

FRESHWATER TROUT AQUACULTURE DIALOGUE

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

NOVEMBER 19-20, 2008

Meeting Summary

Prepared by World Wildlife Fund

Aaron McNevin – aaron.mcnevin@wwfus.org

Christoph Mathiesen – c.mathiesen@wwf.dk

World Wildlife Fund  
1250 24<sup>th</sup> St., NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
[www.worldwildlife.org](http://www.worldwildlife.org)

## **MEETING BACKGROUND**

The Freshwater Trout Aquaculture Dialogue (FTAD) met for the first time from November 19-20, 2008 in Copenhagen, Denmark to discuss the development of standards for responsible freshwater trout farming. Christoph Mathiesen (WWF-Denmark) and Aaron McNevin (WWF-US) facilitated the meeting. The expected outcomes of the meeting included:

- 1.) Create a shared understanding of the Dialogue process and how meeting attendees can participate in the process.
- 2.) Develop a draft list of key impacts related to trout aquaculture.
- 3.) Propose a general composition and structure of the FTAD Steering Committee.
- 4.) Develop draft goals and objectives for the FTAD.
- 5.) Develop draft principles to address proposed key impacts.

This document offers a summary of key issues related to the meeting and next steps for the FTAD.

## **PRE-MEETING OUTREACH**

A press release was sent to trade publications a month prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in Copenhagen. Two months before the meeting an announcement (“save the date message”) was sent to key stakeholders, including trout producers, producer associations, research institutes, NGO’s, processing companies, services industries, feed producers and national authorities (Denmark), etc. The final invitation was sent to a broader group of stakeholders.

## **MEETING RESULTS**

24 people participated in the meeting. This included producers, academics and representatives from a variety of international and local NGOs. Following are the key points raised and agreements reached, by topic area, at the meeting. Please note that all documents and presentations referred to in the meeting summary are available at:

**<http://www.worldwildlife.org/what/globalmarkets/aquaculture/trout-additionalresources.html>**

### **Aquaculture Dialogues Purpose and Process**

A presentation was made to provide an overview of the purpose of and process for the Aquaculture Dialogues. Most attendees were familiar with the Dialogues, as some have attended other Dialogue meetings.

*Key issues focused on:*

- The purpose of the FTAD is to create standards that will minimize the key impacts freshwater trout aquaculture has on the environment and society.
- The standards can be used to certify products and benchmark other standards. They also can create the foundation for buyer and investment screens and be incorporated into government programs.
- Standards will be geared toward the best performers in the industry.
- The FTAD process is designed to be open and transparent, as well as to result in standards that are performance-based, science-based and measurable.
- Ways to participate in the FTAD include attending Dialogue meetings, joining an FTAD scientific or non scientific advisory group, not attending meetings but providing input via other means of communication, and serving on the Steering Committee that manages the FTAD process.

There was general agreement among the participants on the purpose and process of the Aquaculture Dialogues, including the FTAD. Key issues raised by participants were the need to engage more producers from different regions, show rapid progress and specific results, and demonstrate to potential FTAD participants that the FTAD will produce the most credible standards for freshwater trout.

Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives were unanimously agreed to. The draft document was created and has been posted on the Dialogue website.

Impacts

The FTAD participants were divided into three breakout groups to discuss the negative impacts of freshwater trout aquaculture on the environment and society. The full group then approved the following list of impacts (which are explained in more detail on the Dialogue website):

- water resource use and supply,
- escapees, habitat conversion,
- discharges,
- disease transfer,
- fish health and welfare,
- feed ingredients,
- energy efficiency
- carbon footprint, predator control, and
- social/community

*Key issues focused on:*

- Water issues need to have a stand-alone impact. They cannot be included in habitat effects.
- Social impacts include labor issues as well as community relations.

Principles

The FTAD was divided into two breakout groups and tasked with developing the principles to address the consolidated list of impacts. One of the challenges with these discussions was distinguishing between impacts related to the environment vs. society, which sometimes overlap. The principles approved by the group were;

- obey international
- national laws
- local regulations to conserve local habitat and biodiversity
- minimize negative effects on water resources
- proactively maintain the health and welfare of cultured fish
- minimize risk of disease transmission
- use resources responsibly and
- be socially responsible

*Key issues focused on:*

- “Conserve” has a preservation connotation in some languages.
- “Sustainability” is a delicate word to use as there are a myriad of definitions for this term.

Steering Committee

Following a presentation and discussion about the role of the FTAD’s Global Steering Committee, the group chose David Bassett (British Trout Association) and Aaron McNevin (WWF-US) to serve on the committee.

*Key issues focused on:*

- The steering committee must be a good representation of the full FTAD. It should include representatives from the following groups. The number of people per group is in parentheses:
  - NGOs (3)
  - Producers (3)
  - Feed manufacturer (1)
  - Retailer (1)

- World Aquaculture Society, governing board member (1)
- Under-represented parties on the Steering Committee can be given more weight in the decision-making process if there is a general lack of interest in participating at this level.
- Each committee member must commit to the FTAD Steering Committee requirements. They will be expected to attend Dialogue meetings in their region, participate in committee conference calls and respond to committee-related email messages in a timely fashion.
- Each committee member will be asked to help pay the cost of hiring consultants to conduct research on behalf of the FTAD, if it is determined such research is needed.

Action items and post-Dialogue follow-up:

1. Post meeting material on FTAD website (Jill Swartz WWF US).
2. Contact potential steering committee nominees to fill stakeholder vacancies (Christoph Mathiesen WWF DK and Aaron McNevin WWF US – January/February 2009)
3. Develop draft criteria to discuss at future FTAD meetings (Aaron McNevin WWF US and Christoph Mathiesen WWF DK)
4. Ask retailers for public show of support for the FTAD process (Christoph Mathiesen WWF DK – December 2008 - February 2009).
5. Expand the FTAD distribution list (all participants are encouraged to send new names and email addresses to Christoph Mathiesen WWF DK).

Next meetings to be held:

1. 27 April 2009 , in conjunction with the Brussels Seafood Exhibition
2. 1-2 June 2009, in conjunction with the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers General Assembly, Faroe Islands (Denmark)
3. October 2009 (dates TBD), 2-day meeting in conjunction with Fish Eurasia Conference in Istanbul/Izmir, Turkey
4. *Tentative* 17-21 August 2009. Poster and/or presentation in conjunction with the European Aquaculture Society/AquaNor conference, Trondheim, Norway.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Agenda

***Day 1***

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 9:00 – 9:30   | <b>Welcome and introductions</b> – Christoph Mathiesen (WWF-Denmark) and Brian Thomsen (Denmark Trout Association) |
| 9:30 – 10:45  | <b>Aquaculture Dialogues 101: Understanding the process</b> – Aaron McNevin (WWF-US) and Christoph Mathiesen       |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | <b>Break</b>   |

11:00 – 12:00	<b>How do Dialogue participants interact?: Ground rules for constructive dialogue – Aaron McNevin</b>
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Lunch</b>
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Goals and objectives/responsibilities</b>
14:00 – 14:45	<b>Introduction to impacts of freshwater trout aquaculture - discussion</b>
14:45 – 15:00	<b>Break</b>
15:00 – 16:00	<b>Breakout group discussions: Coming to agreement on impacts</b>
16:00– 17:00	<b>Report out from breakout groups, followed by group discussion about impacts</b>
17:00	<b>Adjourn</b>

***Day 2***

9:00 – 9:30	<b>Perspectives from Day 1</b>
9:30 – 9:45	<b>What is expected of Steering Committee members?</b>
9:45 – 10:15	<b>Choose Steering Committee members?</b>
10:15 – 10:30	<b>Break</b>
10:30 – 11:00	<b>From impacts to principles – Discussion</b>
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Breakout group discussions: Creating principles</b>
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
13:30 – 15:30	<b>Report out from breakout group discussions, followed by group discussion about principles</b>
15:30 – 16:00	<b>Wrap-up discussion and the way forward</b>

List of participants

Name	Organization	Country
Henning Mørk	Danish Society for Nature Conservation	Denmark
Christoph Mathiesen	WWF Denmark	Denmark
Espen Tind Nordberg	WWF Denmark	Denmark
Aaron McNevin	WWF US	USA
Colin Brannen	WWF US	USA
Thomas Bjerre Larsen	Miljøstyrelsen (Danish Environmental Protection Agency)	Denmark
Mogens Schou	Fødevareministeriet (Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries)	Denmark
Mette Selchau	Fødevareministeriet (Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries)	Denmark
Alfred Jokumsen	DTU Aqua National Institute for Aquatic Resources	Denmark
Richard Soderberg	Mansfield University	USA
Steve Sommerfeldt	Freshwater Institute	USA
Mogens Werge	COOP	Denmark
Gary Charsley	Troutlodge European Representative	UK
Kyle Martin	Troutlodge Inc. USA	USA
Brian Thomsen	The Organisation Danish Aquaculture (TODA)	Denmark
Karl Iver Dahl Madsen	The Organisation Danish Aquaculture (TODA)	Denmark
Morten Priess	Aquapri	Denmark
Lars Bjørn	Aquapri	Denmark
David Basset	British Trout Association	UK
Serge Gomes da Silva	GIPPA (Groupe d'Intérêt pour les Poissons, la Pêche et l'Aquaculture)	Belgium
Jesper Heldbo	Dansk Akvakultur (TODA) / Aquacircle	Denmark
Paul Sindilariu	INTER AQUA Advance A/S	Denmark
Peter Jessen	BioMar	Denmark



Viggo Hørlyck	Aller Aqua	Denmark
---------------	------------	---------