DARWIN EVOLUTION

REGULATORY REFERENCE

ISO 12875 Standard

Traceability of finfish products · Information to be recorded in captured finfish distribution chains (2011 edition)

GLOBAL · ISO · INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION · GENEVA · VOLUNTARY INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

May 13, 2026

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JURISDICTION	TYPE	CATEGORY
ISO · International Organization for Standardization · Geneva · voluntary international standard	Standard	Traceability
DARWIN PRODUCTS	**LAST OFFICIAL UPDATE**	**DOCUMENT VERSION**
Captia · Tracium	September 15, 2011	v1.0.0 · 13/05/2026

1. What is it?

ISO 12875 is the international standard that **specifies the information to be recorded** in distribution chains of **marine-captured finfish** and their derived products, from catch to retailer or food service operator. The current version is **ISO 12875:2011**, published on September 15, 2011 by the **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)** from Geneva.

Unlike IFS, BRC or FSSC 22000, ISO 12875 is **not a food safety certification scheme**. It is an **information standard**: it defines **which data** every link in the chain must record to maintain lot-to-lot traceability. It complements **ISO 12877** (its counterpart for farmed finfish / aquaculture).

2. Who does it apply to?

Covered actors (full wild-fish chain):

- Fishing vessels / shipowners performing the capture.
- On-board or land-based processing plants (gutting, filleting, freezing, smoking).
- Importers, exporters and wholesalers.
- Logistics distributors (cold chain).

- Retailers and food service operators selling product to the consumer.

Covered products (*marine-captured finfish*):

- Fresh whole, gutted, filleted fish.
- Frozen fish.
- Smoked and cured fish.
- Derived products subject to minor transformation.

Out of scope: mollusks, crustaceans and farmed finfish (aquaculture). For farmed finfish use **ISO 12877**.

Markets: reference standard for markets with increasing fisheries traceability requirements (European Union via Regulation 1224/2009 on fisheries control; United States via FDA SIMP - Seafood Import Monitoring Program). Applicable globally for exporters who must demonstrate origin and custody of the fishery lot.

Voluntary nature: ISO 12875 is not legally mandatory. It serves as a technical framework for implementing fisheries traceability and as a normative reference in commercial contracts and regional regulations.

3. Key requirements

The standard defines the **data to be recorded** in each **commercial transaction** between distribution-chain operators. Every time the fish changes ownership, the receiver must be able to verify origin through the transferred information.

Catch information (origin)

Data	Description
Vessel identification	Name, registration number, call sign, flag.
Species	Scientific name (Latin binomial) and commercial name (optional).
Catch zone	FAO area (e.g. 87 Southeast Pacific), subzone, statistical division.
Catch method	Fishing gear (longline, trawl, purse seine, etc.).
Catch date	Date or date range of the trip.
On-board preservation	Refrigerated, frozen, fresh on ice.
Quantity / weight	Weight landed per species and presentation form.
Catch lot	Unique identifier of the lot that travels with the product.

Information transmitted at each link

Each operator adds its own information when receiving and dispatching the product, maintaining linkage with the **original catch lot**.

Event	Key data
Landing	Port, date, quantity, buyer identification.
Processing	Operations (gutting, filleting, freezing), date, output lot, linkage with catch lot.
Storage	Facility, conditions (temperature), entry and exit dates.
Transport	Origin, destination, conditions, transporter identification.
Intermediate sale	Buyer, date, quantity, linkage with previous lot.
Retail or food service	Final point of sale to the consumer.

Standard character

Aspect	Detail
Type	Information specification, **not a third-party-auditable certification standard**.
Validation	There is no ISO 12875 certificate issued by third parties. Compliance is demonstrated as documentary evidence in customer audits, regulatory inspections or broader certification schemes (MSC, ASC CoC).
Complementarity	Combines with **MSC Chain of Custody** (responsible wild fisheries), **ASC CoC** (aquaculture products), **ISO 22000** (food safety) and **regional regulations** (EU 1224/2009, FDA SIMP, etc.).

4. How does Darwin cover it?

Captia captures the fisheries-chain events; **Tracium** anchors the records to the immutable ledger. The Darwin model overlaps naturally with the ISO 12875 specification, since both are centered on **lot-to-lot traceability**.

- **Catch-lot identification**: **Captia** generates the Traceability Lot Code at landing time (or on-board if digital capture is enabled), linking species, FAO zone, date, method, vessel. **Tracium** signs the lot to guarantee immutability.
- **Chain of custody to the consumer**: every handoff between operators (vessel → plant → distributor → retailer) is captured in **Captia** with timestamp, photo, linked lot; **Tracium** signs for immutable evidence.
- **Specific catch data**: **Captia** structures the fields required by ISO 12875 (FAO zone, fishing gear, preservation method) as mandatory metadata when creating a fishing lot.
- **Transformation and linkage maintenance**: when a lot is transformed (fillet from whole fish, for example), **Captia** generates a child lot maintaining linkage to the parent lot; **Tracium** records the parent → child relationship.
- **Reverse traceability**: upon recall or regulatory inquiry, a lot-keyed query in **Tracium** returns the full tree (sibling lots from the same catch lot, destination of each child lot) in seconds.
- **Supporting documentation**: catch certificates (EU), fishing permits, owner declarations, archived in **Captia** with version control and linked to the lot.

Areas not yet covered in V1 (transparent):

- **Physical fish identification** (individual tagging, RFID, genetic markers): the system records the lot-associated data but does not perform the physical

marking.

- **Laboratory analysis** (DNA for species verification, histamine, mercury): Darwin archives certificates but does not perform the analysis.

5. Sanctions and consequences of non-compliance

ISO 12875 is **voluntary** and on its own imposes no sanctions. Consequences arise when **regulations referencing it** are invoked or when **buyers require it contractually**.

Associated regulatory risk:

- **EU Regulation 1224/2009**: control and traceability of fisheries products in the European Union. Without compliant traceability, cargo may be rejected at the European port.
- **FDA SIMP** (*Seafood Import Monitoring Program*): imposes traceability requirements for 13 species groups imported into the United States. ISO 12875 serves as a technical framework, not as proof of SIMP compliance.
- **IUU fishing** (Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated): the absence of lot-to-lot traceability makes it difficult to demonstrate origin legality and can trigger IUU suspicion.

Commercial risk:

- Retail chains and large European buyers require traceability equivalent to ISO 12875 as a contractual condition.
- Without demonstrable traceability, there is no access to high-value export contracts.

Reputational risk:

- Food fraud scandals (species substitution, illegal fishing) in developed markets generate media pressure. Lack of traceability worsens crisis management response.

6. Timeline

- **September 15, 2011**: **ISO 12875:2011 published**.
- **2012**: publication of **ISO 12877** (its counterpart for farmed finfish).
- **2019**: confirmation of ISO 12875 validity without structural revision (published as DIN ISO 12875:2019 with no changes).

- **2026 to 2028 (expected)**: possible revision of the standard accompanying digital adoption of fisheries traceability (eCDT electronic catch documentation, GS1 EPCIS).

7. Official source and updates

- **Primary source**: ISO · 12875:2011
- **Complementary standard (aquaculture)**: ISO 12877:2011 · Traceability of finfish products from farmed finfish.
- **Purchase the standard text**: through the ISO catalog or national representatives (IRAM in Argentina, AENOR in Spain, ABNT in Brazil, AFNOR in France, BSI in UK).
- **Last official update verified**: September 15, 2011 (ISO 12875:2011 publication).
- **Darwin doc version**: 1.0.0.
- **Darwin doc date**: May 13, 2026.

Legal notice

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For operational implementation in your company or for formal audits, consult with a certified compliance advisor in the applicable jurisdiction.

All-in-One Digital Product Platform

Traceability, compliance and operational efficiency for food and agro-industrial supply chains.

From origin to market. From traceability to trust.

Traceability is now market-access infrastructure

Food supply chains must demonstrate origin, process, compliance and evidence. Pressure converges from regulators, global buyers, consumers, brands and higher-value markets.

Regulators	Buyers	Consumers	Markets
FSMA 204 / EUDR	visibility and response	trust with evidence	origin, quality and access

Darwin covers the full traceability cycle

captia — From origin to action

Capture at origin

Offline mobile, forms, photos, documents, geolocation, timestamp and validation.

tracium — supply chain traceability

End-to-end traceability

Events, lots, actors, CTEs/KDEs, documents, certifications and verifiable evidence.

fidenta — digital product passport

Digital identity

QR and views for consumer, buyer, retailer, auditor, certifier and authority.

AI LAYER Intelligence applied over traceable data: inconsistencies, gaps, risks, alerts, queries and audits.

What it solves

- Fragmented data across field, plant, logistics and customers.
- Slow audits and traceability rebuilt after the fact.
- Gap between market requirements and operational reality.
- Low digitalization at producers and rural areas.

What it enables

- **Comply better**: structured, auditable and verifiable data.
- **Operate better**: fewer errors, rework and manual load.
- **Sell better**: demonstrable origin, quality and sustainability.
- **Include better**: producers connected to higher-value chains.

Multi-standard compliance

Capture once, structure correctly and reuse the data for regulatory, commercial and operational purposes.

FSMA 204
CTEs / KDEs

EUDR
DDS and deforestation

Certifications
GlobalGAP, BRC, organic

Private standards
retailers and buyers

One platform, different value cases

- **Producers** — evidence and market access
- **Exporters** — control and compliance
- **Retailers and brands** — risk, recalls and claims
- **Certifiers** — audit-ready evidence
- **Industry bodies** — sectoral standardization
- **Governments** — inclusion and markets

Rollout: Discovery, Pilot and Go-live

Differentiators: traceability at the core · capture at origin · interoperability · verifiable evidence · all-in-one modular · AI on top of real traceability.

01 Discovery → 02 Pilot → 03 Go-live

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