



THE FUTURE OF MARICULTURE

A Regional Approach for Responsible Development of Mariculture in the Asia-Pacific Region



Guangdong Hotel¹, Guangzhou
Guangdong Province, China PR, 7–11 March 2006

Background

Coastal aquaculture in the Southeast Asian region has been expanding steadily over the last few decades. The main forms of farming practices taken up by the private sector (both large commercial companies and smaller operators) have been mainly those, in terms of space usage, with farming infrastructures based on coastal land. One main example of this is coastal earth ponds using brackishwater for farming a variety of shrimp species and to a lesser extent finfish.

The rapid expansion of coastal aquaculture and the demand for more land space has reached a point where future land use will need to be much more carefully planned. This will hopefully (i) ensure the appropriate land allocation for different usage (agriculture, aquaculture, urban development, recreational activities, etc.) and (ii) a greater control on the environmental impact and monitoring of any given activity. The search for additional space to expand the aquaculture industry as a whole and the identification of new farming species of commercial value to satisfy the growing local and export markets is pushing the sector in some countries to expand its activities further offshore where more space is available and where, to a lesser extent, competition for areas is currently not so intense.

Recognizing the importance of future expansion of marine farming, the latest Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of NACA has suggested developing a programme of regional cooperation in mariculture for the 2006-2010 work plan.

The latest session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (COFI-SCA), Country Members have requested FAO to look into issues related to the sustainable development of coastal aquaculture and in particular mariculture.

Therefore, NACA and FAO are collaborating on a regional study and workshop on mariculture in the Asia-Pacific region, with a workshop planned to take place in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China PR from 6 to 11 March 2006.

Workshop Objective

Bring together expertise from major producing countries in the Region to establish a collaborative research and development programme that will support responsible mariculture, and social and economic development, among coastal communities in the Region.

Expected Outcomes

- 1) Identification of key issues, opportunities and constraints faced by the mariculture sector and identification of strategies required to address such key issues (i.e. better practices identified).
- 2) Establishing appropriate foundations for national and regional action programmes to implement such strategies (including national research and development initiatives; regional/national research and development partnerships working on key researchable issues; communications activities; education and training activities; market/fair trade opportunities/partnerships identified; and investment opportunities).

¹ Guangdong Hotel, 309 Dongfeng Zhong Road, Guangzhou City, Guangdong, China PR.