Fisheries Innovation & Sustainability

Digitalisation Pilots

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Verifact™

FIS is a coalition of experts driving strategic innovation for a prosperous & sustainable UK seafood industry.

Our remit is to facilitate, coordinate & leverage investment for innovation in UK seafood.

FIS Fisheries Innovation & Sustainability

www.fisorg.uk

Sainsbury's

The FISHMONGERS' Company's FISHERIES CHARITABLE TRUST

M&S EST. 1884

seafish

Est. 1805 Young's

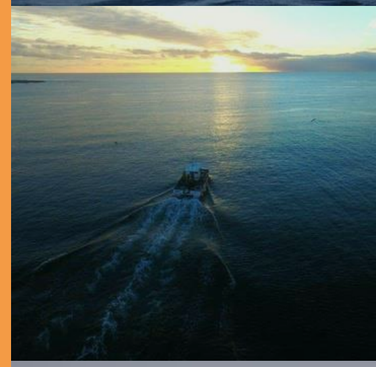
What does digitalisation mean to us?

FIS members wanted to understand how to improve the provision of business & research intelligence to fishers, scientists & managers.

FIS asked if a reliable and accessible digital 'one stop shop' for supply chain data could provide business benefits & reduce burden of information exchange.

With Verifact & Seafood Scotland, embarked on a pilot to prove the concept of digital data sharing along supply chains, from catcher to retailer.

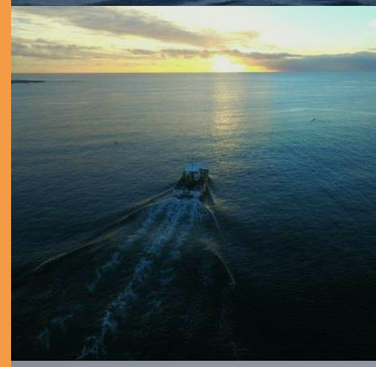
Aim to understand if possible to replace current ad hoc methods of data collection with a co-ordinated digitalised approach.



What does digitalisation mean to us?

Maximising use of digital technologies will improve data collection & product traceability, and strengthen seafood brands, with benefits along the supply chain:

- Catching sector proactively involved in verifiable collection of data to answer scientific, sustainability & other management questions, incl carbon footprint.
- Value is added to catches through improved access to premium markets and differentiation of sustainable products.
- Producers, processors, food service and retailers have confidence in de-risked, cost-efficient, transparent supply chains.
- Consumers are informed about fishery products' verifiable ethical & provenance credentials.



Piloting ‘whole supply chain’ digitalisation

- Group discussions to identify pilots
- Nephrops & haddock selected due to value to UK and export markets
- Larger integrated businesses & smaller, fragmented supply chains.
- Provide practical examples, learn lessons and make recommendations

Pilots highlighted that

1. Data sharing will not thrive if it adds pressure to busy workplaces without strong benefits.
2. Can be clear advantages in helping suppliers meet particular buyer requirements.

Finding & Recommendations

Basic vessel data is not always available one step up the chain

Recommend: Clear communications along supply chains
Discuss at forums and events when relevant

Accurate certification, sustainability & labour policy info at vessel level is not easily accessible along the supply chain.

Recommend: Vessel Details Database can record and store vessel details in relation to vessel participation in sustainability projects and to record individual vessels' policy in relation to labour onboard.

Finding & Recommendations

Data already captured on existing systems could address many of the data deficits further along the supply chain.

Recommend: The use and sharing of the data already captured by existing systems should be explored.

- Data sharing agreements
- Vessels details database

Processing companies have the majority of data required for GDST standard relevant to their own businesses but often not held in a coordinated way that allows it to be shared with others.

Recommend: When processing companies are reviewing, changing or upgrading their existing internal systems they should consider how these could be improved and integrated to facilitate external standards including GDST.

Finding & Recommendations

The infrastructure developed as part of this project provides a platform to deliver future digitalisation projects making these projects more achievable and cost effective.

Recommend: This infrastructure should be maintained.

This project and other similar ones (often requiring large capital expenditure) have experienced challenges around data sharing when the projects were quite advanced, with significant costs already incurred.

Recommend: Before undertaking these types of projects , a precursor project, why data should be shared and who will share it.

Toolkit

Open to discuss and test how data sharing could help meet *your* specific supply chain needs

Toolkit available to inform data sharing projects:

- Vessel Details Database to capture information on sustainability & labour practices/policies.
- Processor Portal to upload data in line with GDST requirements.
- Data sharing agreements on how data collected is processed & used.
- Pre-project checklist to help inform data sharing projects

THANK YOU

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