



Viet Nam applies CCRF for aquaculture development

prepared by

Raymon van Anrooy

Fishery Development Planning Service (FIPP)

FAO Fisheries Department

raymon.vananrooy@fao.org

In early October 2003, a National Workshop on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and its practical application to coastal aquaculture development in Viet Nam was held in Hue, central Viet Nam. Coastal aquaculture in Viet Nam, particularly shrimp culture, has developed rapidly in recent years.

The workshop, in which 62 participated, was convened by the Ministry of Fisheries (MOFI) of Viet Nam, in close collaboration with the FAO FishCode Programme, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project VIE/97/030/NEX "Environmental Management of Coastal Aquaculture", the Research Institute for Aquaculture No.1 (RIA1) and the Network of Aquaculture Centres in the Asia-Pacific (NACA). A central issue was the fact that although shrimp farming has brought many benefits to the coastal population in Viet Nam, concerns are being raised about the high risks associated with this development and particularly, its social and environmental impacts.

The specific workshop objectives were to raise awareness on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries among national and provincial stakeholders, with particular attention to aquaculture development, to review relevant articles and principles of the Code and evaluate the extent to which they

are relevant and applicable to shrimp farming in Viet Nam, and to prepare recommendations for follow-up actions to support practical application of relevant articles of the Code to shrimp farming in Viet Nam.

The workshop participants agreed that a National Code of Conduct and an implementation plan should be prepared for coastal aquaculture in Viet Nam. Such a document should provide guidance to support responsible development of the coastal aquaculture sector, based on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, cover all coastal farming systems, and be developed by a specially established advisory group involving all relevant stakeholders. A national Code of Conduct should fit the local and sectoral conditions. Moreover, the participants recommended that the MOFI and the departments and research institutes under it should formulate projects/programs in support of the implementation and dissemination of the Code, taking in consideration the needs of stakeholders and local conditions. Other recommendations were that MOFI should continue its recently started work on the development of practical Codes of Practice and/or guidelines for specific species, localities and farming systems, and increase the awareness of stakeholders (e.g. fisheries managers, aquaculturists, service and input suppliers, processing plants and local authorities, including nonfisheries sector stakeholders in agriculture and tourism, where relevant) on the Code-related issues and their responsibilities with respect to its implementation in the coastal areas of Viet Nam.

Detailed information on this workshop can be obtained from Mr Eric Reynolds (eric.reynolds@fao.org), FAO FishCode Programme Coordinator or Mr Raymon van Anrooy (raymon.vananrooy@fao.org), Aquaculture Economist of the Fishery Policy and Planning Division (FIPP). The report of the workshop will soon be available as FishCode Review No.11 and can be accessed on the FAO FishCode website: www.fao.org/fi/projects/fishcode/