

Strategies and options for GHG reduction in fisheries and aquaculture – a preliminary overview

Strategies and practical options for GHG reduction in the
fisheries and aquaculture sector

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Introduction

- The significance of GHGs and their reduction in the fisheries sector,
- Addressing challenges across the whole supply chain – systems, locations and interactions
- Key themes and issues – generic and specific
- Practical aims and processes – who and how
- Capacity and action – equity in impacts

The significance of GHGs and their reduction in the fisheries sector,

- Background issues in fuel and energy – increasing concern for impact of fuel prices, viability of capture fisheries, social impacts – initial reviews in 1970s and onwards.
- Comparative and competitive analyses with other supply sources and other food sectors – future implications – capture/culture
- Interactions with resource management decisions – locally and globally, capacity and subsidy issues – rent inefficiencies
- Linkages between fuel and energy use and the output of GHGs in the sector; also other mechanisms – eg aquaculture
- Development of LCA methodologies to capture key relationships; potential to standardise sufficiently to consider industry-wide approaches
- Increasing incentives to quantify and reduce GHGs – sectoral contribution to national targets (eg food sector) and consumer/retailer pressures
- Need to create standards, level playing fields, capacity, promote better options, identify funding/financing mechanisms

Addressing challenges across the whole supply chain – systems, locations and interactions

- Initial workshop on LCA methodologies (Rome Jan 2012) for GHGs in the sector;
- Primary sources of GHG outputs, connections in supply and trade linkages, exchanging information, transparency, sourcing decisions
- Recognition of extensive and potentially complex supply chains – sharing of responsibilities for accounting and management – potential for non-tariff barriers, information/capacity access issues;
- Range of possible actions, tradeoffs, short and longer-term decisions – need to have rational bases for decision on change
- Interactions between GHG related decisions and other issues – resource management, competition, market and product development, social impacts, consumer image, etc.
- Setting of policies and actions in wider strategies and processes of change – climate impacts, adaptation and mitigation, financing mechanisms

Key themes and issues – generic and specific

- What is to be measured and where is it important? Who does the measuring and how are standards established and recognised?
- How likely and with what impetus will conceptual targets of GHG reduction start to impact the sector?
- How will responsibilities be shared along supply and value chains; how can traceability be established?
- What are the costs and benefits of actions to reduce GHGs – how much can they be linked with other management/investment strategies?
- What are the competitive and other implications at the enterprise, national, regional level, who are the winners and losers?
- What actions need to be taken to provide fair and effective responses; how do sectoral stakeholders address GHG challenges amidst others?
- What policy issues are relevant and how do sectoral concerns need to be linked with broader policy issues and themes?
- How do thematic aims link with local actions, and how can connections be established and communicated effectively

Practical aims and processes – who and how

- Primary linkages with fuel, feeds, secondary energy uses, waste reduction
- Range of ease/viability for practical options – easy wins vs longer-term gains – priorities and partnerships?
- Strong sectoral identities – traditions, actions, but changing management and competitive environments
- Significance of productive efficiency – catch per effort, production per feed input, yields and values
- Potentially significant role of policy and management – but what triggering/transition mechanisms for change?
- Primary role of producers – but with what incentives – only direct costs (fuel, feed) and profitability in competitive environments?
- Specific targets, approaches for lower-income smaller-scale producers and their market chains

Capacity and action – equity in impacts

- Specific issues of market access, incomes and returns – will GHG targets affect some disproportionately? Or do they have to be ignored? With what effect?
- How can local information and decision making be efficiently enhanced for best outcomes – producers, supply chain participants, policy makers from artisanal to commercial levels?
- Can these issues be effectively reconciled and efficiently delivered with other social/development objectives?
- How are the issues of the fisheries and aquaculture sector given adequate attention within wider food/rural/energy/climate change policy environments at national and global level?
- What specifically should FAO consider and how should it work most effectively with Member States and partners? Reporting to next COFI, linking with other policy areas (global fisheries, climate change investment, trade relations)
- What are the next steps and who will engage/take action/communicate?