

SALT, FAO Blue Ports Initiative, and CEIPA Collaborate to Strengthen Seafood Traceability at Fishing Ports



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Manta, Ecuador - A Latin America regional workshop of seafood industry and government representatives highlighted the role of fishing ports to establish effective supply chain traceability and address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The event was co-hosted by the Seafood Alliance for Seafood Legality and Traceability (SALT), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Blue Ports Initiative (BPI), and the Ecuadorian Chamber of Industrialists and Tuna Processors (CEIPA) to promote exchange on traceability and port management practices across Latin American countries.

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing poses a significant threat to ocean health, food security, worker welfare, and the sustainability of fisheries worldwide. IUU fishing not only jeopardizes the economic growth, food systems, and ecosystems of countries around the world but also disadvantages law-abiding fishers and seafood producers.

To combat this global challenge, SALT has joined forces with the FAO BPI to enhance seafood traceability practices at fishing ports. Recognizing the critical role of ports as knowledge hubs and value creation centers, BPI and SALT aim to leverage their expertise and collaborative efforts to engage

private and public stakeholders and enhance capabilities in terms of environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

As part of their partnership, SALT worked alongside the FAO BPI to organize the regional workshop in Ecuador. Drawing on FAO's [Roadmap to a Blue Port](#) and the [Comprehensive Traceability Principles](#), participants collectively assessed existing practices, identified areas for improvement and proposed specific solutions.

The workshop was opened by Ms. Eve Crowley, FAO National Representative in Ecuador; Ms. Kate O'Rourke, Chief of Party, SALT; Ec. Gustavo Núñez, President of the Ecuadorian Chamber of Industrialists and Tuna Processors; Ec. Leonardo Orlando Arteaga, Prefect of Manabí; and Mr. Andrés Arens, Vice Minister of Aquaculture and Fisheries. Mr. Arens highlighted the strategic importance of fishing ports for sustainable development, the national commitment towards traceability through public-private cooperation, and the government's efforts towards the sustainable development of these ports. In total, over 80 stakeholders from 8 LAC countries participated (72% from Ecuador), with primary representation from government (43% and industry (24%) stakeholders.

By fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing, the FAO Blue Ports Initiative and SALT aim to drive positive change in seafood traceability practices at fishing ports, ensuring the integrity of the seafood value chain and promoting sustainable fishing practices.

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About SALT

SALT is a public-private partnership between USAID and the Packard, Moore, and Walton Family Foundations, and implemented by FishWise, a sustainable seafood consultancy. SALT promotes legal, sustainable, and responsible fisheries through increased transparency in seafood supply chains. The contents of this media release are the responsibility of FishWise and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

About FishWise

FishWise is a nonprofit sustainable seafood consultancy based in Santa Cruz, CA, that takes a holistic approach to sustainability and aims to transform how the global seafood industry does business in order to protect ocean health and workers' rights. Offering expertise that is trusted by human rights and conservation organizations, seafood buyers and suppliers, and government representatives, FishWise offers a range of services that empower businesses and a diverse community of collaborators to lead the



transition to a sustainable, ethically responsible seafood industry. For more information, please visit www.FishWise.org, and follow FishWise's work on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).

About the FAO Blue Ports Initiative (BPI)

The FAO Blue Ports Initiative focuses on transforming marine ports into knowledge hubs and value creation centers. By fostering collaboration and partnerships, BPI aims to enhance the economic, environmental, and social sustainability of fishing ports worldwide.

