

Shrimp Aquaculture Dialogue Global Steering Committee Meeting

April 30, 2009

Key Outcomes

The inaugural meeting of the [Shrimp Aquaculture Dialogue's Global Steering Committee \(GSC\)](#) was held in Brussels, Belgium on April 30, 2009. The GSC is responsible for manage the Dialogue process and making all final decisions related to the Dialogue. Leading up the meeting, the GSC held a series of conference calls to identify critical issues concerning the development of draft standards that will minimize the key environmental and social impacts associated with shrimp farming.

The goals of the meeting were to:

- Clarify how the GSC will work together and refine the overall road map to standard setting completion
- Agree on how to manage technical input and ensure effective stakeholder outreach
- Consult on how to develop social standards for shrimp aquaculture
- Define next steps and meeting plans for the GSC

This was the first of a series of GSC meetings to be held until standards are drafted and the public comment period starts at the end 2009.

Key Discussions

- Defining key areas of agreement on draft standards within the GSC before seeking technical input on outstanding issues and areas of potential conflict
- Engaging in further technical discussions that place the standard setting process on a firm foundation of credible science
- Drawing on external expertise and experience in the development of social standards
- Continuing to reach out to a wide range of stakeholders in the standard setting process in ways that address gaps in representation, help vet initial agreements, and ensure broad engagement of viewpoints
- Charting a strategy to ensure the GSC is able to continue to work across significant cultural and geographic variations that characterize the diverse shrimp industry and its stakeholders

To date, substantial outreach has been accomplished via the five shrimp Dialogue meetings held in the three most important shrimp farming regions: Asia, the Americas and Africa. More than 300 people have participated in the Dialogue meetings.

Next Steps

Given the worldwide swine flu outbreak, the GSC meeting that had been planned for May in Mexico was cancelled. The scheduled full Dialogue meeting for Indonesia in July also has been postponed so that the GSC has time to meet again to develop proper documentation that will be presented for consideration at the Dialogue meeting. Alternative locations and dates are being discussed. In the meantime, the GSC will focus its efforts on negotiating standard setting by online meeting technology and additional GSC in-person meetings that maximize efficient use of time and resources.

To receive further updates or find out how to get involved, please contact Shrimp Aquaculture Dialogue Coordinator Eric Bernard at ebarnard@wwf.fr.