

Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue Process Guidance Document

Overview

The Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue is a science-based forum initiated by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in 2004. The goal of the Dialogue is to credibly develop measurable, performance-based standards that minimize or eliminate the key environmental and social impacts of salmon farming, while permitting the industry to remain economically viable. The Dialogue brings together a wide range of stakeholders including producers and other members of the market chain, researchers, NGOs, government officials, and investors to identify and agree upon the main environmental and social impacts of salmon aquaculture globally. The salmon Dialogue is open to a wide range of participants and is a forum to listen and respectfully resolve potential negative impacts of salmon farming and conflicts among stakeholders. Working under the direction of a nine-person Steering Committee, participants have used a transparent, consensus-building process to approve the goals and objectives, as well as identify and agree on the main impacts of salmon farming. The organizations represented on the Steering Committee are the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR), Fundación Terram, Marine Harvest, the Norwegian Seafood Federation (FHL), the Pew Environment Group, Salmon of the Americas (SOTA), SalmonChile, Skretting, and WWF.

This document outlines key elements of the salmon Dialogue process and was written and approved by the salmon Dialogue Steering Committee. It builds off of the [Aquaculture Dialogues Process Guidance Document](#), a broader document that relates to all of the Aquaculture Dialogues.

For more information about the salmon Dialogue visit <http://www.worldwildlife.org/salmondialogue>.

Governance and Decision Making

1) Decision-Making Body

- a) The Steering Committee (SC) is the primary decision-making body of the salmon Dialogue. SC decisions will be informed by the full Dialogue, technical working groups, advisory groups, and external stakeholders. See [Aquaculture Dialogues Process Guidance Document](#) for definitions of these terms.
- b) The SC is made up of a range of stakeholders representing different sectors and regions interested in salmon aquaculture. The SC is currently composed of the following stakeholders, represented by the individuals listed below:
 - i) The Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform, Jay Ritchlin
 - ii) Fundación Terram, Giuliana Furci
 - iii) Marine Harvest, Petter Arnesen
 - iv) Norwegian Seafood Federation, Kjell Maroni
 - v) Pew Environment Group, Andrea Kavanagh
 - vi) Salmon of the Americas, Mary Ellen Walling

- vii) SalmonChile, Rodrigo Infante
- viii) Skretting, Trygve Berg Lea
- ix) World Wildlife Fund , Jose Villalon

2) Decision-Making Protocol

- a) *Consensus*: Consensus is the primary form of decision making of the salmon Dialogue SC. The definition of “consensus” applies to the SC decision making process for standards, as well as other key decisions (e.g., process and communications). The SC uses the definition of “consensus” used by the International Organization of Standards (ISO¹), which is:

“General agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process seeking to take into account the views of interested parties, particularly those directly affected, and to reconcile any conflicting arguments. Consensus need not imply unanimity. “

- i) Clarifying terms in the ISO definition

- (1) *Sustained opposition* - Sustained opposition means that an important part of concerned interests has indicated, despite meaningful discussion of an issue, that the position or solution put forward continues to be unacceptable to that interest.
- (2) *Substantial issues*- Issues that materially affect the standards or decision being taken as appropriate.
- (3) *Important part of concerned interests* - Clearly recognized representative of a segment of concerned interests that have been engaged in the discussions as a member of the decision-making body, such as all Steering Committee members.
- (4) *Interested parties* - Any party that has participated substantively in the dialogue process, including those outside the Steering Committee, that may present issues for the steering committee to debate and decide.
- (5) *Directly affected* - Includes those whose lives or livelihoods would be altered by the proposed decision or standard financially or otherwise, as well as the affected public.
- (6) *Consensus need not imply unanimity*- Under consensus, one or more parties may not fully agree with a decision, but is able to accept it.

- b) *Alternate decision-making protocol*: In the case that consensus cannot be reached, the following alternate decision-making protocol will be used by the SC.

- i) Supermajority voting will, if necessary, be used by the SC to approve measures and make decisions.

¹ ISO is the International Organization for Standardization—it is a legal association that consists of national standards institutes from 157 member countries. ISO facilitates the development of international standards (ranging from industrial to technical and quality management standards) and the widespread adoption of them in order to break down barriers to trade.

- ii) Supermajority voting: A provision must achieve at least 80%, with rounding, in each sector engaged in the salmon Dialogue discussion. Within the salmon Dialogue SC, the sectors are industry/commercial and non-governmental. Rounding implies that if, for example, there are 4 individuals within a sector, 3 out of 4 must agree in a vote (80% of 4 is technically 3.2 so this has been rounded to the closest number).
- iii) A provision will only go to a vote after ample time and effort has been given to trying to achieve consensus. This includes developing technical working groups and committees to work through difficult issues first.
- iv) The decision to move to voting from consensus can be taken by a move by one SC member and a second of that motion by an SC member of a different sector.

Conflict Resolution

It is possible that irresolvable conflict may develop within the SC or the broader Salmon Dialogue as we move closer to standards. All attempts will be made to resolve conflicts internally. However, in case this is not possible, the following conflict resolution procedure can be invoked when necessary:

The salmon Dialogue will identify 2-3 professional mediators in advance who can be called on if irresolvable conflict develops. WWF will help identify mediators and the SC will agree on them. The SC will be expected to fund the costs of mediators if conflicts cannot be addressed internally.

Public Comment Process for Technical Working Group Reports

The salmon Dialogue SC commissioned a series of "State of Information" reports related to key impacts associated with salmon aquaculture. The reports are being developed by technical working groups (TWG) of scientists who are reviewing the status of existing research related to the impact, identifying gaps or areas of disagreement in the research and suggesting a process for addressing the gaps. These reports and feedback on the reports will be used to guide the development of principles, criteria, indicators and standards. Key elements of the public comment process are outlined below:

- 1) Reports are presented by the lead author (from the associated TWG) at a full Dialogue meeting where the reports are discussed in detail and feedback can be provided by meeting participants. The reports are presented either in draft or final form. If presented when the report is in draft form, the TWG incorporates feedback from the meeting into the final report. If presented when the report is already final, feedback from the meeting is documented in the meeting summary and will be used along with the reports in the development of standards.
- 2) Final reports are posted on the salmon Dialogue website for public comment. The reports are available for download and comment at <http://wwf.worldwildlife.org/site/PageNavigator/SalmonSOIForm>.
- 3) There will be a stated comment period of 60 days for each report, and at the end of the comment period, the comments received will be posted on the website with attribution.
- 4) The comments will be reviewed by all salmon Dialogue SC members and shared with the TWGs that wrote the reports, as well as the scientists who will be participating in the drafting of standards.

- 5) The comments to the reports, along with the reports themselves, will be used to guide the development of principles, criteria, indicators, and standards for environmentally, socially, and economically responsible salmon farming. Feedback to the reports will help ensure that up to date scientific information and data related to salmon production is used in the standard development process. Although the comments and feedback will be used in the process, no formal response will be made to the comments.

Public Comment Process for Principles, Criteria, Indicators, and Standards

Draft principles, criteria, indicators, and standards will be posted for public comment on the salmon Dialogue website. At a minimum, request for comments will be made via email to the salmon Dialogue distribution list.

1) Public Comment on Principles

- a) Initial draft principles were presented at the January 2008 salmon Dialogue meeting in Barcelona and posted on the website with an informal request for comment (see <http://www.worldwildlife.org/salmondialogue> and <http://www.worldwildlife.org/what/globalmarkets/aquaculture/WWFBinaryitem9231.pdf>).
- b) The SC is revising the draft principles based on feedback from the meeting and further SC discussion. Revised draft principles will be posted for comment in July/August 2008 with a request for comments for a 60-day period.
- c) At the end of the 60-day period, comments will be posted with attribution on the website.
- d) The SC will review and consider all of the comments and develop and post final principles after considering the body of feedback. No formal response to the comments will necessarily be made by the SC.

2) Public Comment on Criteria

- a) Draft criteria will be posted on the website for a 60-day public comment period once they are developed. They will also be presented at an open Dialogue meeting for feedback.
- b) At the end of the 60-day comment period for the criteria, comments will be posted on the website with attribution.
- c) The SC will review all of the comments and develop and post final criteria after considering the body of feedback from the comment process. No formal response to the comments will necessarily be made by the SC.

3) Public Comment on Indicators and Standards

- a) The formal 60-day public comment period on the indicators and standards will not begin until there is a complete package of principles, criteria, indicators, and standards ready for comment. Individual draft indicators and standards may be made public before that point, but comments will be most useful if they relate to the full suite of standards.

- b) The full draft suite of principles to standards will be posted for public comment for 60 days for what will be the central consultation process. At the end of the comment period, all comments will be posted with attribution.
- c) The SC will review all comments and share them with the scientists involved in drafting standards. The comments will be considered in the revision of the suite of standards.
- d) Within 30 days of the close of the public comment period, the SC will post a response to the body of comments as a whole or responses to individual comments as is deemed most appropriate. Simultaneously, a final revised suite of standards will be posted for a second 60-day comment period.
- e) At the end of the second 60-day comment period, the SC will review all comments, share them with scientists, and develop final standards. The final standards will be posted on the salmon Dialogue website.