



Overview of Aquaculture Certification

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Background



- Increasing concerns on sustainability of the aquaculture sector
- Increasing demand (and willingness to pay) for sustainable aquaculture products
- Being taken on as a means of addressing corporate social responsibility by large companies
- Increasing number of aquaculture schemes
- Schemes led by variety of stakeholders (retailers, producers, governments, NGOs...)
- Several approaches to certification
- Strong need for harmonized guidelines to establish schemes

Greenpeace seafood campaign hits mainland

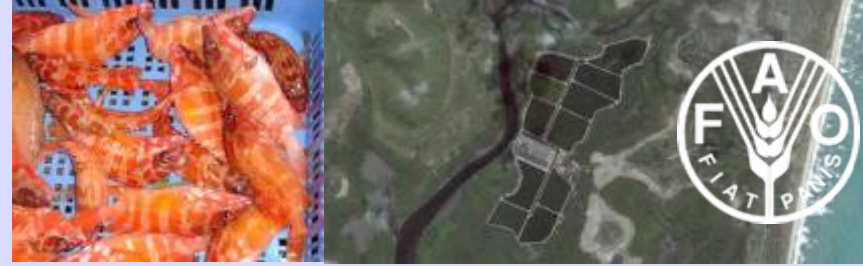
Retailers in France and Austria – including Carrefour and Lidl – have been targeted by Greenpeace activists. The campaign aims to pressure retailers to stop selling farmed salmon that is not certified as wild.

Fraud: Farmed salmon gone wild

Consumer Reports says retailers are labeling farmed salmon as wild. Federal law requires most producers label fish and poultry with their country of origin and whether it's wild caught or farm-raised. Fish stores don't have to post the information, but if they do, the law requires it be accurate.



Status of certification



- Currently at least 30 certification ‘schemes’ which could be relevant to aquaculture
 - (Environmental) Sustainability
 - *promoted by retailers, aquaculture industry, governments, NGOs*
 - Organic production
 - Fair-Trade
 - Animal welfare and “free range”
 - International Standards Organization (ISO)
- At least 8 key international agreements
- At least other 9 initiatives of relevance

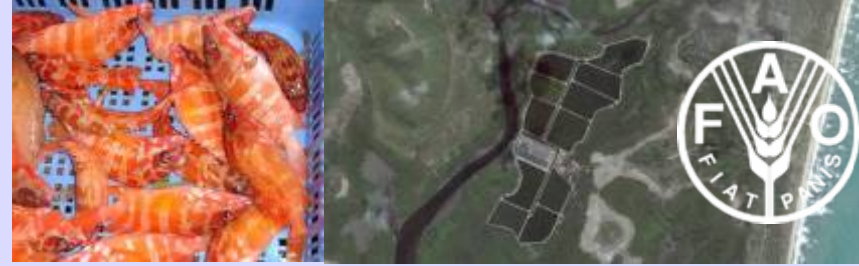




Certification schemes

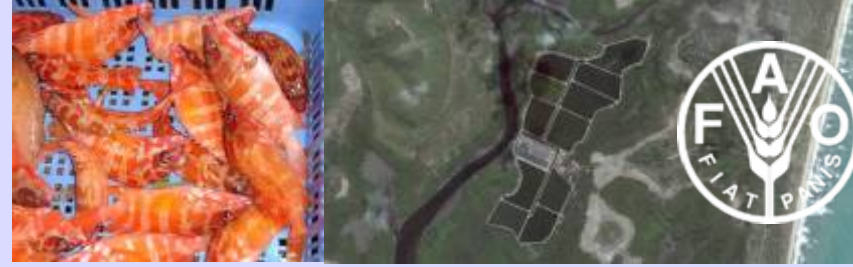


What is certification?



- “Procedure by which a third party gives written or equivalent assurance that a product, process or service conforms to specified requirements. Certification may be, as appropriate, based on a range of inspection activities which may include continuous inspection in the production chain”.
- Third party
 - Person or body that is recognized as being independent of the parties involved, as concerns the issue in question. (*ISO/IEC Guide 2:1996*)
- Certification body
 - Competent and recognized body that conducts certification. A certification body may oversee certification activities carried out on its behalf by other bodies. (Based on ISO Guide 2, 15.2)

‘Conformity assessment’



- Term "Certification" should be used only for 3rd party (according to ISO)
- Conformity assessment is the generic term.
- Often used when ‘conformity assessment’ is not conducted by a 3rd party
 - 1st party CA: Conformity assessment is performed by the person or organization that provides the product
 - 2nd party CA: Conformity assessment is performed by a person or organization that has a user interest in the products.
- Typical examples of conformity assessment activities are sampling, testing and inspection; evaluation, verification and assurance of conformity (supplier’s declaration, certification); registration, accreditation and approval as well as their combinations. (ISO Guide 2, 12.2)

Chain of custody

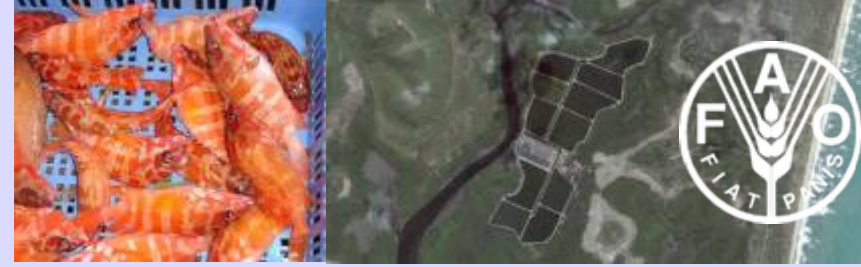


- There is little point certifying a product from aquaculture if it cannot be clearly identified
- Mixing of products is a continual problem facing both food safety aspects and certification efforts.
- The chain of custody is an important part of certification (it can be separately assessed and certified)
- Increasingly ‘traceability’ of products from farms is being required and so this is often a necessary part of the production process

省エネ等級	省エネ等級	省エネ等級	省エネ等級	省エネ等級
AAA	AA	A	B	C
この商品の省エネ性能は?	この商品の省エネ性能は?	この商品の省エネ性能は?	この商品の省エネ性能は?	この商品の省エネ性能は?
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12ヶ月の電費(円) 52,440円	12ヶ月の電費(円) 77,280円	12ヶ月の電費(円) 104,880円	12ヶ月の電費(円) 132,480円	12ヶ月の電費(円) 190,440円
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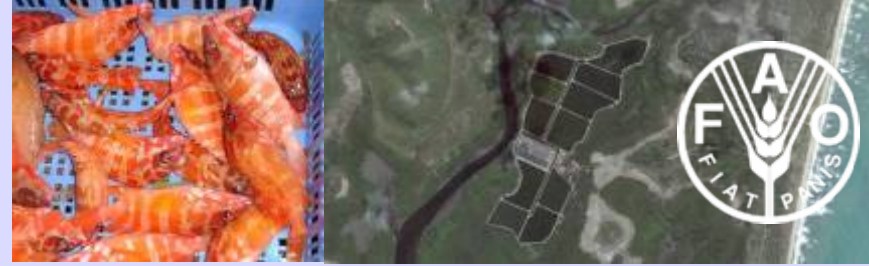
Certification schemes – general elements



- **Certification standards**
 - Developed by a standard setting organization
 - Must have clear objectives
- **Inspection body/auditor**
- **Certification body**
 - Generally accredited by an accreditation organization
 - (Often) the same as inspection body



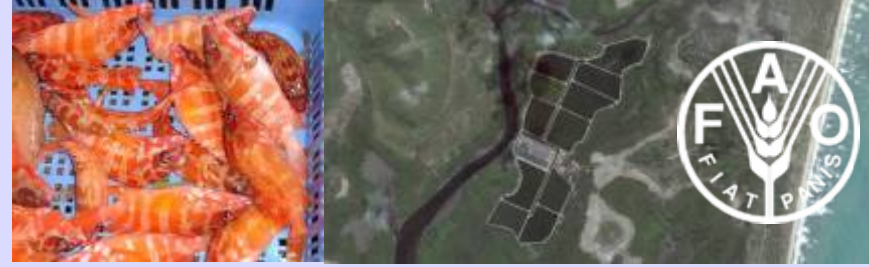
Coverage of schemes



- **Global coverage**
- **Often applicable to the whole sector**
 - typically a strong focus on key commodities: salmonids and shrimp
- **Entity being certified:**
 - **Product**
 - **Process/system**
- **Schemes are targeted at middle or end users:**
 - **Food chain operators: business to business**
 - **Consumers (i.e. consumers distinguish certified products)**



Coverage of schemes



- **General**

- Compliance to law; performance monitoring; auditing; staff training; clear scope
- Applicable to individuals and/or groups

- **Standard setting**

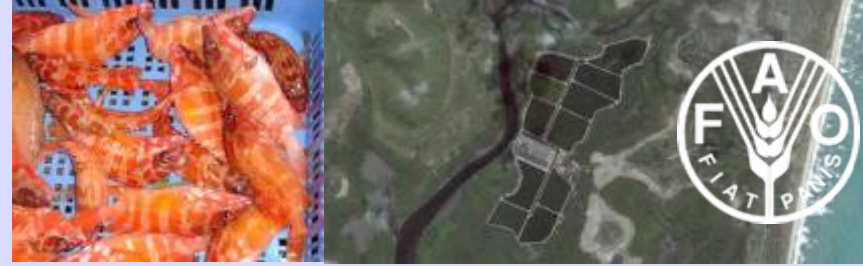
- Number of compliance points; clear principles; stakeholder inclusion in standard setting; review;

- **Inspection**

- On site testing; off-site/external impacts assessment



Coverage of schemes



- **Environment**

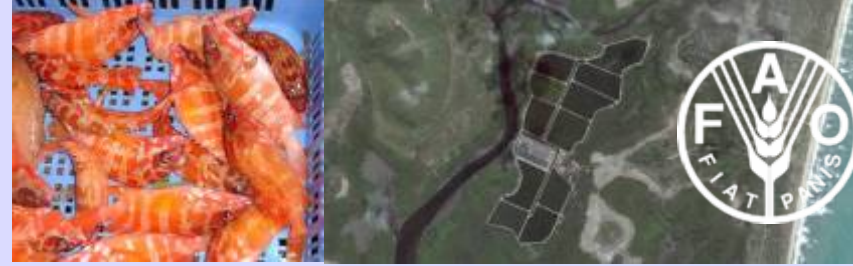
- Waste management; water quality; record keeping; effluents; chemicals/drugs;
- cumulative effects of farms; stocking density;
- Farm siting; EIA; mangroves/sensitive habitats

- **Social responsibility**

- Worker welfare; benefits/impacts on external community; farmer organization; forced/child labour



Coverage of schemes



- **Food safety**
 - Pre-harvest; post-harvest; traceability;
 - GMO; same species feeding; HACCP
- **Animal welfare**
 - Protection, humane predator control; stress
- **Animal health**
 - Responsible drug/chemical use; management; feed/feeding





International & Inter-governmental agreements /arrangements



International Standards

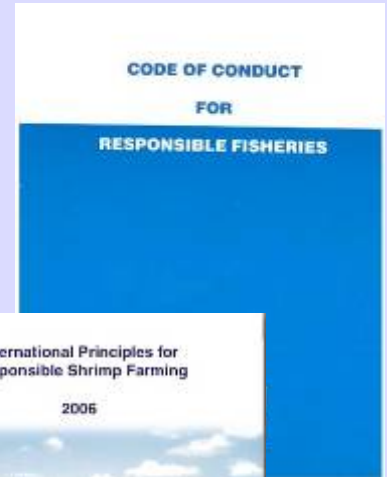


- **Codex Alimentarius Commission**
 - Sets standards for food safety
- **OIE**
 - Sets standards for animal health & welfare; relevant to some aspects of aquaculture
- **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea**
 - Binding convention for signatories, some countries have yet to sign
- **Convention on Biological Diversity**
 - Binding convention on affects some elements of aquaculture relating to externalities, as well as movements and introductions.
- **World Trade Organization**
 - E.g. WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

Intergovernmental Agreements



- **FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries**
 - Sets out general ‘scope’ for responsible aquaculture
- **Principles for responsible shrimp farming**
 - FAO/NACA/WWF/WB etc. initiative as more detailed basis for scoping responsible shrimp aquaculture
- **UN Global Compact**
 - UN Global voluntary corporate responsibility initiative
- **ASEAN Shrimp Alliance**
 - Inter-governmental agreement to establish shrimp production standards for ASEAN countries





Other sustainability related initiatives



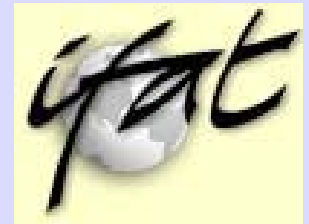
Other sustainability related initiatives relating to aquaculture



- **FEAP Code of Practice**
 - Focus on sustainable production, not for certification
- **IFAT**
 - Network of Fair Trade Organizations
 - Has label to be used by its member organizations
- **Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)**
 - Not yet certifying aquaculture products, but covering some 'enhanced' fisheries
- **Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch**
 - Categorize commodities based on their sustainability, working on sustainability standards for aquaculture
- **WWF Aquaculture Dialogues**
 - identifying criteria for the certification of sustainable aquaculture relating to on all major commodities
- **Quite few others**



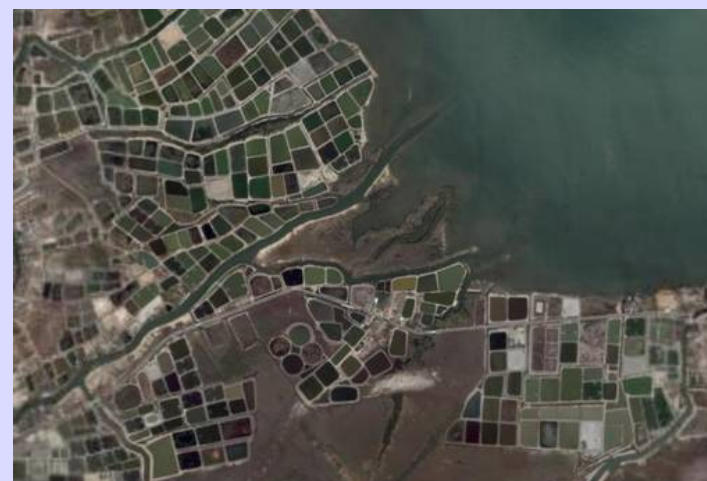
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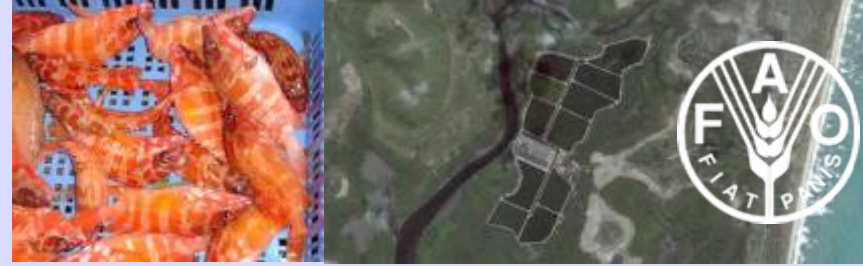
Some questions for this week



- Can we improve the approaches used for aquaculture certification?
- What about small-scale operations?
 - Can small-scale producers comply?
 - How to address the needs of small-scale producers?
 - Should they be?
- Issues of scaling
 - Farm level or sector-wide
 - Accumulation of effect



Conclusions



- **Trends**
 - ↑ number of schemes
 - ↑ number of commodities covered by schemes
 - ↑ scope of standards (social. environment; food safety; trade)
 - All driven by ↑ demand for certified products
- **Still niche market**
 - Is this set to change?
- **Standards most often very demanding**
 - Schemes may seek inclusivity or differentiation
- **Currently, most certified farms are large-scale**
 - How do we bring small-farms into certification
 - They are probably the bulk of producers



Thank you