

What's New in Aquaculture

News

NACA launches Shrimp Media Monitoring Service

A regular bi-weekly summary of shrimp-related news and media reports is available for download from the NACA website in PDF format. The release of new summaries will be announced in the NACA electronic newsletter, available through the home page www.enaca.org.

Tougher testing of shrimp for export in Thailand and Vietnam

Vietnam is upgrading quality control of its shrimp exports in response to chemical residue related trade restrictions introduced by major export markets earlier this year. The restrictions were introduced by a number of key markets following the discovery of the antibiotic chloramphenicol, which may be hazardous to human health, in regional shrimp exports.

New testing equipment worth approximately \$2 million has been purchased by the government with the first units due to arrive this month. Around 30 Vietnamese shrimp exporting businesses are also investing in rapid testing equipment, worth around \$20,000. The local industry has expressed frustration over the short period of time given by the European Union, Canada and the United States for the industry to comply with new and lower maximum residue limits, which have fallen from 0.5 parts per billion to 0.3 parts per billion. Two samples contaminated with chloramphenicol were detected in August by the US Food and Drug Administration.

Thai authorities are also implementing stricter measures, with export bans threatened for shrimp companies found to be selling contaminated chemical residues. Thailand has committed to chemical testing of shrimp and chicken products at different points along the supply chain from harvest to export. In recent

months the EU has been inspecting 100% of Thai shipments instead of random consignments. The volume of shrimp exports from Thailand to the EU has fallen by 70% over the first six months of 2002 compared to the same period last year. Sources: Far Eastern Economic Review, Issue 26 September and FIS.com 13 September 02

WAS launches cheap e-subscription for developing countries

The World Aquaculture Society has established an "e-subscription". This subscription is intended to allow people from least developed countries to access some of the benefits of the WAS at a special rate. For more details, visit the WAS web site www.was.org

The e-subscription costs only US\$10 per year and includes access to the members area of the WAS web site, inclusion in the WAS membership directory, access to WAS meeting abstracts and members rates in the WAS store. E-subscription does not include members rates for WAS meetings or the right to vote in WAS elections.

STREAM launches Virtual Library

The STREAM virtual library has been upgraded. Please browse the book shelves! There is lots to read and many downloads and useful contacts. There are three ways to locate publications, documents and materials:

- You can look through Periodicals, Countries and Themes.
- You can look in the Virtual Library by typing key words into the search engine.
- You can connect to other websites through links maintained by STREAM.

The website is available through <http://www.streaminitiative.org/newvirtual/VirtualLibrary.html>

Coral trout spawning achieved in Philippines

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has succeeded in

spawning one of the world's most sought-after grouper, the coral trout (*Plectropomus leopardus*), known locally as suno, in its Palawan hatchery last month. Coral trout is primarily a reef-dwelling species. Destructive and illegal fishing methods such as cyanide and explosives are often used to catch this fish resulting in damage to adjacent reef habitat. High demand has made it one of the most expensive fishes in the region and it is a staple for the live fish restaurant trade. BFAR researchers were able to collect 77,000 eggs during the spawning on 9 August. The fingerlings (usually wild caught) are reared in floating cages. Source: Manila Business World

US shrimp industry accuses Asia and Latin America of dumping

US Shrimp fishers are planning possible lawsuits against up to 16 countries accused of dumping shrimp at below-market prices and damaging the US industry. The US is considering action against China, Vietnam, Thailand and several Central and South American countries for allegedly dumping shrimp in the United States and damaging the domestic shrimp industry.

Shrimp industry representatives from Alabama, Florida, Texas, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana attended the meeting in New Orleans, along with government officials from several US states. A steering committee has been formed for the action, which will meet in the next two weeks to decide if court action will be pursued.

If successful, the lawsuits could result in new tariffs being imposed on imported shrimp and possibly result in the introduction of import quotas. Source: Associated Press, 11 September 2002.

New system detects nodavirus in seabass

A new study on nodavirus by the French institute IFREMER has shown that ELISA (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay) methods may be

used to detect nodavirus infection in farms and to select virus-free broodstock. Nodaviruses cause a degenerative disease affecting the brain and retina of some fish species, notably grouper and sea bass, although it affects a wide range of others. ELISA allows early virus detection without harming fish by detecting specific antibodies in the blood. The epidemiological study of infection was performed on both wild and farmed seabass to assess the feasibility of using the serological test for detecting the virus. The results show that the system could be used to monitor infection in fish farms and for selecting uninfected individuals to serve as broodstock. The experiments performed with the ELISA method complement the currently international standards recognized by the International Office for Epizootic Diseases (OIE). Source: FIS Latino, September 9

Mexico hosts workshop on capacity and awareness building on import risk analysis for aquatic animals

The Second Training/Workshop of the APEC Fisheries Working Group project was held from 12-17 August in Mazatlan with the assistance of Mexican authorities, NACA, the FAO and the OIE Fish Disease Commission. 61 regulatory authorities and administrators responsible for trade of live aquatic animals and aquatic animal health specialists came together to share experience, raise awareness, build capacity and contribute to the development of a practical manual for risk analysis in aquatic animal movements. Five APEC economies in the Americas (i.e. Canada, Chile, Mexico, Peru and USA) along with 2 economies in Asia (i.e. Australia and Thailand) with an additional representation from 12 countries in Latin America (i.e., Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Venezuela). With the completion of the Mazatlan workshop, we expect a networking of people with certain skills and increased level of awareness on IRA on aquatic animals in 40 countries in the Asia-Pacific and the Americas.

Meeting recommends establishing a formal mechanism for regional aquaculture cooperation in the Americas

Participants from 18 countries agreed at an informal meeting in Mazatlan, Mexico, on 18 August, that a formal regional co-operation is imperative for sustainable development of aquaculture in the Americas. The success story of NACA and its support to Asia regional aquaculture should be considered as an example for exploring viable mechanisms for the Americas. Such mechanisms should support overall development of the aquaculture sector in the Americas, while addressing the issues of major concerns to the region on timely and priority basis; build on existing networks and agreements and should be complementary and should strengthen regional and inter-regional cooperation. An Ad-hoc Working Committee, consisting of members from FAO, NACA, APEC, United States of America, Ecuador and Chile, was established with the view to move the initiative forward. Participants represented Australia, Belize, Brasil, Canada, Costa Rica, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Panama, Thailand, USA, and Venezuela. The meeting was organized by FAO, NACA, APEC Fisheries Working Group and the Comision Nacional de Acuaculturay Pesca (CONAPESCA) of Mexico.

Thailand warns farmers against use of banned chemicals

Thai farmers have been warned against the use of the banned veterinary drugs chloramphenicol, dimetridazol, ronidazole, furaltadone, furazolidone, nitrofurantoin, nitrofurazone and nitrovin, by Thailand's Public Health Ministry, who are worried about losing access to major overseas markets such as the EU. The EU now insists on testing for these drugs, which have in the past been found in Thai products. Products from Vietnam and Myanmar are also tested. Positive results could result in a ban as happened with China. Frozen chicken and shrimp exports are worth around US\$ 2.4 billion to Thailand annually. Farmers now risk fines of around US\$ 500 and two years

in jail. A recent crackdown by Thai authorities recently found six tonnes of chemicals but more is thought to be stockpiled. Source: Associated Press, August 22, 2002.

Vietnam-US catfish battle may continue for some time

Vietnam producers of basa and tra catfish have announced they intend to fight US producers in court despite the potential length of the case (up to one year). The Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Processors (VASEP) are disputing US catfish producers' claims to the US International Trade Commission (ITC) that Vietnamese are deliberately dumping (exporting and selling products in the US at a price below the cost to produce in an effort to undermine US producers). VASEP state they are fully prepared to face the lawsuit and claims their product is low in cost due to low labour and production costs and it is sold at low prices globally, not just in the US. They also claim that while only 14 businesses supply the US, they are suing 53. They also have the academic support of US economists who state that the fall in US catfish prices is due to a general economic slump throughout the US. A win for US catfish farmers would be disastrous for the 300,000-400,000 farmers in southern Mekong Delta provinces. VASEP has also asked the ITC and the ministry to make objective decisions in line with bilateral trade ties to bring benefits to both the US and Vietnam. The ITC ruled that there was "reasonable indication" that a rise in low-priced imports of "certain frozen fish fillets" from Vietnam threatened to injure the domestic industry. The vote now allows the Commerce Department to continue the investigation into whether anti-dumping is occurring. This has been described by the Vietnamese foreign ministry as "an unreasonable petition based on totally groundless allegations". The Commerce Department could impose a preliminary duty in December after the completion of its investigation. Vietnam has further accused the US International Trade Commission (ITC) of being biased in allowing US catfish farmers to proceed with anti-dumping action. Source: Agence France Presse, August 9, August

15, 2002; *Associated Press*, August 8, 2002; *Associated Press Online* August 8, August 15, 2002; *National Post*, August 9, 2002; *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, August 18, 2002; *Vietnam Investment Review*, July 29, 2002; *Saigon Times Daily*, August 12, 2002.

Malaysian aquaculture zone planned

Rivers in the Gelang Patah zone of Malaysia are planned to be turned into an aquaculture zone following the application to the Rural Development Ministry two years ago by the Johor Baharu Selatan Farmers Organisation (PPJBS). Twenty-five operators are expected to take part in the project operating on the Sungai Simpang Arang, Sungai Pulai and Sungai Redang rivers. Already, 19 fish breeding ponds exist, capable of producing 1.5 million fry annually such as merah (red snapper), gerung belang (striped trevally), senangin (threadfin) and siakap (sea perch). *Source: BERNAMA, Malaysian National News Agency, August 14, 2002*

Philippine plan to develop more lobster farms

Following the success of its mariculture park and to further develop food security, the Island Garden City of Samal (Igacos) is to develop lobster farms in Babak. Although still in the early stages, the plan is to install cages in a mariculture park. The 10 million Peso park will be developed with the assistance of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Other mariculture parks have recently given Samal the Best Practices Award by the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) for innovative schemes for job creation, food security, sustainable development and the protection of marine resources. *Source: Business World Publishing Corporation, August 5, 2002.*

US funds Vietnamese shrimp breeding project

Work has begun on a US\$ 5 million shrimp breeding project in Hai Phong, Vietnam. The ten-year project is intended to create 1,000 jobs and over

2,000 tonnes of shrimp per year. Funded by American Technologies Inc (ATI), the project will encompass all life stages from breeding to exporting to American markets. The 846 ha project will be conducted in two stages, building the initial ponds and infrastructure then later expanding. However, not all local farmers are happy, stating that compensation for land was less than their initial investment in it. (Source: *Asia Pulse*, August 15, 2002)

New publications

Fisheries Subsidies

Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics

This report reviews the issues surrounding subsidization of the fishing industry throughout the world and also in an Australian context. The report reviews the type and level of subsidies employed and current activity and issues in relation to disciplining subsidies. The report is available as a free download (PDF 43 pages 97KB) from http://www.abareconomics.com/htdocs/pages/freepubs/free_fisheries.htm

Import competitiveness

Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics

This report provides a profile of edible fisheries products imports into Australia, the role of imports in domestic seafood consumption and the competitiveness of commodities such as live and plate fish, white fillet fish and crustaceans against Australian wild-caught product. The report also examines the profitability of selected aquaculture species including salmonids, Asian seabass, shrimp, mussels and some native freshwater fishes. It contains some very useful statistics and trends on these areas. Available as a free download (PDF 49 pages, 336KB) from http://www.abareconomics.com/htdocs/pages/freepubs/free_fisheries.htm

STREAM Workshop on Process Monitoring and Significant Change Report

The aim of the STREAM programme is to offer support to the livelihoods of poor people who manage aquatic resources through an inclusive approach. The aim of the workshop was to familiarize participants with the work being done in process monitoring and significant change; discussion and development of a practical information system that enables monitoring of development processes and significant changes occurring within the STREAM initiative; and learning to inform STREAM implementation and other stakeholders; and to explore how this will work in practice. Available as a free download from the NACA website www.enaca.org/publications.htm (PDF 327 KB, 53 pages), or order through the NACA Secretariat (contact publications@enaca.org).

First STREAM Regional Conference Report

This report describes the proceedings and outcomes of the first regional conference of the Support to Regional Aquatic Resource Management program (STREAM). Issues covered include strategies, processes and practices; livelihoods; policy and institutional development; and communications aspects of the program. Available as a free download from the NACA website www.enaca.org/publications.htm, (PDF 766 KB, 25 pages) or order through the NACA Secretariat (contact publications@enaca.org).

Report on the formalization of an Asia-Pacific Marine Finfish Aquaculture Network

This is the report of a sub-section of 'Collaborative APEC-NACA Grouper Aquaculture Network' project on "Formalization of an Asia-Pacific Marine Finfish Aquaculture Network". The aims of the formalization are to create a strong network of research institutes and experts that are actively involve in grouper and other marine finfish R & D in the region; resources sharing through cooperation in order to make maximum use of limited resources; and improve information

What's New in Aquaculture

exchange and dissemination. Available as a free download from the NACA website www.enaca.org/publications.htm (PDF 260 KB, 45 pages), or order through the NACA Secretariat (publications@enaca.org).

The Asia-Pacific Marine Finfish Aquaculture Network Website CD-ROM

The entire Marine Finfish Aquaculture Network website has been put on a CD-ROM, featuring two newly-released proceedings of previous network meetings and other associated publications. To order, contact publications@enaca.org. If you want to see what you get visit the website itself, www.enaca.org/grouper



Sustainable Sea farming & Grouper Aquaculture

The proceedings of the Grouper Network workshop in Medan, 2000. This report contains the recommendations of the working groups and research papers presented by participants. Available for free download from the www.enaca.org/publications.htm (234 Pages, PDF 2.15 MB)

5th Edition of the International Aquatic Animal Health Code released

The fifth edition of the Code is now available in English, French and Spanish. The Code covers all diseases listed as 'notifiable' and 'other significant' by the OIE (the Office International des Epizooties, otherwise known as the World Organization for Animal Health). The Code complements the OIE Diagnostic manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases (currently in its third edition published in 2000). Together these two documents comprise the internationally recognized standards for aquatic animal diagnosis and trade certification. Both cost 40 Euros. You can view the OIE Publications Catalogue from www.oie.int.

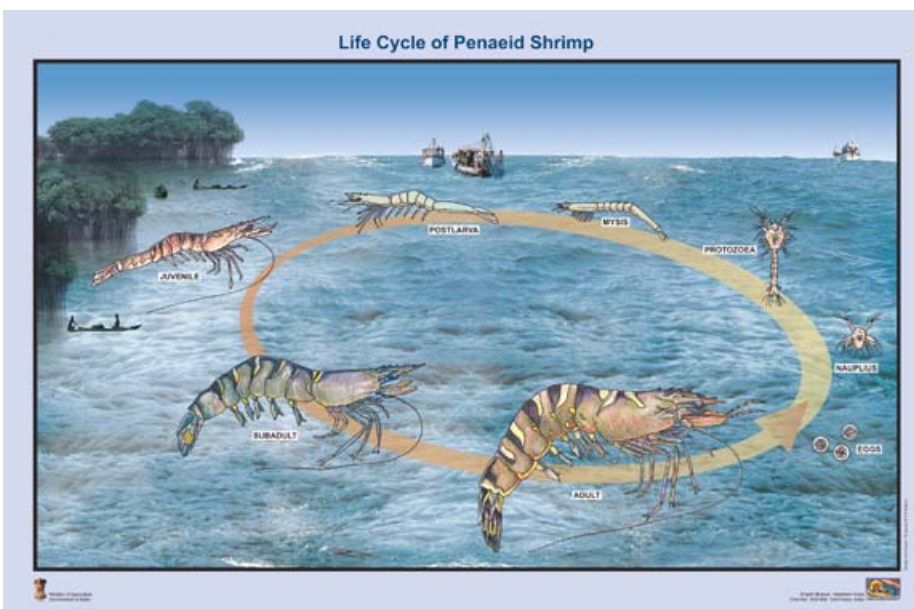
Production and Marketing of Shrimp: Trends & Outlook

S. Subasinghe and Tarlochan Singh (eds.)

This is the Proceedings of Shrimp 2001 Chennai, the Fourth World Conference on the Shrimp Industry and Trade and Buyer-Seller Meet, held 27-29 September 2001 in India. 34 papers are divided into four sections: I Global overview, II Industry situation and outlook, III Markets and marketing and IV Technological aspects of production, processing and quality assurance. It includes a list of participants and their contact details. The 239 page proceedings are published in black and white and well presented. A price was unavailable at time of publication, visit www.infofish.org for updates.

Sustainable Shrimp Farming Posters and Guidelines available

The Aquaculture Authority of the Government of India has prepared a series of four full colour posters promoting sustainable shrimp farming practices. These have been developed to popularize the concepts of sustainable shrimp farming and raise awareness among small-scale shrimp farmers. The posters are free. The Aquaculture Authority also publishes Guidelines on Effluent Treatment System in Shrimp Farms; and on Adopting Improved Technology for Increasing Production and Productivity in Traditional and Improved Traditional Systems of Shrimp Farming. To obtain copies of these publications please contact Mr Yugraj Yadava, Member Secretary of the Aquaculture Authority, Shastri Bhavan Annexe 26, Haddows Road, Chennai 600 006, Tamil Nadu, India, Tel (044) 8234683, fax (044) 8216552, email aquaauth@vsnl.net.



One of the four Sustainable Shrimp Farming Posters available. This one covers the life cycle but the others address management and husbandry practices relevant to the environment.