

The Benefits Evaluator for Seafood Traceability (BEST) Tool



Get Started with the BEST

The BEST tool is specifically designed to assist traceability practitioners in measuring and evaluating the effectiveness of electronic catch documentation and traceability (eCDT) programs in achieving social, ecological, and economic benefits.

Follow this Six-Step Process:

STEP 1: Begin at the filter, Benefit Type. Select the types of benefits that are of interest to monitor for your program. SALT recommends selecting all types of benefits to ensure a comprehensive eCDT program. Click OK after making your selections.

STEP 2: Go to the filter, Benefit Outcome. Select the specific outcomes you would like to achieve through your eCDT program. Click OK after making your selections.

STEP 3: Go to the next filter, Hardware or Software. Choose the hardware and software you currently have or wish to implement in your eCDT program. Click OK after making your selections.

STEP 4: Go to the final filter, Input Data Key Data Elements (KDEs). Select the KDEs that you are already collecting or consider keeping the entire list to determine if additional data should be included to enhance the effectiveness of your program. Click OK after making your selections.

STEP 5: Select the Export Button to download your customized monitoring and evaluation plan for your eCDT program, generated by the BEST tool.

STEP 6: Use the plan to determine the timeframe for data collection and evaluate whether you have the appropriate inputs to effectively evaluate your program. If any elements are missing, reassess and identify what needs to be added or adjusted. Remember to customize the tool to suit your unique needs and circumstances.



Glossary of BEST Terms

Benefit (Outcome): Benefits (Outcomes) are social, ecological, or economic benefits that are the result of improved analyses or reporting and assume good data is entered and analyzed. Outcomes may also be the result of improved reporting (quality, timeliness) or in some cases, improved decision-making.

Benefit Type: The benefits evaluator for seafood traceability considers three basic benefit types: Economic, Social, or Ecological. Note that an outcome could fall into multiple benefit types. For example, increased stock size is an ecologic AND economic benefit.

Comprehensive Benefits: Creating and administering a plan to collect useful data from fishing activities is a complex undertaking for governments and companies. But once collected, multiple stakeholders can use the data to achieve social, ecological, and economic goals. Building that triple impact, or "comprehensive" or "holistic," approach into designing and implementing a country's electronic traceability program can help meet all three goals.

- Social Benefits may help to highlight where labor and human rights risks may be occurring, helping to focus limited resources. The goal is for practitioners to test how electronic data systems can support more rapid detection of potential violations. *Note: a traceability system can never prove harm or social responsibility; it can only provide data to help identify potential risk.
- Ecological Benefits provide insight into how an eCDT program contributes to better resource management, including reducing IUU and securing a long-term seafood supply—vital for food security and livelihoods worldwide.
- Economic Benefits can bring significant cost savings and business opportunities and support governments, which often operate with limited resources but need to find efficiencies to scale up and meet their mandates.

eCDT: Electronic catch documentation and traceability program.

Evaluation Criteria: Assessment of metrics to determine if the eCDT program is functioning, and to guide troubleshooting.

Hardware or Software: eCDT hardware or software that generates the input data.

Input Data: Specific key data elements (KDE) generated by an eCDT system. These data create the direct benefits of eCDT systems.

KDE: Key Data Element

Metric: Calculations to assess if the eCDT hardware or software component is generating the expected input data.

Traceability Program: All the elements (e.g., policies, technologies, trainings, processes) that are needed to effectively track products, reap comprehensive benefits, and make informed decisions.

Traceability System: A network of technologies (i.g., hardware and software) that (when implemented by the private sector) have the potential to improve operational efficiency and responsiveness of supply chains, identify sources of risk, and streamline reporting and compliance processes for participating companies.