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Culture-based fisheries exchanges between Lao PDR and Cambodia

Under the ACIAR-funded project *Culture-based fisheries development in Lao PDR and Cambodia* a team from the Cambodian side of the project travelled to Lao PDR from 8-12 May. The exchange visits between the researchers and selected community leaders of both countries are a major component of the project, expected to facilitate networking and communication between the teams and to bring about an interchange of ideas and lessons learned.

The nine members of the Cambodian team included at least one representative from each of the four participating provinces engaged in planning and monitoring activities and two prominent community leaders, as well as the team leader and group engaged in coordinating the work at the Fisheries Administration. A comparable team from Lao PDR participated in the joint exchange meetings and activities.

The specific purpose of the visit was to apprise the Cambodian team of the culture-based fisheries activities that have been on-going in Lao PDR for the past five years, including aspects of community-based management of common water bodies. The exchange visit included field visits to reservoirs practicing culture-based fisheries, lectures from Lao project team members and interaction with community leaders.

The Cambodian team meets community leaders at Sivilay Village, Lao PDR.

The main component of the field visit was a one-day visit to the Sivilay community when there was an extensive exchange of ideas. The Sivilay community has 123 households (606 people) of which 109 are involved in the culture-based fisheries activities, which began in 2007. The community manages as 35 ha reservoir, which is stocked with advanced fingerlings of tilapia, common carp, silver barb, catla, bighead carp and rohu in July and August. Harvesting is normally allowed for 20-30 days in March and April each year, with around 10 tonnes of fish produced in 2012. The community is well organised with strict rules, regulations and responsibilities defined for its members. Harvesting, marketing and income distribution is well coordinated and organised.

Women play a prominent role in culture-based fisheries activities in the Sivilay community.

Through facilitated translation arrangements, the Cambodian team interacted with the Sivilay community leader and its members. About 20 Sivilay community members including women involved in culture-based fisheries activities were present for the interaction sessions, which were held under a shed near the community water body. All in all it was an excellent field visit with learning opportunity for all.

The Cambodian group obtained considerable information on the mechanisms and logistics of culture-based fisheries practices in Lao PDR; the powers the community have over management

Discussing financial aspects and income distribution amongst the community.

of the water body including to impose fines on poachers; and the manner in which income is distributed amongst the community. The Sivilay community has improved its management regimen with experience over the last six years and is maintaining culture-based fisheries activities completely independent of project support, but continues to be involved in disseminating the practice to adjacent village communities and in providing training.

It was evident that there are some fundamental differences in the approaches to culture-based fisheries between the two countries. In Cambodia water bodies are treated as a common property resource with free access, permitting any individual to fish at

Lao and Cambodian teams, background is the Sivilay community reservoir.

their discretion, any time of the year, unlike in Lao where water bodies are managed by the village community, primarily aimed at water management of downstream agricultural activities. As a result of the open access regime in Cambodia the stocked fish may not reach optimum size and thereby reduce the potential income from culture-based fisheries activities.

It was therefore agreed that the collation of baseline data on the project water bodies and subsequent monthly survey data on the fish catches / production would be required to document the benefits from the culture-based fisheries programme on the Cambodian side, and the need was recognised to introduce regulations to facilitate adoption of culture-based fisheries where communities wish to undertake such an endeavour. Some Cambodian communities will take steps to initiate a dialogue with the provincial government as a means of obtaining support for a change in regulations to protect fish stocked for culture-based fisheries purposes.

The success thus far in Lao PDR of culture-based fisheries was highlighted; basically all the communities that were involved in the first phase of the project, beginning in 2007-2008 continue to do so, in spite of the fact that a few may have had failures in some years due to adverse weather conditions, flooding and similar mishaps. All these communities are now self-sustaining in all aspects and provide leadership to adjacent communities who wish to adopt culture-based fisheries.

The Cambodian team also visited Nam Ngum Reservoir and interacted with a local Fisheries Officer to learn more about the management of the reservoir, which is one of largest in Laos, built primarily for the purpose of power generation.

A reciprocal visit of Lao PDR team to Cambodia is planned for May 2014. A regional workshop to share the findings of the project with other countries is tentatively scheduled for November or December 2014 in Siem Reap.

Culprit behind massive shrimp die-offs in Asia unmasked

3 May 2013, Rome - In a major breakthrough, researchers at the University of Arizona have identified the causative agent behind a mysterious disease that has been decimating shrimp farms in Asia.

The disease, known as Shrimp Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) or Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Syndrome (AHPNS), has over the past two years caused large-scale die-offs of cultivated shrimp in several countries in Asia, where one million people depend on shrimp aquaculture for their livelihoods.

In 2011, the Asian region produced 3 million tonnes of shrimp, with a production value of $13.3 billion.

Infected shrimp ponds experience extremely high levels of mortality early in their growing cycle — as high as 100 per cent death rates in some cases.

So far, the cause of the illness has baffled scientists, animal health authorities and farmers, making prevention and treatment difficult.

But now the identity of the culprit has been cracked: a strain of a bacterium commonly found in brackish coastal waters around the globe, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*.

A team of researchers at the University of Arizona have managed to isolate the strain and use it to infect healthy shrimp with EMS/AHPNS — a scientific method known as Koch's Postulate and the epidemiologist's equivalent of a smoking gun.

"We succeeded in isolating a pure culture of the *V. parahaemolyticus* strain and reproduced the EMS/AHPNS pathology in our laboratory," said Prof. Donald V. Lightner of the Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory at the University of Arizona (UA). "The high virulence of this agent to shrimp may be due to a phage which affects this particular strain of *V. parahaemolyticus*," he added.

The effort to study EMS, identify its pathology and respond to EMS was supported by a coalition of partners including UA; FAO; the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE); the World Bank; NACA; the Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA); the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam; CP Foods; the Minh Phu Seafood Corporation; Grobest Inc. and the Uni-President Feed Company.

This breakthrough finding by UA of a bacterial aetiology is a crucial first step in finding effective ways to combat EMS.

EMS/AHPNS initially surfaced in 2009. By 2010 outbreaks had become serious. In China in 2011, farms in Hainan, Guangdong, Fujian and Guangxi suffered almost 80 per cent losses. In Thailand, shrimp production for 2013 is predicted to be down 30 per cent from last year due to EMS. Production on some farms in eastern parts of the country has been cut by 60 per cent.

FAO first fielded a mission to Viet Nam through its Crisis Management Centre for Animal Health to investigate the disease in 2011 which pointed to an infectious agent and since 2012 is implementing an emergency technical assistance project in Viet Nam.

No risk to human health

Some rare strains of *V. parahaemolyticus* do cause gastrointestinal sickness in humans — through the consumption of raw or undercooked shrimp and oysters — but only strains carrying two specific genes cause human disease.

Just 1-2 percent of wild *V. parahaemolyticus strains* worldwide contain these two genes — and the strain identified by Lightner and his team as responsible for EMS is not among them.

"The strain of *V. parahaemolyticus* we isolated appears not to have the genes that confer virulence to human infections," said Lightner.

"There have been no reports of human illness being associated with EMS, and these new findings would tend to confirm that EMS-infected shrimp do not pose a health risk to people," added Iddya Karunasagar, a seafood safety expert at FAO.

Only shrimp vulnerable

EMS affects two species of shrimp commonly raised around the world, the Giant Tiger Prawn (*Penaeus monodon*) and Whiteleg Shrimp (*P. vannamei*).

Clinical signs of the disease include lethargy, slow growth, an empty stomach and midgut and a pale and atrophied hepatopancreas (an internal digestive organ that serves the function of a liver), often with black streaks. Within 30 days of a pond being stocked large-scale die-offs begin.

So far countries officially reporting EMS include China, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam.

But anyplace where *P. monodon* and *P. vannamei* are cultivated is potentially at risk. This includes most of Asia and much of Latin America, where shrimp farming is also important, as well African countries where shrimp are cultivated (Madagascar, Egypt, Mozambique and Tanzania).

Disease spread would appear to be linked to proximity to already-infected farms or the movement of infected live shrimp, usually juveniles used to stock ponds.

Lightner's team was unable to reproduce EMS using frozen and thawed shrimp samples, suggesting freezing kills the responsible bacterium. Since international shrimp trade is mostly in frozen form, there is apparently no or very low risk of disease transmission from these products.

Dealing with EMS

Now that EMS's causative agent is known more research is urgently needed to have a better understanding of how the disease spreads from farm to farm and implement appropriate countermeasures.

At the same time, FAO is engaging with partners to organise a concerted, inter-regional effort to address the disease.

For shrimp farmers, reliance on already-established aquaculture and biosecurity best practices will help prevent EMS-related problems. These include:

Post-larvae shrimp used for stocking should be purchased from reputable sellers, be accompanied by animal health certificates prior to being introduced on-farm, and subjected to a temporary quarantine prior to stocking.

High quality feed should be used, and environmental stresses avoided, to keep shrimp healthy.

The health of pond environments should be carefully maintained and young shrimp should be closely monitored. Any illness should be immediately reported to the proper authorities.

Regular fallowing of aquaculture ponds should be considered as part of a routine on-farm program of aquatic animal health, as this practice has been shown to break pathogen life cycles.

Off farm, any movement of live or unfrozen shrimp products should also comply with established best practices.

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Presentations from the final technical consultation on EMS/AHPNS available for download

Under the FAO technical cooperation project (TCP/VIE/3304 (E)) Emergency assistance to control the spread of an unknown disease affecting shrimp, this final technical consultation on "Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) or Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Syndrome (APHNS) of Cultured Shrimp" was jointly organised by FAO and Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development from 25-27 June 2013, Prestige Hotel, Hanoi, Viet Nam.

The consultation presented all relevant project findings and outcomes of the work carried out under the project, and provided updates on EMS situation and experiences in some affected Asian countries, as well as additional technical presentations to assist in further understanding this disease in terms of its aetiology and epidemiology. Nineteen presentations were made over three sessions, while the fourth session drew a number of recommendations and risk management measures pertaining to:

- Disease nomenclature.
- Diagnostics.
- Reporting/notification

Participants in the final technical consultation on EMS/AHPNH, 25-27 June, Hanoi, Viet Nam.

- International trade (live shrimp, shrimp commodity, shrimp feed).
- Farm and hatchery facilities.
- Affected and non-affected countries.
- Pharmaceutical and feed companies.
- Training/capacity building needs.
- Outbreak/emergency disease investigation.

Workshop presentations

A total of 62 participants contributed to a successful technical consultation. The presentations from the workshop are available for download from: http://www.enaca.org/modules/news/article.php?article_id=1993

The final report (and eagerly awaited conclusions) are being finalised and an announcement will be made on its release from the press. Further information about the consultation can be obtained by writing to melba.reantaso@fao.org or rohana.subasinghe@ fao.org.

Aquaculture certification workshop held in Viet Nam

A special Workshop on Aquaculture Certification was held on 26 June in conjunction with the VIETFISH trade show, which ran from 25-27 June in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. The workshop was organised by the ASEM Aquaculture Platform, with contributions from partners Ghent University, Wageningen University, Can Tho University and NACA. Approximately 60 people attended including farmers, researchers, certification agencies, and regional and international organisations. Facilitation was provided by Prof. Patrick Sorgeloos and Marieke Douma.

The workshop was not focused on any single certification programme but instead concentrated on four key themes with an introductory presentation followed by a panel discussion, namely:

- Producer compliance constraints.
- Value chain arrangements.
- Auditing practices.
- Benchmarking

Dr Waraporn Prompoj from the Thailand Department of Fisheries gave the keynote address, sharing Thailand's experience in establishing and implementing its national certification programme. She explained the process, transition and changes that had been made to the programme in order to conform to the FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification. The Thai system had evolved over time from being a GAP (good aquaculture practices) based system through to a code of conduct to the present GAP-TAS 7401 system.

Prof. Patrock Sorgeloos and workshop participants. To his left, Roy Palmer, WAS .

Producer compliance constraints

Dr CV Mohan of NACA gave a presentation on the constraints that small-scale farmers face in complying with certification programmes, and the NACA regional experience in how a cluster-based approach and better management practices could help small-scale farmers to improve compliance. This was followed by a panel discussion that addressed several questions on the role of government and the private sector in supporting small-scale farmers to participate in certification programmes, both public and private, and to improve their market access.

The panel clearly indicated that small scale farming sector is too important to ignore and should be strongly considered by all certification programs and that small-scale producers should not be marginalised. The role of better management practice programmes in the region and their contribution to improving the capacity of small farmers to better comply with certification programs was acknowledged by all. It was strongly emphasised that small farmers need assistance from governments, the private sector and other service providers through extension services, better management practice programmes and the recently introduced aquaculture improvement programmes promoted by certain certification bodies, such as the Aquaculture Stewardship Council.

Members of the panel were Dr Warapron Prompoj from Thailand DOF, Nghyen Can from the Viet Nam Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development, Ken Corpron from the Aquaculture Certification Council / Best Aquaculture Practices Programme, Jack Morales

from the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership and Tim Moore from ASEAN Market Programme.

Value chain arrangements

Dr Flavio Corsin provided a nice presentation on various value chain arrangements that are in place by various certification programs and also introduced the new initiatives being undertaken. The importance of emerging markets such as India, China, Indonesia and the future of seafood trade dynamics were also highlighted. Panel members included representatives from European importers and responsible sourcing agencies.

Auditing Practices

Prof. Peter Vandergeest from York University Canada provided a presentation highlighting the different auditing practices followed by public and private certification bodies. The panel discussed issues of auditing vs coaching, conflicts of interest, need for best practice in auditing procedures. Panel members included representatives from Control Union Vietnam, Bureau Veritas Vietnam, Thai GAP and the Aquaculture Certification Council / Best Aquaculture Practices Programme.

Benchmarking

Professor Simon Bush from Wageningen University provided a very good presentation on the concept, purpose and approach of benchmarking and informed the participants of the various on-going benchmarking initiatives, which included: The FAO conformity assessment framework likely to be approved at the next COFI Sub-committee on Aquaculture meeting scheduled for October 2013 in Russia; the Sustainable Seafood Coalition benchmarking program; the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative and the GlobalG.A.P. benchmarking programme. The panel members strongly emphasised the need for all certification programs to get involved in benchmarking exercises so that some degree of harmonisation and equivalence can be accomplished for the benefit of primary producers and consumers. Panel members included representatives from GIS, Sustainable Ethical Aquaculture Trade (SEAT) Project, GlobalG.A.P. and ISEAL.

Conclusions and way forward

The final session and was facilitated by Prof. Patrick Sorgeloos. The Chairs of the four panels summarised the discussions highlights and provided few recommendations on follow up work. Patrick concluded with strong remarks on the need to involve small farmers in the whole process and also to build awareness of consumers in importing countries of the value and benefit of aquaculture and to make attempts to change the negative image of aquaculture.

A detailed report of the workshop is in preparation and will be circulated to all participants and made available on the NACA, ASEM and partner websites in due course.

Aquaculture in a genetic plunge towards extinction?

The NACA Secretariat and Department of Fisheries, Thailand, were privileged to host a special guest lecture on 31 May by Prof. Roger W. Doyle, current President of Genetic Computation Ltd., retired Professor of Biology, founding Director of the Marine Gene Probe Laboratory at Dalhousie University in Canada and former President of the International Association for Aquaculture Genetics. Prof. Doyle is well known to many people in the NACA network due to another of his former roles as Coordinator of the Aquaculture Genetics Network in Asia under IDRC, and his role in training many students that now occupy prominent positions in research and government in the region, including the current Director General of NACA.

Professor Doyle gave a thought provoking lecture “Artisinal tropical aquaculture in a genetic plunge towards extinction”, a timely reflection on the relationship between inbreeding and disease, given the current problems with acute pancreatic necrosis syndrome (“early mortality syndrome”) of shrimp.

From right to left: Roger Doyle and his former students Ambekar Eknath (current NACA Director General), Supattra Uraiwan (former Director, National Aquatic Genetic Resources Institute), Wongpathom Kamonrat (Senior Fisheries Expert, Thailand Department of Fisheries), and Padermsak Jarayabhand (Associate Professor, Chulalongkorn University).

After the lecture Prof. Doyle was presented with an award by NACA and the Thai Department of Fisheries in recognition of “his significant contributions to the science of aquaculture genetics and related human resource development in the Asia-Pacific region.”

The abstract of the lecture is reproduced below. A video of the presentation (highly recommended viewing) is also available from: http://www.enaca.org/modules/podcast/soundtrack.php?soundtrack_id=144

Abstract

Artisanal shrimp aquaculture is in a disease-induced crisis of lost production, into which are falling farms, gene pools adapted to farms, and small-hold farming as a way of life. The immediate cause is biological: rising levels of inbreeding and an exceptionally strong, positive relationship between inbreeding and disease which is described here. The root cause is social: a nexus of human behavior in which breeders protect their intellectual property by generating inbreeding (which is expressed only when broodstock is "copied"), local hatcheries sell copied, inbred shrimp to farmers, and farmers suffer the consequences. The likely outcome is replacement of small-hold shrimp farms by capital-intensive corporate aquaculture over vast areas of Asia, North Africa, the Middle East and the Americas. Alternative outcomes in which artisanal shrimp farming does survive are conceivable, but measures to implement them are neither in place, encouraged nor contemplated by the responsible agencies.

NACA implements World Bank training program on Good Aquaculture Practices

NACA was selected by the World Bank to implement a 6 day training program on “Good Aquaculture Practices” in Surabaya, Indonesia from 17-22 June 2013 under the on-going World Bank Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP) initiative. NACA implemented the activity in collaboration with the Directorate of Processing and Marketing and Directorate of Aquaculture under the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), Government of Indonesia.

The objective of this training was to deliver a comprehensive certificate level aquaculture food safety and supply chain management training program aimed at providing factory level food safety supervisors and managers and government inspection staff with sufficient competency to design and implement Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) through the supply chain including food safety management systems and HACCP.

The training comprised a six-day classroom and field based face-to-face program. A total of 40 trainees from Indonesia participated in and completed the training program, of which around 30 were mid to senior level technical people with responsibility for food safety and HACCP implementation in seafood processing plants. Five were from the aquaculture production sector while another five were from government and academic institutions engaged in research and extension, inspection and monitoring of food safety and compliance to national and international regulations. A team of five experts delivered the course, which was based on five modules developed by by Michigan State University, concerning:

- Introduction and background.
- Food safety hazards.
- Food safety practices for aquaculture production.
- Food safety in postharvest and processing.
- Food safety management systems-HACCP.

The course modules were translated to Bahasa Indonesia for use in the training programme. MMAF has expressed interest in repeating the training in other provinces including Medan and South Sulawesi, which are seafood processing hubs. The regional experts strongly suggested that similar training be carried out in other member countries.

Participants visited a Naturland-certified organic aquaculture farm and a seafood processing plant to understand the management practices that could impact on food safety and how to manage such hazards.

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Study tour on aquaculture and wetland management for delegation from Assam, India

NACA was pleased to coordinate an aquaculture study tour to Bangladesh, Vietnam and Thailand from 19-26 April for a delegation of twelve fisheries development officials from Assam, India. The delegation included Mr Sri Hemanta Narzary, Commissioner and Secretary for Fisheries; Mr Sri Kailash Chang Damria, State Project Director for the ARIAS Society, Mr Sri Siddhartha Purkayastha, Deputy Directory of Fisheries, and district fisheries development and extension officers.

In Bangladesh the delegation visited carp hatcheries, nurseries and farms producing carp and giant freshwater prawn as well as ox-bow lake fisheries that are receiving World Bank support and the Department of Fisheries. On arrival in Vietnam, the group visited the National Breeding Center for Southern Freshwater Aquaculture and the Research Institute for Aquaculture No. 2 in Tien Giang Province, before travelling to Tram Chim National Park in Dong Thap Province to observe community-based wetland management sites.

The group finally visited integrated rice-fish farms, catfish farms and cage culture in Mekong River, before heading to Thailand to visit the Department of Fisheries and NACA Secretariat in Bangkok.

NACA wishes to thank our partners in Bangladesh, Viet Nam and Thailand for their assistance in organising the tour and for their hospitality.

Koh Yao Noi Tree Bank and mangrove replanting continues

Koh Yao Noi, an island in Thailand's World Heritage listed Phang Nga Bay and famous for its extensive mangrove forests, was one of the areas affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster of December 2004. Many communities throughout the bay were badly affected. In the case of Koh Yao Noi, the damage included the destruction of around 48 hectares of mangrove forest fringing the island. The local community, which depends heavily on eco-tourism and fishing, decided to do something about it.

Since 2005, students from the Koh Yao Noi school, working together with the Chiba Environmental Council (Japan), Koh Yao Noi Eco-Tourism Club and with coordination from NACA have endeavoured to restore the environmental damage from the tsunami, and to improve the livelihoods of local people through a variety of initiatives.

One of the main activities has been the annual replanting of seedlings of locally occurring mangroves and tropical forest trees to regenerate the damaged areas, carried out each year since 2005, on the anniversary of H.M. The King's birthday, with financial assistance principally from the Chiba Environmental Council but also from NACA. Over the years more than 12,000 seedlings have been planted, and the activity continues to grow.

Each year since 2006 members of the Chiba Environmental Council, mainly retired teachers, scientists and engineers, have visited at their own expense to teach at the Koh Yao Noi School on subjects including biodiversity of tropical rain forests, reducing global warming, natural paper making techniques and many other environmental issues.

In July 2009 the Koh Yao Noi branch of the community-based Tree Bank was formally established, with its headquarters in Chumporn Province. The main objectives of the tree bank are to:

Increase rainforest coverage on the island by planting timber and wood trees in privately owned land.

Certify the planted trees as assets for collateral of loans.

Assure sufficient wood supplies on the island without causing net deforestation.

Plant mangroves in public areas for conservation purposes.

Within its first 12 months of operation, there were more than 145 members in the bank and it was planting more than 27 species of timber and more than five species of mangrove. Initially, the bank provided saplings free of charge which members used to plant both public

areas and private plots. In 2010, the tree planting programme extended to cover Tah Kao Village on the northern part of the island where the damaged area was much greater.

The tree planting programme will continue in 2013. Over the past year many of the replanted areas have been impacted by a very serious drought affecting the island, but the tree bank has managed to save more than 80% of the trees by arranging pumps to supply heavy watering. However, some species have been more badly affected than others, and the least tolerant species will not be selected for the next afforestation.

2013 will also mark the first cooperation with Global Change Systems for Analysis, Research and Training (START), a non-profit organisation that promotes research-driven capacity building to advance knowledge on global environmental change in Africa and Asia-Pacific. The Chiba Environmental Council will offer a training course on "Nature Conservancy for Promotion of Community Based Eco-tourism" for the Koh Yao Noi Ecotourism Club and for junior guides (students from the Koy Yao Noi school), with support from both START and NACA.

Consistent fish names key to consumer confidence

Consumer confidence is vital to the long term sustainability of the $2.5 billion Australian seafood industry. The development of the Australian Fish Names List and Standard goes a long way to addressing some of the key concerns.

Confusion over fish names can undermine this confidence, create market impediments, undermine effective species-based fisheries management, and impede management of food safety.

Seafood consumers want to know that when they ask for a specific fish anywhere in Australia they are getting the right fish. As early as the 1920s, meetings were held in Sydney to discuss fish names as the local and regional variations had become apparent.

In 2006, a process to develop a fish name standard was commenced by Seafood Services Australia. On 16 July 2007, the Australian Fish Names List and its inclusion in the Australian Fish Names Standard (AS SSA 5300) were endorsed by Council of Standards Australia.

The list was created in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including the commercial and recreational fishing sectors and government, so that an Australian Fish Names Standard could be established to meet both the seafood industry and consumers expectations for safe food, fair-trading and truth in labelling.

The Fish Name List and Standard remains a world first. No other country has been able to achieve national consensus on fish names. This list now contains 5000 namesof Australian and imported species.

"The standard has made labelling and marketing in Australia easier. All seafood must now be labelled with the correct Standard Fish Name and consumers are able to make informed choices when purchasing seafood or dining at restaurants" said Michelle Christoe, Executive Officer, Seafood Services Australia.

"Consumers want to know both fish name and country of origin. The Fish Names Standard helps us provide clarity and gives us an edge as subject matter experts in seafood' said Shane Geary, Operations Manager at Coffs Harbour Fisherman's Co-op.

Anyone concerned that the fish ordered may be mislabelled, should ask the supplier for more information on where it is from or to see the sales document or original packaging, to confirm it. If you have information or evidence of fish mislabelling, contact your supplier first. If you are dissatisfied with the explanation or response, contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission at www.accc.gov.au or telephone 1300 302 502.

Changing names, an informed approach

Three months public consultation is required before any amendment is made to the Australian Fish Names Standard. In March 2013 the Australian Fish Names Committee met to consider two applications to amend the standard.

The first application has been made to add the new group name Deepsea Dory to cover the four Oreodory species (Spikey Oreodory, Smooth Oreodory, Warty Oreodory and Black Oreodory). While there are concerns that the group name Deepsea Dory is similar in name to the iconic species John Dory, Mirror Dory and Silver Dory, they do not compete in the marketplace. Market research conducted by the applicant has indicated an overwhelming preference for Deapsea Dory over Oreodory. The name is not deceptive as the species is harvested in deep waters.

The Deepsea Dory species are caught in the deep-water areas off the continental shelf and used in the manufactured fish products industry. The individual species names are unchanged.

The second application has been to legitimise the use of the name Flake by adding a new group name Flake to cover two species, Gummy Shark and the species known in New Zealand as rig. Flake has been the name used, especially in the fish and chip industry, since about 1920 especially in Southern Australian states. The issue that the industry had identified is that the meat from other inferior species of shark has been sold under the name Flake. If this application is successful, the name Flake will apply to the flesh of the animal in the marketplace and not the whole animal that will continue to be referred to as Gummy Shark.

Anyone with an opinion on these two applications is welcome to make comment by using the form available on the fish names website at www.fishnames.com.au or by email to fnc@seafoodservices.com.au. Comments close by 15 August 2013.

We are hiring!

NACA is seeking expressions of interests from persons interested in applying for the posts of:

- Coordinator, Sustainable Farming Systems Programme.
- Coordinator, Genetics and Biodiversity Programme.
- Coordinator, Food Safety and Certification Programme.

The successful applicants will be expected to:

- Foster regional collaborative networks of people and institutions in relation to the relevant programme.
- Develop a work plan that addresses strategic issues of common interest to NACA member countries/states, with an emphasis on small-scale farmers.
- Identify potential funding sources and prepare regional grant proposals to support the work plan.
- Coordinate work plan activities, which will principally be implemented in-country by network partners.

To be eligible to apply, you must have:

- A post graduate degree with a specialisation relevant to the position to which you wish to apply.
- 5 years of relevant work experience in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Excellent writing and communication skills, with a successful track record in preparation of funding proposals.
- Good inter-personal skills and an ability to work in a highly multi-cultural environment.
- Citizenship of a NACA member country/state.

The position is subject to a one-year probationary period, which will include satisfactory progress in preparation of grant proposals and raising funds to support the programme. The remuneration package includes provident fund, relocation, healthcare, child education and dependency allowances. The duty station is Bangkok, Thailand and travel within the region is required.

Applications

This is an abbreviated notice, please see the full advertisements and application requirements for these positions on the NACA website, at:

http://www.enaca.org/modules/news/article.php?article_id=1987.

Interested candidates are requested to submit i) their resume with ii) a concise statement (two page limit) concerning the key issues in the region for the relevant programme and a vision for a work programme to address them. The precise subject of the statements requested varies for each position, so please **ensure that you check the website advertisements**).

Only short listed candidates will receive communication from NACA. The closing date for submitting your expression of interest is **31 July 2013.**

Submit applications by email to: Dr Ambekar Eknath, Director General, ambekar.eknath@enaca.org.

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NACA is a network composed of 18 member governments in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Request for contributions: Global Advances in Ecology and Management of Golden Apple Snails (2nd edition)

In 2006 the first edition of the book Global Advances in Ecology and Management of Golden Apple Snails was published and it gained international recognition.

The second edition will be published by mid-2014. Therefore, we are inviting participants from throughout the NACA network to share their knowledge on the past and present status of the golden apple snail and future directions on its management.

All contributions should not exceed 10 pages double-spaced; Tahoma 12, with text aligned to both left and right margins. We encourage high resolution photos with proper photo credits. All contributions will be peer-reviewed, and edited prior to their inclusion in the book. Please send your contributions by June 30, 2013 to rcjoshi4@gmail.com or ravindra.joshi23@yahoo.com. Thank you very much for your kind support.

Dr Ravindra C. Joshi and Dr Leocadio S. Sebastian
Editors