	Processed weight (kg)		See article 1(d)								
	Declaration and authorisation of transshipment at sea		See article 1(c)								
WHEN	Event date (Harvesting operation)		See article 1(b)[ii]								
WHERE	Catch area		See article 1(b)								
	Authorisation to fish		See article 1(e)[iii]								
	Port of landing		See article 1(b)								
	Processing location										
HOW	Fishing methods										

What can be done to support traceability and ensure climate-smart seafood policies?

Policy recommandations

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Improvement of seafood data collection scope

- ***In RFMOs***:
  - Expand CDS coverage to additional species and geographical areas in RFMOs while ensuring alignment
  - Integrate KDEs requirements
  - Create systems that are interoperable
  - Begin to develop a generically-aligned model of CDS
  - Adopt measures to pre-emptively address the consequences of CC on the stocks (ex: IOTC)

- ***At EU level*** : use the revision of the fisheries control system to expand the information required by the EU IUU Catch Certificate, especially: IMO number, fishing gear, increased data on catch area and date

Policy recommandations

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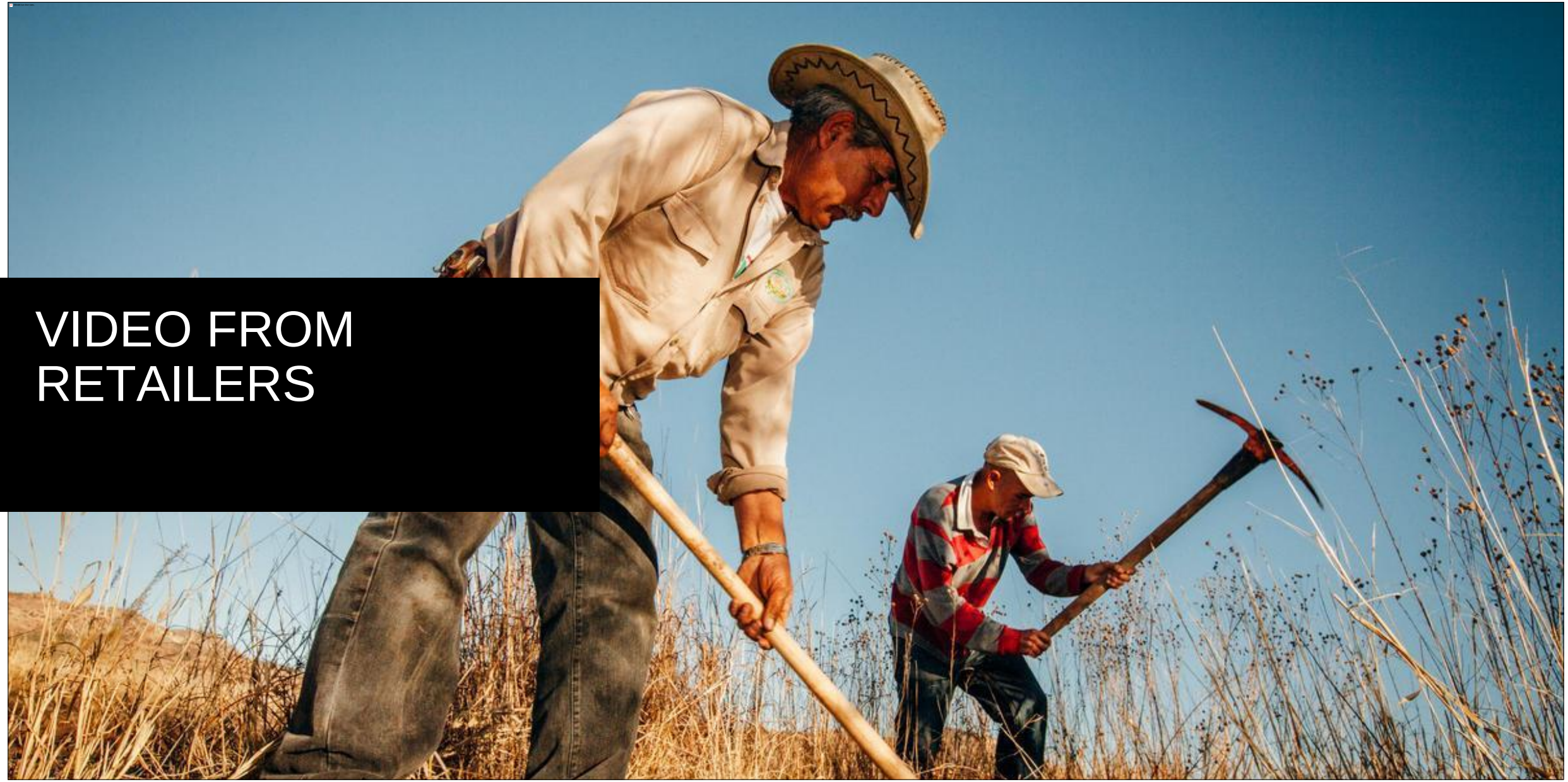
Improvement of seafood data systems and uses

- ***Digitisation***
  - E-CDS in RFMOs
  - Digital EU IUU Catch Certificate alongside use the EU-wide centralised electronic database for catch certificates accompanying imported seafood (CATCH)

- ***Data transparency***
  - Particularly for processed, mixed and transported products
  - For retailers, ensure that suppliers provide all information behind their seafood products, including, at a minimum, the type of gear used to catch the fish, the area in which it was caught and the scientific name of the species
  - ➢ Demand from consumers for transparency and food providence to make better-informed purchasing decisions



VIDEO FROM RETAILERS

Thank you!

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