

Tsunami media update 20 January 2005

*Note: This is a daily summary of media reports concerning damage to aquaculture, aquatic livelihoods of coastal communities and related issues, gathered for the purpose of preparing a regional assessment to aid medium- to long-term rehabilitation of affected areas. It is **not** intended as a comprehensive summary of media reports, nor is it a summary of general damage. The content does not necessarily reflect the views of the NACA organization.*

Thailand

Source: Financial Times Information; January 18, 2005

BOT EASES SOFT LOAN CRITERIA FOR TSUNAMI SURVIVORS

Section: Business News - The Bank of Thailand (BOT) has agreed to ease its eligibility criteria on soft loans for people affected by last month's tsunamis, with borrowers being able to take out loans even where they hold bad debts. Under the new criteria, borrowers with non-performing loans (NPLs) will be able to take out new soft loans from commercial banks under different account names. As far as the issuance of low interest rate loans is concerned, the BOT has not issued any strict regulations specially, M.R. Pridiyathorn said. The initial loan period will be one year, but if borrowers need more time, this period can be extended. He confirmed, however, that the exact details of the loan schemes would be up to each individual bank to decide.

Source: ICSF; 20/01/2005

US professor puts knowledge to good use in tsunami-ravaged Thailand

Robert Pomeroy of Mystic is applying what he has learned over the last 20 years about the fishing communities of Asia to some unique and tragic circumstances. He is working with the Asian regional environment officer for the State Department, meeting with Thai officials at the national, provincial and local levels as well as local fishermen to assess their needs and recommend to the U.S. government how it can help. We can now start from zero in many communities to work with them to help develop sustainable fishing practices and coastal development that will make their lives better. There are many lessons we have learned through the years which can be applied now." Coral reefs and mangrove thickets are important natural features of many low-lying tropical and subtropical coastal areas such as the Thai communities because they are critical habitats for fish. Left intact, Pomeroy said, these could have lessened the force of the tsunami, but much has fallen victim to development pressures. The reefs and mangroves that remain, he said, have been further damaged. Pomeroy said that in one of the first steps toward recovery, he is asking the U.S. government to help fund a Thai government effort to survey local fishermen. The survey would determine how many want to return to fishing, how many want to find a new occupation and how many want to return to their villages. It would also assess the psychological impacts of the tsunami.

<http://www.theday.com/eng/web/news/re.aspx?re=E35E054F-60C5-4C8E-97C4-F4384FE148D1>

Malaysia

Source: New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad; January 18, 2005, Tuesday

Rapid KL to help fishermen rebuild lives

LANGKAWI, Mon. - Starting over from scratch proved to be a lot harder for a group of fishermen here who lost their only means of livelihood to the tsunami. A majority of the fishermen in Kuala Sungai Teriang and Kuala Sungai Muda are in their 50s and 60s and not as resilient as their younger counterparts who can find temporary jobs while waiting for their boats to be repaired. For the past week, Rapid KL has not only stationed their technical team here to repair damaged boats and engines but also to employ the fishermen to assist in restoration works. Its chief operating officer (rail) Ridza Abdoh Salleh said while the RM30 daily wage came in handy, the fishermen could also benefit from the skills they acquired from assisting in repair works. "Our long-term plan is to help them learn the basic skills of boat and engine repairing so that they can do it themselves in the future. "At the same time, they can use the money they earn to buy daily groceries," he said, adding that another two teams have also been despatched to Penang and Kota Kuala Muda to give the same assistance. The process is slow as the team has to wait for spare parts from suppliers. With thousands of fishermen in Malaysia and other countries affected by the tsunami, delivery is expected to take weeks or even months.

Sri Lanka

Source: Narooma News; Thursday, 20 January 2005

Nets for Sri Lanka and huge amounts of cash

STATE Member for Bega Andrew Constance has thrown his support behind local fishermen wanting to help re-establish fishing grounds and rebuild local fishing infrastructure in countries affected by the tsunami. In doing so he has called on local fishers to provide any unwanted gear, including nets for transportation to the affected region.

http://narooma.yourguide.com.au/detail.asp?class=news&subclass=local&category=general%20news&story_id=364975&y=2005&m=1

India

Source: The Hindu; January 17, 2005

AGRI-BIZ & COMMODITIES AQUACULTURE

AMIDST apprehensions among fish consumers regarding the quality of fish after the tsunami onslaught and reports that fish consumption has come down, MPEDA has come out with a campaign 'consume more fish and help the fishing community'.

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2005/01/17/07hdline.htm>

Source: Financial Times Information; January 18, 2005

RELIEF DISTRIBUTED FOR PURCHASING FISHING NETS

Thanjavur Jan.17. The State Minister for forests and environment, R.Vaidyalingam, today distributed Rs. 22.80 lakhs for purchase of fishing nets by 114 units (each unit has four or five fishermen) of tsunami affected fishermen in the district. Sixteen units at Mallipattinam, 63 units at Adaikalathevan and 16 units at Karakuda got Rs. 20,000 each. The Minister said that the relief was distributed to help fishermen eke out their livelihood. M.Veera Shanmugha Moni, Thanjavur Collector, presided. At Mallipattinam, the Minister distributed keys to temporary shelters to three tsunami affected fishermen. K.Thangamuthu, Chairman, Tamil Nadu Text Book Society, C.Rajendran, Thiruvonam MLA, and others participated in the function.

Source: Telegraphindia.com; January 20, 2005

Subsidy & loan for tsunami relief

The government today announced a Rs 2,731.04-crore relief and rehabilitation package for the tsunami-affected states of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union territory of Pondicherry. The fishermen who have lost wooden catamarans will get Rs 32,000 as subsidy while those who have lost fibreglass boats (the replacement cost has been estimated at Rs 1.5 lakh) will get 35 per cent of the amount as subsidy while 65 per cent will be provided through bank loans at an interest of 7 per cent. Fishermen who have lost wooden catamarans and wish to upgrade their vessels will also be eligible for the second category of assistance. In the case of mechanised boats which have been estimated to cost Rs 20 lakh, the fishermen will get a subsidy of 35 per cent with a ceiling of Rs 5 lakh and the balance as loans. A subsidy of 65 per cent will be given to repair the mechanised boats with a ceiling of Rs 3 lakh.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1050120/asp/nation/story_4275831.asp

Source: "Growfish - Gippsland Aquaculture Industry Network (GAIN)"; January 19, 2005

Tsunami hits shrimp farming industry

The tsunami has almost brought the shrimp farming industry in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry to a grinding halt. At many farms that dot the coastline, there is complete destruction - paralysing the shrimp farming industry in coastal Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. "The loss of infrastructure is Rs 3 lakh per hectare and those with crop is Rs 3 lakh per tonne. Many farmers lost material and others have no material," said J R Kalingarayer, shrimp farm owner.

<http://www.growfish.com.au/content.asp?ContentId=3295>

Source: Financial Times Information; January 18, 2005

4,000 HOUSES FOR VIZAG FISHERFOLK

Visakhapatnam, Jan. 17 - THE State Government has decided to construct 4,000 houses for the local fishermen who have suffered losses due to the recent tsunami and the cost (Rs 40,000 for each house) is to be shared by the State and the Centre. For tuna fishing, our vessels and gear should be modified and the Government should render the necessary help," he pleaded.

Regional

Source: Financial Times Information; January 18, 2005

TSUNAMI TO AFFECT FISHING SECTOR IN SHORT RUN

Visakhapatnam, Jan. 17 - THOUGH the initial reports have indicated that the export capability of the seafood industry may not have been seriously hit by the recent tsunami, later assessments have shown extensive damage to the sector, says a press release issued by the Seafood Exporters' Association of India (SEAI). Many fishing hamlets have been wiped out and over 70,000 fishing vessels have been wrecked, most of them being uninsured. The fishermen have no other skills or means of livelihood and it will take a long time for them to resume their vocation. This situation will have "a telling effect on the seafood industry, undermining its shrimp and cephalopod exports in the short run". The impact on aquaculture farms is 'equally devastating'. A large number of aqua farms near the coastline have been inundated, leaving a trail of destruction. The loss to the aqua sector extends even to shrimp hatcheries on the coastline, having a ripple effect on the farms. The seed production will also be affected. However, as assured by the experts, the quality of seafood or catches will not be affected by tsunami and there is cause for concern on the count, adds the release.

Source: Bahrain News Agency; January 18, 2005 Tuesday 7:32 AM EST

FAO says 1.5 billion dollars needed for Aceh's farmers and fishermen

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Director General Jacques Diouf said that more than 1.5 billion dollars would be needed to help Aceh's farmers and fishermen regain the livelihoods lost by last month's massive earthquake and tsunami. A total of more than 1.6 billion dollars would be needed after that for medium and long term needs, to address such problems as damaged ports and other infrastructure - fish ponds, storage facilities, drainage systems and canals - he said. "It is essential that financial assistance is provided to poor families and small-scale fishers who are dependent on a daily catch of fish for consumption and sale, including boats, fishing gear and traps to ensure household food security of coastal families," Diouf said at a press conference in Jakarta.

Source: ICSF; 20/01/2005

FAO to focus on providing relief aid in coastal areas

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) announced on Tuesday that it would focus on resuscitating the livelihoods and socioeconomic activities of fishermen affected by the recent devastating tsunami in Aceh. Within two weeks, the agency will distribute tools to repair boats, fishing gear and traps, as well as provide assistance for redesigning vessels to be more adaptive to the situation, FAO director general Jacques Diouf said. "We believe (coastal rehabilitation) should be a priority in the area. We're focusing on human beings, so that they can go back to their world, get out of this tragedy and have employment," he told a media conference in Jakarta. Diouf said it was essential to provide financial assistance to poor families and small-scale fishermen who rely on daily catches of fish for consumption and sale, to ensure household security of coastal families. The Dec. 26 earthquake and subsequent tsunami, which killed nearly 115,000 people in Aceh and North Sumatra, badly affected some 30,000 hectares of coastal areas. Farm animals were killed and crops washed away or ruined by saltwater floods. Diouf said at least 17 percent of fishing infrastructure was affected, such as ice facilities, fish landing ports, fishing gear and storage.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailnational.asp?fileid=20050119.C02&irec=4>

Source: Canberra Times (Australia); January 19, 2005

Aid money will not go to waste: experts

THE OVERWHELMING response of the Australian community to the Asian tsunami has enabled aid agencies to immediately respond to the urgent life saving needs of hundreds of thousands of men, women and children. The generosity of Australians also places enormous responsibility on us to use the resources now at our disposal as effectively as possible. Right now our organisations are making thousands of critical life saving decisions every day. When time is the difference between life and death, some decisions are being made with limited information and without the luxury of long term planning.

With the benefit of hindsight in coming months and years we may find that some decisions could have been made differently. What we can promise Australians is that we will be open, transparent and accountable to our stakeholders in all aspects of our work responding to this tragedy. In particular, we make three pledges to the Australian public. Our first pledge is to do all we can to maximise the impact of funds raised to save and improve the lives of men, women and children affected by the tsunami. Our initial focus is on preventing the loss of further lives through providing essential food, clean water, sanitation and shelter for those who have lost everything.

There will be no quick fixes. Our second pledge is to be accountable to the thousands of men, women and children we are helping. We will strive to empower people to determine their own needs and have a real say in what and how aid is provided. We will distribute aid impartially and on the basis of need –not race, religion nor political affiliation. And we will meet and aim to exceed international humanitarian aid delivery standards. Our third pledge is to be accountable to all our donors whether they be individuals, community groups, corporations or governments. Our agencies will ensure that less than 10 cent of funds raised will be allocated to the costs of administering our appeals and tsunami programs. We will provide regular and accurate information to donors on the work of our agencies in helping those affected. And, as always, our financial accounts relating to these activities will be independently audited.

Tim Costello, CE, World Vision Australia; Dr Robert Glasser, CEO, CARE Australia; Andrew Hewett, ED, Oxfam Community Aid Abroad

Source: Bloomberg; January 19, 2005 14:07 EST

Indonesia, Sri Lanka Lost One Million Jobs to Tsunami

About 600,000 people lost their fishing and agriculture jobs in the Aceh province of Indonesia, increasing the unemployment rate to 30 percent from 6.8 percent, according to the labor agency. The tsunami put 400,000 people out of work in Sri Lanka's fishing and tourism industries, pushing unemployment up to 20 percent from 9.2 percent.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000080&sid=aL4o8PqhAJvc&refer=asia>

Source: Asia Pulse Pte Limited; January 19, 2005 Wednesday

REBUILDING COMMENCES IN THE WAKE OF THE TSUNAMI

Habitat for Humanity to build up to 25,000 homes for displaced tsunami families; International fundraising efforts strive to reach US\$25 million International housing charity Habitat for Humanity plans to build as many as 25,000 homes over two years for its rebuild initiative in tsunami-torn Asia, requiring an investment of approximately US\$25 million. In addition to working with other organisations to quickly provide transitional shelter, Habitat proposes to create disaster response technical centers, which would provide building expertise, and low-cost materials, to families, Habitat affiliates and partners. Putting plans into action, country by country Habitat for Humanity has presence in six of the affected countries: Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Malaysia, and Bangladesh. Habitat for Humanity has been active in the region for more than two decades, and provided homes for more than 27,000 families. In each country, Habitat for Humanity partners with local aid organisations, and governments.

For more information, please visit the Asia tsunami-relief website:

http://www.habitat.org/disaster/2004/asia_tsunami/

Habitat for Humanity International Asia Pacific website: www.hfhap.org

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Source: AP via Yahoo! News; Jan 19, 2005

Silt Threatens Tsunami-Hit Coral Life

The tsunami split coral reefs in India's remote Andaman and Nicobar islands chain, burying them under sand deposits and threatening the entire marine habitat in the area, researchers said Wednesday.

http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/ap/20050119/ap_on_sc/india_tsunami_coral_damage_1

International

Source: PR Newswire Association LLC.; January 18, 2005 Tuesday

The United Nations Foundation Commits \$1.1 Million to UN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 /PRNewswire/ -- The United Nations Foundation (UN Foundation) announced today it will pledge \$1.1 million for tsunami relief and rehabilitation programs in India through the Pride in India Tsunami Relief Fund. The UN Foundation is working with the Indian community to raise additional funds through partnerships with corporations, foundations and donors around the world to support the immediate and second stage rehabilitation efforts led by the United Nations. The UN has the leading role in coordinating the unprecedented international relief effort to provide emergency relief, reconstruction, and rehabilitation in areas damaged by the tsunami, in India and elsewhere. A large portion of the Pride in India Tsunami Relief Fund will be utilized by the UN to support rehabilitation needs in Indian communities affected by the tsunami. The UN Foundation will match all contributions to the Pride in India Tsunami Relief Fund on a dollar-for-dollar basis for the first \$100,000 received. All funds will be directed to the UN for use in UN relief efforts in India. The UN Foundation, which has established Tsunami Relief Funds to support a broad coalition of UN agencies, governments, and aid organizations, remains committed to supporting the UN's long-term relief efforts. The UN Foundation has allocated a total of \$5 million from its core funds for these activities, of which \$1.1 million is for India.

To learn more about the Pride in India Tsunami Relief Fund and the UN's relief work, visit <http://www.prideinindia.org/>.

CONTACT: Christina LoNigro of United Nations Foundation, +1-212-697- 3315

Web site: <http://www.prideinindia.org/>

SOURCE United Nations Foundation

URL: <http://www.prnewswire.com>

Source: SENTINEL; January 20, 2005

Tsunami aftermath may bring economic waves to US fishing industry

Stiff competition from Asian imports has prompted the U.S. Department of Agriculture to offer financial assistance to U.S. farmers and fishermen hurt by the cheap imports. Now, will the tsunami that hit half way around the world three weeks ago also affect local fishermen and the U.S. seafood markets? Only time will tell, say experts. But all admit that with almost one-half of the seafood imports brought into the U.S. from the region, local impacts are not out of the question. For the last several years, Indonesia has been the third largest exporter to ship crab into the U.S.

http://obsentinel.womacknewspapers.com/articles/2005/01/19/top_stories/tops3472.txt

Source: Financial Times Information; January 18, 2005

MULTILATERAL BANKS PROMISE FAST TRACK ASSISTANCE

The international organisations will focus on long-term rehabilitation of the affected, including restoration of their livelihood and creation of infrastructure, and suggest measures for overall coastal area protection. Asked how soon the aid would come, he said that in the normal course it might take three-four months but in this exigency, he hoped that the technical studies would be completed within a month or so and the modalities worked out in a time frame. Shyamal Sarkar, senior sanitary engineer of the World Bank, said if need be the Centre would be asked to change the policy on coastal settlements. The World Bank had in the past 10-12 years extended aid to the tune of \$ 26 billion internationally to tide over natural calamities. For the Gujarat earthquake relief, it gave \$ 700 million. Money would not be given directly, but the beneficiary country would be asked to create assets, said Mr. Sarkar.

Advice Planning

Source: Financial Times Information; January 18, 2005

ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE FOR FISHWORKERS TO GO TO SEA

The Matsyafed and Fisheries Department officials, on the directive of the Fisheries Minister, Dominic Presentation, are making arrangements to help tsunami-hit fishermen from Alapad go to the sea from Saturday to earn their livelihood. The engines could be taken to the Matsyafed office at Neendakara personally or through the respective Fishermen's Primary Cooperative Society. The Matsyafed reported receiving 60 engines by this evening. Mr. Presentation said that 30 tonnes of net would reach Alapad from Ernakulam tomorrow. The quantity of net would be sufficient for distribution to the fishermen who had lost or damaged their nets in the tsunami disaster. Of the registered 150 fishing groups at Alapad, 75 are expected to sail out to the sea by Saturday, the Minister said. Special ward-level committees would be constituted to compute the damage inflicted by the tsunami on the fishing community.

Source: Financial Times Information; January 19, 2005

TSUNAMI-AFFECTED FISHERFOLK GIVEN JOINT OWNERSHIP OF BOATS

To rehabilitate and provide a livelihood to women widowed by the tsunami, the District Collector, Gagandeep Singh Bedi, has made them joint owners of boats being supplied by private organisations. A medical organisation from Bangalore, Sumana Halli, today donated 10 boats with engines, worth Rs. 15 lakhs, to the fishermen of Madavapallam near here. On the suggestion of the Collector, the organisation made six persons, including one widow, joint owners of each boat, thus benefiting a total of 60 villagers. Later, the Collector held a meeting with the fishermen from Sonankuppam, Akkaraikori and Singarathope whose boats had suffered extensive damage. He urged them to repair their boats and resume fishing. Mr. Bedi said the Government would compensate the fishermen, even if they repaired the craft themselves. Cranes had been deployed to raise the stranded boats and to make them sea-worthy. The fishermen said dredging operations should be undertaken without delay to remove the heavy silt deposited in the port area.