First Announcement

In 1976 FAO held its first global conference on aquaculture in Kyoto, Japan, triggering the recognition of aquaculture as a significant food production sector and exploring opportunities for the development of the sector. This was followed by global conferences on “Aquaculture in the Third Millennium” in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2000 and on “Farming the Waters for People and Food” in Phuket, Thailand, in 2010.

With aquaculture now providing more than half of the global aquatic food supplies, and increasingly contributing to the sustainability of agrofood systems, FAO in partnership with NACA and the Chinese Government, are organising the fourth Global Conference on Aquaculture to review the achievements and challenges in world aquaculture development and build consensus on a way forward for sustainable development of the sector.

The objectives of the Global Conference on Aquaculture 2020 are to:

- Review the present status and trends in aquaculture development.
- Evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration and Strategy on Aquaculture Development Beyond 2000 and the Phuket Consensus.
- Address opportunities, challenges and emerging issues in aquaculture development.
- Build consensus on advancing aquaculture as a sustainable and competitive food production sector.

The Global conference on Aquaculture 2020 will bring together a wide range of stakeholders, i.e. government, academia, education, research, industry and many others, to join the conference. You are cordially invited to attend the conference and share your innovative contributions. More information about the Global Conference on Aquaculture 2020 can be found at: www.aquaculture2020.org
Bangladesh delegation visits Thailand to study shrimp aquaculture

NACA and the Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation collaborated to organise a study tour programme focused on shrimp operations in Thailand for fourteen Bangladesh officers during 29 April to 2 May 2019. The study tour was supported by the Winrock Foundation and coordinated by Dr Cherdaksak Virapat, the outgoing Director General of NACA.

The group had a meeting with CP Executives at CP Headquarters on 29 April to discuss CP SPF shrimp management systems, as well as freshwater fish production. On 30 April, they visited a CP SPF shrimp hatchery in Ranode, Songkhla Province.

The Bangladesh delegation had a meeting with DOF-Thailand on 1 May, chaired by Mr. Thaworn Jirasophonrak, Deputy Director General and staff from related divisions to discuss policy and regulations, as well as shrimp farming practices and information. The new Director General of NACA, Dr Jie Huang, attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the role of NACA as a mechanism for sharing experience and bridging needs with resources in sustainable aquaculture development. Dr Huang appreciated the efforts of the Thai Government, scientists, and private sector in development of shrimp aquaculture in the region.

The delegation went on to visit the Banjong Farm in Chachoengsao Province. The farm operates SPF hatcheries for P. monodon, P. vannamei and giant freshwater prawn. The delegates returned to Bangladesh on 2 May 2019.

Expert Consultation on Development of Sustainable Aquaculture Guidelines, Rome

The increasing importance of aquaculture for food security and nutrition, improved livelihoods, poverty alleviation, income generation, as well as job creation and trade, and its potential to meet the growing global demand for fish, was highlighted by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) during its last session.

It was also noted that there is a growing need for implementation of best practices in aquaculture in many countries and regions. COFI thus recommended that FAO develop global guidelines for sustainable aquaculture development.

In addition, the last Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (COFI-SCA) called for identification of existing strategies and experiences in aquaculture development worldwide in order to document lessons learned. These could be included in new guidance with the objective to help governments achieve a better implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), while engaging and enabling their aquaculture sector to effectively participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

An expert consultation was convened in Rome, from 15-22 June, to prepare a roadmap and methodology that will be submitted to the COFI-SCA at its tenth session in Trondheim (Norway), in August 2019. The consultation addressed preparation of:

- A proposed methodology and criteria for selecting strategies and experiences of aquaculture developments worldwide and for identifying the lessons learned from them.
• A methodology for documenting and analysing the lessons learned.
• A list of thematic modules.
• A gap analysis between existing guidelines and needs for new ones.
• An updated roadmap

Seventeen experts from different countries representing governments, organisations and networks participated in the consultation, along with ten FAO fisheries/aquaculture officers and a consultant.

The workshop participants made the recommendation to be submitted to COFI-SCA that pathways be developed to transform aquaculture to better achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The group examined and revised various thematic “modules” describing the rationale and attributes for approaches and practices on each specific topic, the existing guidelines and the key recommendations for successful implementation and capacity development, based on the achievements and difficulties highlighted by case studies.

The group proposed methods, approaches and criteria to identify, research and document a series of case studies that would describe the process, the accomplishment and the constraints, to illustrate the possible pathways and thematic factsheets.

The outcomes will be presented at the next meeting of COFI-SCA. The consultation was supported by the Norwegian Government and the Government of the Republic of Korea.

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Report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Asia Regional Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health

This report summarises the proceedings of the 17th meeting of the Advisory Group, held 13-14 November 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand. The group discussed:

• Progress in NACA’s Regional Aquatic Animal Health Programme.
• OIE standards and global issues.
• Updates on FAO initiatives in the Asia-Pacific in support of aquatic animal health.
• Review of regional disease status, including for diseases of fish, crustaceans, molluscs and amphibians.
• Reports on the aquatic animal health programmes of partner agencies.
• Aquatic animal health activities of the private sector (PHARMAQ, Fish Vet Group Asia).
• Quarterly disease reporting status and updates.
• New OIE Disease List and revisions to the Regional Quarterly Aquatic Animal Disease Report for 2018.

The Advisory Group meets annually to provide advice to NACA member governments on aquatic animal health management. The group’s role includes reviewing disease trends and emerging threats in the region, identifying developments in global aquatic disease issues and standards, evaluating the Quarterly Aquatic Animal Disease Reporting Programme and providing guidance on regional strategies to improve aquatic animal health management.

The report can be downloaded from: https://enaca.org/?id=1053
The 80th edition of the Quarterly Aquatic Animal Disease report contains information from twelve governments. The foreword discusses revisions to the regional reporting system for 2019.

Quarterly Aquatic Animal Disease Report,
October-December 2018

Download the report from:
https://enaca.org/?id=1052

Tuskfish 2 Alpha: Testers wanted

The alpha release of Tuskfish 2 will be available for testing from Github in a few weeks. Tuskfish 2 is a rewrite of Tuskfish CMS, the software that runs the NACA website. It is distributed for free under the GNU General Public License V2. Tuskfish 2 builds on the experience gained in the first version to produce a faster, leaner and more efficient code base.

Tuskfish 2 adopts a strict model-view-viewmodel (+ controller) architecture (MVVMC). You can think of it as traditional model-view-controller (MVC) except the view is split into a view and a viewModel to abstract the relationship between the view and model, which improves flexibility and allows reuse of components. A front end controller and static router have been added.

So what's new?

- Strict MVVMC architecture.
- Front end controller with static routing for seo-friendly, customisable URLs.
- Inheritance completely removed in favour of composition and dependency injection.
- Namespaces implemented.
- Content objects simplified down to a single class.
- Simplified theme and template system.
- Data validator class split into a series of smaller traits that are used as required.
- Added admin-side search for locating content to edit.
- A lot of methods have been refactored and simplified.

This means that:

- It’s even faster than before; the MVVMC architecture greatly improves code separation, which means less code is read on each page load.
- With adoption of namespaces the code is better organised and easier to work with.
- Easier to extend. Add a new route and your own MVVMC components to create new functionality or add a microservice without disturbing the existing system.

System requirements

- Apache webserver.
- PHP 7.2 or higher (the installer will not run without it).
- sqlite3 extension.
- PDO and pdo_sqlite extensions.
- gd extension.

What about Tuskfish 1?

Tuskfish 1 won't be developed any further (although security patches will be provided, if issues arise). However, it remains fast, reliable and easier to customise, as it has a simpler architecture, and has full documentation on installation, use, development and on the API. Tuskfish 1 is available from: https://github.com/crushdepth/tuskfish

Testers wanted

If you're interested in helping to test Tuskfish 2 in a voluntary capacity please send an email to simon@enaca.org.