

# Shrimp Aquaculture Dialogue Global Steering Committee Meeting

Paris, France

February 3-4, 2010

## Key Outcomes

### Participants

- Dominique Gautier - Aqua star
- Mathias Ismail - OSO
- Sian Morgan - FishWise
- Teresa Ish - Fish Choice (via conference call)
- Ernesto Jack Morales - Sustainable Fisheries Partnership
- S.Jahangir Hasan Masum - Coastal Development Partnership (CDP)
- Pete Bridson - Monterey Bay Aquarium
- Laurent Galloux - Bureau VERITAS
- Mathew Parr - IUCN NL
- Leo Van Mulekom - Oxfam NOVIB
- Eric Bernard - WWF
- Merrick Hoben - CBI facilitator
- Corey Peet - independent consultant

### Meeting Goals and Outcomes

The Shrimp Aquaculture Dialogue Global Steering Committee (ShAD GSC) met for the fifth time to 1) Finalize the draft standards in advance of the first public comment period; 2) Review and refine its outreach and public comment period approach; and 3) Revise the overall GSC work plan to completion.

The meeting resulted in:

- A revised set of draft standards, with remaining work to be completed on the new section for principle 2.
- Revised public comment period start date of March 1, 2010, and work plan to release.
- Revised communications and a commitment to update the plan and overarching strategy for outreach.

### Roadmap Updates

Significant progress in developing draft standards was made since the ShAD GSC last met in Bangkok. A big push is now required to get to the public comment period. The group realized that an additional week would be required to finish outstanding work (especially in the section related to principle 2) that has significant gaps. This delays public release from mid-February to March 1.

Three remaining steps are 1) Incorporate final feedback and corrections on the drafts standard via email; 2) Complete remaining work on the section for principle 2; and 3) Reformat the standards text to establish general consistency with other Dialogue processes.

The group agreed on several assumptions that guide remaining work –

- The GSC does not need to reach full agreement on all issues prior to public comment. It will use the first public comment period to solicit feedback on key issues and concerns.
- Outstanding issues will be included in the draft standards document in order to get useful public feedback.
- The GSC seeks transformational improvement from the status quo in terms of standard setting – expecting to set the best standards in the industry – while also realizing that perfection is neither the goal or possible.

### **The Public Comment Period Process**

The draft standards will be posted on the Dialogue website. Eric Bernard, ShAD coordinator, will receive public comments on behalf of the ShAD via email. The coordination team will help organize comments by issue and theme for review by the GSC. All comments in their raw form will also be available to the GSC to ensure transparency. Given the number of outstanding issues to be resolved, the GSC expects to continue to engage in dialogue and decision-making throughout the comment period.

### **Communications and Outreach Planning**

The ShAD is entering an intensive period of communications and outreach. A range of activities are planned or underway.

*Full dialogue meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia March 9-10*, to be followed by a 1.5 day GSC meeting to follow up on outstanding issues.

*Ongoing small farmer outreach in the Philippines and Bangladesh.*

#### **Outreach**

Outreach has been under way since October 2009, but will intensify during the public comment period. The purpose is to proactively seek feedback on the draft standards with specific attention to outstanding issues. Several guidelines will be followed:

- Outreach should seek to be built around planned meetings, such as Jakarta. This should be the launch point of further Asian consultation based on prior contacts made in the region.
- Whenever possible, outreach should be done by someone familiar with the standards and the outstanding issues.

- GSC members will participate in regional consultations, and or advise on contacts, wherever possible.
- Generally, consultation will be targeted toward high production regions, hard to reach groups, and / or potentially critical voices. This includes small-scale farmers, NGOs, academics, and industry players in Asia, India, and Latin America as priorities.

### **Draft Standards Review**

The GSC reviewed, discussed and made improvements to the full set of draft standards.

Principle 1 – Comply with all applicable national laws and local regulations

Principle 2 – Conserve natural habitat, local biodiversity and ecosystem function

Principle 3 – Develop and operate farms with consideration for surrounding communities

Principle 4 -- Develop and operate farms in a socially responsible manner

Principle 5 – Manage shrimp health in a responsible manner

Principle 6 - Manage broodstock origin, stock selection, and effects on biodiversity

Principle 7 – Use resources in an environmentally efficient and responsible manner

Overall, several thematic changes were made since the Bangkok meeting, including:

- Renaming and reorganization of the suite of standards
- Elaboration of rationales for each indicator
- Incorporation of terminology and definitions into the standards text

**Several overarching recommendations were suggested as areas of overall improvement, including:**

- Sourcing and updating all definitions
- Adding impact statements based on the FAO principles
- Adding context setting statements for each principle
- Including rationales for each criterion
- Referencing all eight FAO principles in the document to provide better clarity around the impacts framework
- Referencing high ambition and continuous improvement as an overall approach
- Reviewing all standards to minimize BMP approaches
- Clarifying the general protocol and structural layout of the standards for consistency across principles

Several outstanding issues / questions were identified for nearly all principles and are captured as outstanding issues that will be used to solicit input from the public in key areas where the GSC is still in debate.

### **Miscellaneous Issues Discussed**

The GSC also discussed the budget and resources to complete the work. Although the goal of the ShAD is to develop standards for responsible shrimp farming, there is a strong

interest from the GSC to be kept informed about the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) development process and contact will be made between ASC and GSC to ensure good communication.