SALT
SEAFOOD ALLIANCE FOR
LEGALITY & TRACEABILITY

Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability DataLab

Asia-Pacific Event Report July 19-20, 2018 Bangkok, Thailand

SALT DataLab Asia-Pacific Report
July 2018
Bangkok, Thailand

Executive Summary

Seventy-two participants attended the **Seafood Alliance for Legality & Traceability (SALT)** DataLab Asia-Pacific—a two-day, highly participatory workshop designed to dig deeper into the main issues around traceability and IUU (illegal, unreported, and unregulated) fishing, and identify opportunities for knowledge sharing, learning, and collaboration. As part of SALT's co-design approach, this was the final of three regional DataLabs, and convened influential stakeholders from Asia and throughout the Pacific with varying perspectives on issues related to seafood traceability and legality, fisheries management, and labor rights issues.

Outcomes

Potential collaborative actions that arose from several core themes:

Traceability Issue	Suggested Collaborative Actions
Traceability does not adequately capture labor data	Make use of established catch documentation and traceability systems to also include the workers, working conditions, and basic demographic data.
Public welfare is not taken into account in the supply chain	Bring in experts and build industry ties to understand traceability's impact on the supply chain, focusing on what works and what does not; form recommendations to avoid unintended consequences and ensure public welfare is core to seafood traceability.
Transparency in working conditions is missing	Bring together supply chain businesses and vessel owners to understand needs and exchange ideas; set timeline on standardizing how to eliminate risks to workers.
No global system or standard for traceability exists	Build awareness along entire seafood supply chain to show traceability is profitable, equitable, creates market access, improves fisheries management. SALT's knowledge platform could be an advocacy tool for experts.
Fishers don't receive value from traceability	Partner with hotels in China that have a current demand for sustainable products. Implement a fishery improvement project through a fisheries association and require traceability data. Involve local NGOS and government to provide capacity building and resources to fishers.
No incentives for enforcement of small-scale fisheries	Identify tech solutions for data collection in small-scale fisheries. Share lessons learned; translate import requirements; design workshops to decide the minimum standards for small-scale technology and pilot them.
Need to improve data quality, enforcement and management	Conduct third party data gap analysis in countries. Use to show country has plan to improve when pitching to financial donors like the World Bank.

Meeting Highlights

- Of the 50 respondents who completed a DataLab evaluation, 98 percent noted they formed new or strengthened relationships.
- 42 of the respondents said they achieved consensus on one or more important collaborations, and over 90 percent expressed an interest in being involved in the PartnerLab.
- More labor and human rights groups attended than in previous DataLabs.
- Government participation included seven countries and was higher than previous DataLabs by co-hosting with the SEAFDEC USAID Oceans Technical Working Group meeting.
- Overall, SALT attendees represented 16 countries, and more than half the participants were female.
- Participants provided very positive feedback on this DataLab's attendee diversity and the facilitation process.

Most participants agreed to participate in SALT going forward and made commitments to engage on different levels. In addition, one group formed a specific traceability project they hope to work together on in the upcoming months. Though many organizations knew of each other, this was the first time some were meeting in the same room.

Countries participating in DataLabs or completing the SALT surveys

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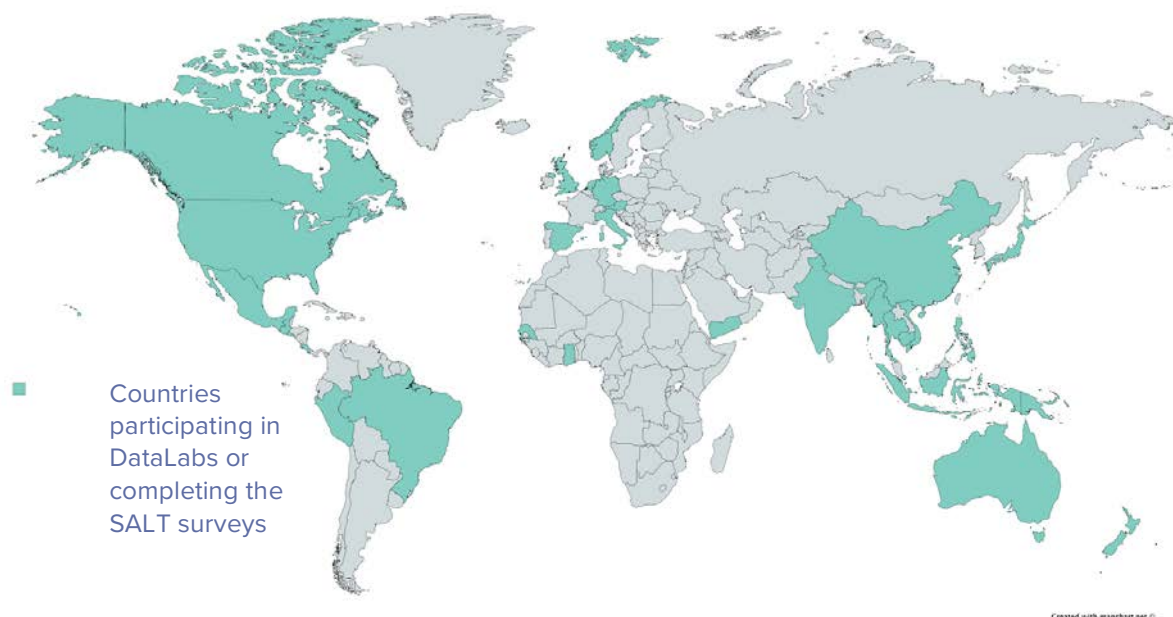
What's Next for SALT?

SALT enters its final co-design period in September when SALT and its Co-Design Advisory Committee will review input from all the DataLabs, webinars, and online surveys. From there it will prioritize areas related to knowledge exchange and collaboration where SALT can bring the most value for the remaining four years of the project. SALT will launch its first event—the PartnerLab—to facilitate learning and actively work on the chosen collaborations on February 11-12, 2019.

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Background
Over the last several years, many seafood groups have indicated a strong willingness to work together on seafood traceability, particularly those aspects that no group can solve alone. In looking at the various initiatives and pilot projects worldwide designed to tackle the challenges of IUU fishing and traceability, SALT aims to assemble a wide swath of stakeholders throughout the seafood supply chain to clarify and prioritize where information gaps and opportunities exist to improve seafood traceability. SALT activities will include learning events (in-person and virtual) that convene diverse groups, and an online resource and learning platform to share knowledge and expertise about traceability work from around the world. SALT is a five-year public-private partnership between USAID and the Walton Family, Packard, and Moore Foundations, and is implemented by FishWise. SALT was jointly announced at the 2017 Our Ocean Conference.

Co-Design Approach
In its first year, SALT has solicited feedback from seafood stakeholders in various ways to highlight crucial problem areas related to seafood traceability, and identify innovative solutions requiring collaboration and knowledge exchange. The three regional co-design workshops, or DataLabs (Americas, EU/Africa, Asia-Pacific), featured 158 unique attendees. The DataLabs plus virtual feedback through webinars and online surveys helped ensure SALT gathered diverse views from around the globe (35 countries).

SALT Year 1 Co-Design Dates

DataLab	Location	Date
DataLab Americas	Palo Alto, California	December 13-15, 2017
DataLab EU/Africa	London, England	March 21-22, 2018
DataLab Asia-Pacific	Bangkok, Thailand	July 19-20, 2018

The co-design process is supported by CollaborateUp, a collaboration consulting firm, and a Co-Design Advisory Committee consisting of leaders from government, philanthropy, industry, and civil society. The DataLabs followed Collaborate Up's approach for encouraging collaborations between multiple groups. Discoveries during co-design are informing the scope of work for the remaining four years of the project. Slides explaining SALT and the co-design process can be found here.

DataLab Program
The DataLab Asia-Pacific began with a short panel of industry, government, NGO, and consultant speakers to share their real life experiences around traceability.

Participants then highlighted on a "seascape" poster the sector of fisheries they work in to orient everyone to the diversity of colleagues' projects. Overall, SALT attendees represented 16 countries, and more than half the participants were female.

Figure 1:The range of organizations attending the DataLab, and where they work within a fisheries "seascape." Colored notes represent the programs or initiatives (see inset for color legend).

Participants were next asked to join groups with pre-determined traceability themes that incorporated 1) regulation, 2) fisheries management, 3) human or labor rights, and 4) technology systems.

Collaborate Up facilitated critical-thinking activities to dive deeper into these themes and identify root problems around IUU fishing that require collaboration to solve. The questions that arose were:

1. **How can traceability systems capture labor data?**
2. **How can public welfare be incorporated into traceability standards**?
3. **How can we improve transparency of working conditions to halt trafficking and labor rights violations?**
4. **How do we get everyone from fishers to processors to understand traceability's worth?**
5. **Who pays for traceability? And how can fishers receive value from traceability?**
6. **How do we incentivize governments to enforce data collection in small-scale fisheries?**
7. **How do we find a comprehensive way for government to implement traceability?**

Key Outcomes

While working for a day and a half in small roundtable groups that participants could move between, attendees examined and refined the above questions through a directed series of steps by CollaborateUp. By the end of the second day, the groups presented achievable strategies for collaborating. The table below presents summaries of those proposed ideas and their benefits.

Table 1: SALT DataLab Asia-Pacific Suggested Collaborative Actions

Concern: Traceability does not adequately capture labor data; the workers are invisible.	
Benefit: If traceability includes labor data, we can properly manage labor conditions in fisheries, and help provide transparency in who produces the product.	
Issue	**Suggested Collaborative Action**
We don't have basic demographic information of who works on fishing vessels or processing our seafood.	Incorporate labor data (e.g., gender, nationality, age of the workers) gathered from employers (vessel owners, companies) into already established catch documentation and traceability systems for the government or trade unions to access. Split costs between producers, retail, government, and trade unions. Ultimately, the seafood product can be traced back to the workers through a QR code to learn who worked on the seafood product. It makes the invisible, visible!
Concern: Traceability systems have not adequately considered the human well-being of small-scale fishing communities.	
Benefit: Fair trade and human-centered traceability would improve the well-being of small-scale fishing communities and everyone throughout the supply chain.	
Issue	**Suggested Collaborative Action**
Potentially high risk of negative, unintended social consequences, such as further marginalization of poor, rural fishers	Developing new, expensive technology for the American farm industry displaced smaller farmers unable to weather debt and the drop in prices, and larger farm corporations evolved. To avoid similar consequences of marginalizing the small-scale fisheries sector, SALT can convene influential thinkers (e.g., gender, nutrition experts) as a "body" to provide research and recommendations for countries. These experts attend conferences to advocate and network in-country to encourage commitments and formally announce country commitments at the Our Ocean Conference. Concurrently, create a group of technical experts to speak with the fishers and provide guidance. Create more dialogue around this at the SALT PartnerLab.
Concern: Fishing vessels lack transparency in working conditions and labor recruitment practices.	
Benefit: Transparency would help eliminate risks of trafficking and labor rights violations, and drive behavioral change at industry level.	
Issue	**Suggested Collaborative Action**

Usually those directly involved with the labor and crew are missing from the conversations	Bring the supply chain, small businesses, vessel owners, global buyers, and CEOs together to understand their respective needs and challenges, and identify what information about working conditions and hiring is needed. Create a platform to share the ideas they've generated. The enablers (supply chain, businesses, and vessel owners), which are responsible for the ensuring good working conditions, can work with the bigger groups like global buyers who provide leverage in the supply chain via financial and market power.
Without fishers and crew members involved in discussions to understand their needs or perspectives, we can't effectively implement regulations	Develop two types of in-person forums with a safe space to share knowledge and collaborate: 1. For fishing associations, global buyers, government, small businesses, vessel owners. Global brands can pay because their reputation is at stake and may want to take lead on change. 2. For fishers and crew members. Ensure it is conducted in right language for those involved. The groups can be in same room to understand each other's needs. Form basic level of standards and develop timelines to reach them. Could start with Issara Global Forum in November 2018.

Concern: No global obligation or framework for traceability exists.

Benefit: An entire seafood supply chain that values traceability will enhance fisheries management, profitability, fairness, and transparency; improve market access—particularly in international market; promote fisheries sustainability and social equity; prevent IUU fishing; and build credibility and consumer trust.

Issue	Suggested Collaborative Action
Lack of awareness for the value of traceability from fishers to industry and processors	Through a website developed by SALT, share resources about traceability's value that includes success stories, case studies, an experts list, technical assistance, trade stories, research findings, funding sources, etc. SALT may need to filter information and validate it before sharing. Translating information into different languages and dialects may be necessary. This virtual platform can be used by advocates such as fisheries experts to show others in this sector why traceability is valuable.

Concern: Fishers don't receive value from traceability.

Benefit: By showing the value from a traceable product, fishers will be more apt to collect traceability data.

Issue	Suggested Collaborative Action
Fishers often lack financial incentive and capacity to collect traceability data	To improve a fishery and expand markets, a pilot involving the tourism sector is proposed: China Blue works with a Hyatt in China where commitment and demand for sustainable products already exists. China Blue will partner with Eachmile Technologies to implement a fishery improvement project (FIP) through a fisheries association for a product already served at hotels. Fishers participating in this FIP will be required to collected traceability data, and will see value of their catch increase with access to a new market. Local NGOs and governments should be involved to provide capacity and resources to the fishers. Funding already raised; SALT reports results.

Concern: No clear path exists for government to enforce and incentivize data collection from small-scale fisheries.	
Benefit: Better data collection would improve overall fisheries management.	
Issue	**Suggested Collaborative Action**
Government needs a reason to enforce data collection	Analyze worldwide technology solutions to collect data within small-scale fisheries, and share lessons from existing projects to show government why to enforce. Done in five major steps: Translate import requirements in several languages; design workshops to understand the challenges from all sides; determine minimum standards for tech solutions that might work based on gear type or what's being caught; share lessons of success and failures; identify groups that could pilot this technology. Include a communication plan. SALT can pave avenue for networking and dialogue.
Concern: Better data collection, management, and enforcement are needed for traceability.	
Benefit: Better data collection, management, and enforcement would improve resource management: happy people and happy fish.	
Issue	**Suggested Collaborative Action**
Government does not have a comprehensive way to implement traceability	Create a country-specific road map on HOW governments can implement traceability. Conduct a data gap analysis in each country based on their needs. The work will engage various groups (private sectors, industry) and involve a field study, workshop, reports, all hosted by third party. The final proposal will show the country has a strategic plan on where to improve, so they can pitch idea to financial donors like the World Bank, etc. for a long-term project. SALT shares the results and this methodology with other countries.

What's Next for SALT?

Once SALT and its Co-Design Advisory Committee review all the input from the DataLabs, webinars, and online surveys, it will prioritize where SALT can bring the most value, and where learning and collaborative efforts best address the identified problems. SALT's prioritized actions will be shared to recruit participants working in those areas for SALT's PartnerLab. The PartnerLab will be held in February 11-12, 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand, and will bring together those interested in learning or working directly about the topics prioritized for SALT.

SALT is also developing a virtual learning platform, which will provide tools and the space to share traceability knowledge and connect with others.

How Can You Stay Connected?

DataLab participants and others can engage in learning and collaborative work around the identified priorities through the PartnerLab and future SALT convenings. For future updates and to receive SALT communications, please sign up here.

When spreading the word about SALT you can find more information at www.fishwise.org/SALT or email SALT@fishwise.org.

DataLab Asia-Pacific Attendees

Participant	Organization
Tobias Aguirre	FishWise
Bama Athreya	USAID
Jenny Barker	FishWise
Francisco Blaha	Independent Fisheries Advisor
Pattanan Boonkong	Multi-Stakeholder Initiative for Accountable Supply Chain of Thai Fisheries (MAST)
C. Colin Brinkman	U.S. Department of State
Doungrudee Chertmanusatian	Tri Marine Thailand
Peter Erick M. Cadapan	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Central Office (Philippines)
Richard Crespin	CollaborateUp
Heather D'Agnes	Walton Family Foundation
Larry Dohrs	iRespond Global
Melinda Donnelley	USAID Oceans
Alistair Douglas	Eachmile Technologies
Deirdre Duggan	Yayasan Masyarakat Dan Perikanan Indonesia (MDPI)
Achmad Fauzie	Directorate for Fishing Port, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (Indonesia)
Stephen Fisher	Sea Delight
Dr. Jessica Ford	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
Charlyn Golu	Solomon Islands Ministry Fisheries and Marine Resources
Gina Green	Tetra Tech ARD
Edmond Gudez	IT Manager, SolTuna Limited
Han Han	China Blue Sustainability Institute
Wakao Hanaoka	Seafood Legacy
Sujintana Hemtasilpa	Plan International
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Passarapa Kaewnern	Department of Fisheries (Thailand)
Chhoun Kim Chhea	Department of Fisheries Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Cambodia)
Craig Kirkpatrick	USAID
Gerald Knecht	Bali Seafood International
Masanori Kobayashi	Ocean Policy Research Institute
Momo Kochen	Future of Fish
Yoshihiro Koyano	GR Japan
Saurara Lewa	Joint Kiribati Sustainable Fisheries Development and Management Programme with NZ Government (Tobwan Waara)

Charles W. Lewis II	USAID/ Regional Development Mission for Asia
Traci Linder	FishWise
Shen Yan Liow	Marine Stewardship Council Asia
John Maefiti	Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association
Stephani Mangunsong	MDPI
Farid Maruf	USAID Oceans
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Boonthida Parnnui	Resonance
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Waraporn Raksaphram	Issara Institute
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Kaitlyn Speer	Liberty Global	Liberty Asia
Sompong Srakaew	Labour Rights Promotion Network (LPN)
Berny Subki	Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (Indonesia)
Guna Subramaniam	Issara Institute
Dorna Sukkree	MAST
Nono Sumarsono	Plan International
Wanwipa Suwannarak	Department of Fisheries, Thailand
Napak Tesprasith	USAID/RDMA, Bangkok
Dy Thehoya	Center for Alliance of Labor and Human Rights
Yuttana Theparoonrat	SEAFDEC
Dominic Thomson	Environmental Justice Foundation
Preeda Tongcumnum	Solidarity Center
Patima Tungpuchayakul	LPN
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