

SALMON AQUACULTURE DIALOGUE

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

NOVEMBER 12-13, 2008

Meeting Summary

Prepared by World Wildlife Fund, on behalf of the Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue's Steering Committee  
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## **MEETING BACKGROUND**

The Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue met from November 12-13, 2008 in Edinburgh, Scotland. This was the 12th meeting of the salmon Dialogue since it was created in 2004. The Dialogue coordinator, Katherine Bostick, facilitated the meeting. Breakout sessions were facilitated by Steering Committee members and others who attend the Dialogue meetings regularly.

The expected outputs of the meeting included:

- 1) Shared understanding of the salmon Dialogue, including the process and related definitions, governance, and how participants can play a role in the Dialogue;
- 2) Participant input for use by the Steering Committee (SC) to finalize principles and revise draft criteria; and
- 3) Initial ideas for indicators to be used by the experts that will be commissioned to draft indicators for the salmon Dialogue.

This document offers a summary of the key issues related to the meeting and next steps for the salmon Dialogue. Any omission or errors are the sole responsibility of the Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue Steering Committee, which convened the meeting. Meeting participants were allowed two weeks to send corrections and comments on a draft meeting summary.

## **PRE-MEETING OUTREACH**

The Dialogue coordinator and SC member organizations conducted outreach to stakeholders in Scotland, Ireland and the Faroe Islands to ensure awareness of the meeting within the region. Invitations were sent to the approximately 500 stakeholders on the salmon Dialogue e-mail distribution list. The meeting was publicized on the Dialogue website, in the Dialogue e-newsletter and in various trade publications.

## **MEETING RESULTS**

Scottish stakeholders, including representatives from the Scottish government, salmon farming industry, conservation and welfare groups, warmly welcomed the Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue in Edinburgh. More than 80 individuals participated in the meeting, including representatives from the salmon aquaculture industry, international and local NGOs, governments and seafood buyers. The approximate break-down of meeting participants by sector is as follows: 40% industry, 30% NGO, and 10% each of government, seafood buyers, and academics/others. Following are the key points raised and agreements reached, by topic area, at the meeting. All documents and presentations referred to in the

meeting summary are available at  
<http://www.worldwildlife.org/what/globalmarkets/aquaculture/salmon-additionalresources.html>

### Aquaculture Dialogues Purpose and Process

SC members and the Dialogue coordinator presented the history and purpose of the Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue.

#### *Key issues focused on:*

- The salmon Dialogue is one of a number of Aquaculture Dialogues initiated by WWF-US. Each species-group specific Aquaculture Dialogue focuses on key negative environmental and social impacts of production and follows a similar standard development process.
- The Aquaculture Dialogues are open to all interested stakeholders committed to the goal of the Dialogue. The Dialogue process is designed to be open and transparent, as well as to result in standards that are performance-based, science-based and measurable.
- Individuals and organizations can participate in the Dialogues in various ways, including attending Dialogue meetings, serving by appointment on a technical working group or advisory group, or providing input via other means of communication (e.g. website, email and phone communication).
- 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 better performers in the industry and designed to encourage innovation.
- The salmon Dialogue was initiated to address key negative impacts of salmon aquaculture. The goal of the Dialogue is to credibly develop and support the implementation of 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 salmon Dialogue is governed by a nine-member, multi-stakeholder steering committee. Details on the steering committee and their decision-making protocols are available on the Dialogue website at [www.worldwildlife.org/salmondialogue](http://www.worldwildlife.org/salmondialogue).
- Salmon Dialogue participants have agreed on seven key areas of negative impact: benthic impacts and siting; chemical inputs; disease and parasites; escapes; feed; nutrient loading and carrying capacity; and, social impacts.
- Scientific Technical Working Groups (TWGs) were formed by the salmon Dialogue to develop reports about the state of information on the key impact areas. Five reports were completed, presented at full Dialogue meetings, and posted on the website.
- At previous salmon Dialogue meetings, participants have discussed the goals and objectives of the Dialogue, the impact areas, TWG reports and draft principles. Participants at the Edinburgh meeting will provide additional input to help finalize principles, discuss and provide input to revise draft criteria, and brainstorm indicators.

### Principles and Criteria

Much of the meeting was dedicated to working in small, multi-stakeholder, groups of 7-10 participants to discuss draft principles and criteria. Each small group was facilitated by a member of the Steering Committee or an individual highly familiar with the Dialogue and each group used a template to record the key points of their discussion.

Small group discussion was initiated with a presentation that included the following key points:

- Clarification of the definitions of the terms principles, criteria, indicators, and standards.
- The draft principles being discussed had undergone several iterations of comments and revisions prior to the Edinburgh meeting. The SC aims to finalize principles based on feedback from the meeting.
- The rough draft criteria being discussed at the meeting had not yet undergone full Dialogue discussion and comment. The SC aims to revise draft criteria based on feedback from the meeting and then post them for public comment on the website.

Notes from all of the small groups were captured and are being consolidated into a single document. An updated document of revised principles and criteria will be developed and posted when complete.

*Key themes and issues that arose in the breakout sessions include:*

- General confirmation of the sentiment of principles, with some suggested additions and edits
- General sentiment that the draft criteria are on the right track but need additional work.
- The SC should consider adding farmed salmon welfare to the principles or incorporating it into the standards. Previously, the SC and Dialogue participants had agreed that farmed salmon welfare was an important issue but that it remained outside of the scope of the Dialogue. The SC agreed to revisit this issue.
- The importance of incorporating wildlife interactions, especially treatment of and impacts on predators, into the standards was reiterated by stakeholders.
- Are positive impacts of salmon aquaculture captured in the standards? If not, should they be included?
- For social and labor issues, the salmon Dialogue can look to existing international standards for guidance.
- A number of terms require further definition as the draft principles, criteria, indicators and standards are developed.
- Salmon Dialogue standards should, as much as possible, be harmonised with other standards or regulatory monitoring requirements in order to reduce resource needs and costs of certification

### Indicators

Participants also met in small groups to brainstorm indicators that would be associated with the draft principles and criteria. This included brainstorming indicators for criteria that the small groups had proposed at the meeting. The SC introduced the brainstorming session with a brief presentation. Key points from the presentation included:

- Reiteration of the definition of an “indicator” as what needs to be measured in order to determine the extent of an impact.
- The Edinburgh meeting is the first of multiple discussions related to indicators. Ideas generated in the meeting will be given to experts selected by the SC to draft indicators.
- Suggestions for brainstorming and prioritizing in a manner which takes into account all ideas generated by the group.

Notes from the indicators brainstorming session were collected and are being incorporated into a document that will be given to a group of experts identified to draft indicators that will be presented in 2009 to the full Dialogue for consideration.

*Key themes and issues that arose in the breakout sessions include:*

- High quality area management could significantly help reduce some impacts, including disease and parasite issues.
- SEPA or other regulations could be looked at for benthic impacts indicators.
- It will be a challenge to identify indicators and standards that will be appropriate in all places.
- The implementation of a standard in one area will influence impact in other areas (e.g., reduction in antifoulant use may lead to increased use of divers and associated safety risks).
- Monitoring wild populations has challenges with linking back to specific farms.
- Some indicators may be challenging, depending on the degree of integration of a company.
- In some cases, scientific uncertainty and information availability will make setting standard particularly difficult.

### Next Steps

The activities planned in the Dialogue during the coming months were presented.

*Key points from the presentation:*

- Finalizing principles: The SC will use feedback from the Edinburgh meeting to revise the principles. Final draft principles will be posted on the website once completed. Principles will be considered closed for comment until the full suite of draft principles, criteria, indicators and standards is developed and open for comment.
- Revising draft criteria: The SC will use feedback from the Edinburgh meeting to revise the criteria. Revised draft criteria will be posted for public comment on the website.

- Drafting indicators: Experts will be identified to draft indicators, taking into account previous work in the Dialogue related to indicators. The SC aims to hold a workshop with the experts in June 2009 to discuss draft indicators. After the workshop, draft indicators will be presented for feedback to the Dialogue.
- Feed: The SC will identify an expert group tasked with updating the Dialogue on new developments in critical areas related to feed and proposing draft indicators.
- Social Issues: The SC aims to have a list of prospective team members, recruit a bilingual team leader and finalize terms of reference for a social working group by January 2009.
- Disease Technical Working Group: The Disease and Parasites TWG report will be presented at the next salmon Dialogue meeting, to be held March 12-13, 2009 in Boston, Massachusetts.
- Website: The Dialogue website will continue to be updated with new information, including all meeting materials and a new section on frequently asked questions. Note: The questions have since been posted at <http://www.worldwildlife.org/what/globalmarkets/aquaculture/WWFBinaryitem10988.pdf>
- Solicitation for additional feedback: The SC appreciates all feedback related to the Dialogue in general or specific documents, such as the draft principles and criteria. Questions and comments can be sent to the Dialogue coordinator or to any SC member, and will be shared within the SC.

The meeting closed with a recognition of the significant input provided by the meeting participants and appreciation for the effort of all those who participated and helped ensure the success of the meeting.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

##### Agenda

##### November 12, 2008

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|---------|---|
| 9:00 am | Welcome and Introduction  |
| 9:15    | Presentation: Aquaculture Dialogues 101—Jose Villalon, WWF US   |
| 9:40    | Presentation: History and Progress of the Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue –Kjell Maroni, FHL                    |
| 10:10   | Presentation: Principles 1-4 and Associated Draft Criteria Overview—Katherine Bostick, Dialogue Coordinator |
| 10:30   | Coffee Break  |
| 10:45   | Breakout sessions to discuss international principles 1-4 and proposed criteria                             |

12:00 pm Presentations to summarize key outcomes from breakout sessions

12:45 Lunch (provided)

1:45 Presentation: Principles 5-8 and Draft Criteria Overview

2:05 Breakout sessions to discuss international principles 5-8 and proposed criteria

3:30 Coffee Break

3:45 Presentations to summarize key outcomes from breakout sessions

4:30 Discussion: Whole Document Review

5:00 Next Steps and Wrap Up

5:15 pm Adjourn

November 13, 2008

9:00 am Review of Day One—Petter Arnesen, Marine Harvest

10:00 Presentation: Laying the Groundwork for Indicators—Jay Ritchlin, David Suzuki Foundation

10:20 Coffee break

10:30 Breakout Sessions: Brainstorming Indicators

11:45 Presentations to summarize key outcomes from breakout sessions

12:30 pm Lunch (provided)

1:30 Presentation: Next Steps for Technical Working Groups and Indicator Development—Katherine Bostick, Dialogue Coordinator

2:00 Wrap-up

2:15 Adjourn

## List of Meeting Participants

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