



# **NGO perspectives on aquaculture certification**

**Input to FAO Expert consultation on shrimp aquaculture standards and certification**

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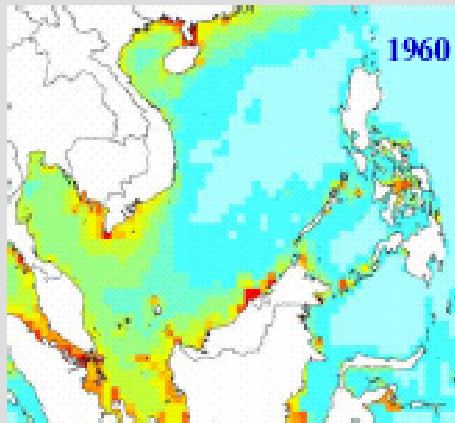


**Amrin's story:  
from house,  
via shrimp farms,  
to house**

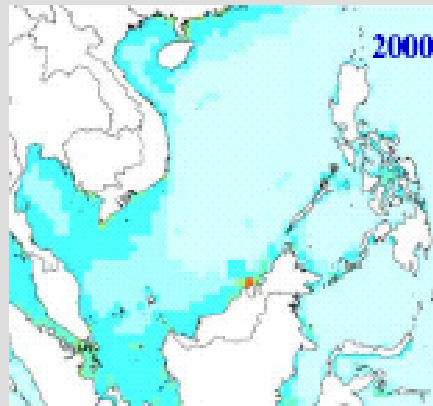


## **Some examples of “market imperfections” over the last decade in Southeast Asia**

- Shrimp culture cost: 1.5-2.6 kg feed per kg shrimp**
- employment loss: 1-5 person/ha versus >10 person/ha**
- 692,450 ha mangroves lost in ASEAN due to shrimp culture alone**
- Indonesia: shrimp prices up 600% in 1997-1998**
- Indonesia: 5000 contract farmers debts up by 1000% in 2001**
- Philippines: shrimp consumption down by half between 1994 and 1998**
- Philippines: 200,000 coastal people displaced in 1995/6**
- Thailand: in a wide radius rice fields lost 50% production due to salinity**
- Vietnam: 80% small-scale shrimp farmers in debt in 2002**



and in Southeast  
Asia...



**Direct ecosystem costs of shrimp aquaculture to ASEAN are 5.5 to 7.7 billion US\$/year.**

**This is 0.8 - 3.4 billion US\$/year more than export earnings**

(2001/2 data)

## Southern NGOs perspectives





## **Southern NGOs experience:**

**Decision makers do not really understand rural poverty**

**Consultation attempts haphazard and incomplete**

**The poor are not politically empowered**

**NGOs own analyses anchored in local perspectives**

**NGOs are seeking access to the dialogues, but.....**



**Southern NGOs need:**

**Purposely investment in building relations with them**

**Space to renegotiate basic parameters on shrimp farming regulation**

**And do that by giving the poor the space and time to negotiate**

**This includes both the small scale shrimp farmers and, the too often forgotten, neighboring communities**



## **What southern NGOs can add in value**

**Locally relevant expertise and contacts**

**Understanding the complexity of poverty-related processes  
in local space and time  
the integrated nature**

**Capacity to give specific advise to those that seek improvements**

**Help generate the social capital needed in local change processes**

**Involve them from the beginning in a process**

**especially when roles and objectives are still discussed**



And they tell us here today:

## **On standard-setting**

*Defined as that which public institutions do or need to achieve*

**Any code is only a partial solution. Current codes are too voluntary in nature and do too little on social and socio-economic impacts**

**The FAO can and should provide a global framework, but make it strict and binding.**

**National governments to strictly regulate**

**And do that via community shared decision making**

**Good to talk about environmental impacts; also still social and socio-economic concerns necessary**



**And they tell us here today:**

## **On Certification**

*Defined as that which brings consumer labels and/or that what the private sector does*

**Serious fears of 'white wash'**

**Too many loopholes and too much hidden from public view**

**Close loopholes first before developing certification any further**

# **What NGOs seek in standard/certification developments**

**Fully open disclosures**

**Transparency that allows external verification by those who seek it**

**Inclusion of all stakeholders from the beginning**

**“All” also includes “the affected neighbors”**

**Auditing schemes (even private sector to private sector ones) to include:**

**public authorities to decide on accreditation**

**public dissemination of audit methodologies**

**principally based on public verification**



**Thank you for listening**  
**I hope this will help you talk to them**