Sustainable Fisheries Partnership

Aquaculture Fact Sheet

www.sustainablefish.org

Aquaculture Overview

Aquaculture, or farmed aquatic animal production, is growing quickly as global demand for protein, essential micro-nutrients and seafood quickly outstrips capture fisheries supplies.
The main aim of the Aquaculture program of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) is to ensure that aquatic animals are farmed in ways that minimize negative environmental and social impacts.
SFP pursues this goal through three approaches; we rely on improvement through dialogues/networks, we encourage farm-by-farm improvements, and we seek improvements in strategic aquaculture regions.

Dialogues and networks

SFP believes that credible standards that are accessible to different sectors of the industry can hasten change and improve aquaculture practices in a sustainable manner. Through our dialogues and networking, we also promote transparency in sourcing of ingredients - in particular, sustainable sourcing of fish meal and fish oils from wild-capture fisheries.

- Engage in various aquaculture dialogues that will influence standards setting and governance options related to fish farming/aquaculture.
- Develop new approaches to enable small-scale fish farmers to become certified. The majority of the worldís farmed fish production comes from a large number of small farms across Asia, Africa and Latin America.
- Review world supplies of fish meal and fish oil, to promote transparency about the sustainability of key wild capture fisheries that supply feed for aquaculture.
- Encourage fishfeed manufacturers to disclose the sources of the ingredients in their feed.

Farm-by-farm Improvement

We promote farm-by-farm work with existing eco-label schemes and encourage farms to undertake audits, in order to reduce impacts on a farm-by-farm basis.

- Work on Tilapia to broadly understand and compare the feasibility of the different aquaculture standards with special considerations for the applicability of such standards among small-scale operators.
- Understand the environmental implications (such as bio pollution) of the different tilapia production systems as well as other aquaculture species.
- Work with Vietnamese catfish (Pangasianodon hypophthalmus, ìtraî) farmers to better understand and mitigate their environmental impacts.
- Most of these farms are not yet assured of compliance with any of the various aquaculture standards, for a number of reasons. SFP is looking at the potential to apply lessons learned from other sectors and industry (agriculture, forestry, organics) to achieve sustainable aquaculture practices.

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Aquaculture Improvement Partnership
SFP will promote Aquaculture Improvement Partnerships (AIP) to demonstrate the value in reducing environmental impacts of the aquaculture sector and maintaining pristine water bodies, coastal habitats and wetlands free of exotic/non-native species. SFP will develop industry partnerships to help achieve the target of improving aquaculture with minimal impact through best practices and improvements of standards and regulations. SFP also seeks to improve the livelihood of small-scale aquaculture farmers in the long run. In the short and medium term, SFP would like to develop ways for farms to improve their operations and reward for such efforts.

Chinese Tilapia
- Convenes producers to reduce potential risks associated with tilapia farms in the natural environment and prevent introduction in pristine water bodies.
- Improve tilapia aquaculture management and compliance with the eco-label standards.
- Create environment where different stakeholders (producers, processors, exporters, etc) could discuss and work together towards the sustainability of tilapia.
- Assist buyers on developing procurement policies.

Vietnamese Catfish - Tra (Pangasius)
- Convenes producers to reduce water pollution impacts, reduce and prevent encroachment of pangasius farms into remaining natural wetlands of areas with high conservation values.
- Improve management in the production system and compliance with eco-label standards.
- Create environment where different stakeholders (producers, processors, exporters, etc.) could discuss and work together towards the sustainability of pangasius.
- Work with different stakeholder to development strategies for small-scale certification.
- Assist buyers on developing procurement policies.

Asian Shrimp
- Understand the different risks associated with shrimp farming in Asia particularly with water and bio pollution (through introduction of new species).
- Convenes producers to reduce environmental impacts associated with shrimp farming on the environment
- Improve management in the production system and compliance to eco-label standards.
- Develop strategies in certifying small-scale producers with complex market chain.

Contact: info@sustainablefish.org