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On the linkages between traceability levels and expected and actual traceability costs and benefits in the Italian fishery supply chain

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1 **On the linkages between traceability levels and expected and actual**  
2 **traceability costs and benefits in the Italian fishery supply chain**

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11 **Abstract**

12 EC Regulation 178/2002 introduced mandatory traceability for all food operators, but they  
13 can choose the level of traceability. We propose a model incorporating three indices of  
14 traceability – breadth, depth and precision - that affect costs and benefits. We empirically test  
15 the model by regression analyses, using data collected on a sample of Italian fish processors.  
16 While higher precision corresponds with larger perceived benefits, an increasing traceability  
17 breadth raises costs. A measure of the extent of the discrepancy between expected and actual  
18 costs and benefits is also established. Implications are discussed in light of future uptake of  
19 continuously advancing traceability technologies.

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