



**Committee on Fisheries
Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (SCA)
Fourth Session - Puerto Varas, Chile, 6-10 October 2008**

Information for participants



Venue:

Hotel Sol-Meliá Patagonia
Klenner 349 Puerto Varas
Lakes Region
CHILE
Tel: 0056 65 201 000
Fax: 0056 65 201 001
Email: reservas.melia.patagonia@solmelia.com

Dates:

Monday, 6 to Friday, 10 October 2008

Technical information and documents

Relevant technical information and meeting documents are available at the following official website for the Fourth Session of the SCA: <http://www.fao.org/fi/body/cofi/cofiq/cofiq.asp>

For further information and assistance, please contact Dr Rohana Subasinghe, Technical Secretary of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, by e-mail at rohana.subasinghe@fao.org.

Visa arrangements

Participants are requested to contact the Chilean Embassy or Consulate in their respective country or city well in advance of the meeting (preferably at least 4 weeks prior to their departure) to enquire about the visa and entry requirements. Please note that you may be required to provide a copy of the official invitation to the meeting. Additional pertinent information in this regard is available at the official website for the session.

Travel arrangements by air

In order to reach Puerto Varas you will need to fly to the local airport of **Puerto Montt** (El Tepual). Flights to Puerto Montt are generally via Santiago from where there are several daily internal flights. The flight duration from Santiago to Puerto Montt is circa 1½ hours.

Travel arrangements to and from the airport

Upon arrival at Puerto Montt, participants can take either the bus or a taxi from the airport to the Puerto Varas Center. Some of the larger hotels may provide a shuttle service to and from the airport. We suggest that you enquire directly with the hotel in this regard. The cost of a taxi from the airport to the city centre would be around US\$ 25.00. Any developments with regard to travel arrangements will be notified as necessary.

Accommodation

The Fourth Session of the SCA will be held at the Meliá Patagonia Hotel, which is located in a quiet area of Puerto Varas overlooking Lake Llanquihue and Volcán Osorno. The hotel is situated in the vicinity of the old train station and is 25 km (30-45 minutes drive) from El Tepual airport in Puerto Montt.

A special rate of US\$ 145 + local tax 19% will be given to participants staying at the hotel. In order to obtain this special rate, bookings must be made by no later than 15 August 2008 (*any reservations made after this date will be at the standard hotel rate*). When making a reservation it is important to specify the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture meeting.

You may wish to visit the hotel website for further information at:

http://www.solmelia.com/solNew/html/directory/en/hotel/hotels-america/hotels-chile/hotels-puerto_varas.html

Should participants wish to consider alternative accommodation, they may wish to contact the following travel agent who will be able to provide a wide selection of centrally located hotels near the meeting place as well as other travel and tour arrangements:

Ms. Patricia Dufflocq
Senderos de Chile
Tel: 001-954-857-3039
E-mail: patricia@senderosdechile.com
www.senderosdechile.com

Puerto Varas, Chile

The charming city of Puerto Varas is located in the southern Chilean Region of Los Lagos (42°S), 17 km north of Puerto Montt (the capital city of the Region), and situated on the western bank of Lake Llanquihue, the largest lake in the country (870 km², 300 m deep with crystal-clear waters). Puerto Varas is today one of the most popular tourist destinations in Chile. Its natural beauty is enhanced by the majestic volcanic mountain 'Volcán Osorno' which lies east of the lake and forms a picturesque backdrop to the city's skyline.

With its interesting architecture influenced by the period of German colonization, Puerto Varas is known as the 'City of the Roses'. The city offers a wide range of hotels and accommodation facilities as well as excellent restaurants.

Puerto Varas is also at the heart of the country's aquaculture region and it has been, together with Puerto Montt, the key center for the development of salmon farming. From the city, one can easily access several large and modern land-based fully re-circulating hatcheries, smolt cages in the lake, and large salmonid grow-out farms in the costal areas. These are easily reached by travelling around the lake which then leads to the majestic Reloncavi estuary and fjord (80 km from Puerto Varas). Near the small fishery town of Cochamo one can also visit the bivalve farms. The Lake's Region is also renowned worldwide for its salmon and trout sport fishing, and for the variety of outdoor leisure activities that one can pursue in the Region's lakes, rivers, forests, mountains, fjords and estuaries such as trekking, kayaking, and rafting.

Climate

In the month of October, the climate in the Los Lagos Region varies with temperatures fluctuating between 10-18°C. Since rainfall is common all year round in the Southern Chilean temperate rain forest region, participants are advised to take a warm jacket and raincoat.

Money and currency exchange

The Chilean currency is the "peso". As of 14 March 2008, the official UN exchange rate is 461 peso to 1 US Dollar and the exchange rate of the peso to the Euro (taken from the web) is 670 peso to 1 Euro. Participants are advised to check the exchange rate upon arrival at the airport. Currency exchange offices and cash (ATM) machines are available at the airport as well as within the vicinity of most major hotels (Cirrus and Maestro machines are available almost everywhere throughout the city).

Pre- and post- meeting visits and tours

For Pre- and post - meeting visits and tours and other travel related assistance please contact:

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c/o Ms. Patricia Dufflocq
Tel: 001-954-857-3039
E-mail: patricia@senderosdechile.com
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