

# TCP/URU/3101 "Plan Nacional de Desarrollo de la Acuicultura"

In March 2007, TCP/URU/3101 "Planning for aquaculture development" organized 3 national-level participatory workshops and a meeting of the Project Management Board. All key stakeholders of the Uruguayan aquaculture sector attended these project activities. This project, which has as main objective to help the Government of Uruguay, through its Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos (DINARA), to increase the institutional and human capacity of DINARA by means of an integrated planning process for the sector and some targeted skills development interventions organized since the beginning of September 2006.



Australian red claw crayfish from Acuicultura Punta Negra, served at restaurant Trattoria del Piero in Piriapolis

Two workshops to formulate, in a participatory manner, a national plan for sustainable aquaculture development - managed to draft a long-term policy and a mid-term strategy for aquaculture development and management. A third workshop to develop the short-term national plan will take place in June 2008. In assistance of the strategy, 3 programmes were prepared:

- National programme for aquatic animal health, bio-security and food safety
- National programme for aquaculture research and technology and
- National programme for education and capacity building in aquaculture.

International experts were flown in to assist DINARA in the preparation of these essential programmes.

The project, with support from the Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOPECA), conducted a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of the sector. National con-

sultants have carried out an analysis of suitable species for aquaculture development in the country and prepared extension and training materials to assist farmers to conduct an economic analysis of their farming activities. The analysis of species showed that in the short-term the most promising aquaculture species for production in the country are the following: sturgeon (*Acipenser baeri*), Australian freshwater red claw crayfish (*Cherax quad-*

*ricarinatus*), bull frog (*Rana catesbeiana*), black catfish (*Rhamdia quelen*), mollusks (*Mytilus edulis*), Pejerrey (*Odontheistes bonariensis*), tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) and goldfish (*Carassius auratus*). Adding to these, promising species for integrated aquaculture might also include common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and mullet (*Mugil platanus*).

DINARA aims to present the final draft policy and strategy to the Government by the end of July, while the national plan should be ready by October. The practical training and capacity building activities of the project will continue at field level until December 2007 when the project is likely to end. The project will also support Uruguay's 2007 celebration of Heart Week (24-28 September) and World Food Day (16 October). 'Promoting fish consumption as a preventive measure against cardiovascular diseases' is one of the main topics in these events.

The FAO-DINARA TCP project, financed by FAO with US\$260 000, will be continued through a larger project on fisheries management (Proyecto de Gestión Pesquera) of DINARA. This project has been assigned US\$5.8 million by the Government of Uruguay and will be implemented as a Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) Project; a collaboration between DINARA and FAO. The aquaculture component of the project has a budget of US\$700 000 which will



*Australian red claw crayfish produced by Acuicultura Punta Negra, Uruguay*



*Working group discussions during the development of the national strategy for aquaculture development*

be used for the implementation of the National Plan for Aquaculture Development of Uruguay, the national strategy and its component programmes.

Draft planning documents as well as studies, presentations during the workshops and workshop reports are made available at the DINARA website: <http://www.dinara.gub.uy/> under the heading "Proyecto Acuicultura".

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### ***FAO Aquaculture Newsletter (FAN) moves on ...***

FAN 36 (December 2006 issue) retrospectively looked at the evolution of FAN since the release of its first issue, 15 years ago, in June 1992. There are a few changes in this issue of FAN 37. Firstly, the new Editorial Team now consists of the following: Chief Editor (MB Reantaso), Members (J Jia, R Subasinghe, D Bartley, A Lem and N Hishamunda) and Layout & Production (S Borghesi). R Subasinghe is gratefully acknowledged for his untiring efforts as Chief Editor for FAN 24 until FAN 36. Secondly, the cover will use a plain background with fill effect. We expect one more issue to be released before end of the year. Beginning 2008, there will be 3-4 issues with lesser number of pages. The topics will also be expanded to include socio-economic, food safety and trade related articles and events. We will continuously strive to bring our readers up-to-date information on the various activities/events and projects both from FAO normative work and field programmes as well as significant developments and emerging issues affecting the aquaculture sector.