



联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

FOOD AND  
AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS

ORGANISATION  
DES NATIONS  
UNIES POUR  
L'ALIMENTATION  
ET L'AGRICULTURE

ORGANIZACION  
DE LAS NACIONES  
UNIDAS PARA  
LA AGRICULTURA  
Y LA ALIMENTACION

منظمة  
الأمم  
المتحدة  
للزراعة  
والإغذية

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

Facsimile: +39 0657053152

Telephone: +39 0657051

Our Ref.:

Your Ref.:

## Workshop on Establishing a Coordinating Working Party on Aquaculture Statistics January 8 – 10, 2008

### Phukhao-ngam Resort, Nakorn Nayok, Thailand

The Workshop on Establishing a Coordinating Working Party on Aquaculture Statistics is being organized by FAO in response to a recommendation of the FAO Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Aquaculture. The workshop will be held in collaboration with the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) from 8-10 January in Nakorn Nayok, Thailand. Further information on the logistics is provided in the attached information document.

The Third Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and the Twenty-seventh Session of COFI endorsed the proposed Strategy for Improving Status and Trends Reporting for Aquaculture, as developed by a 2004 Expert Consultation at FAO. The Strategy includes the recommendation to establish a body, similar in nature to the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP), which would be responsible for issues related to standards for aquaculture data and statistics. Preliminary discussions among interested parties have revealed a wide range of opinions concerning the appropriate scope of, and interest in, the proposed group, indicating the need for an organizing committee to determine the nature, participation and responsibilities of such a group.

The purpose of the workshop is to bring together diverse stakeholders involved in aquaculture information and statistics to discuss the nature of such an organization and to discuss the way forward towards its establishment. FAO, regional aquaculture networks, regional fishery organizations with a mandate for aquaculture data collection, associations of producers and national representatives of some of the largest producers and importers are invited to participate. It is expected that these participants could comprise a "steering committee" to drive the formation of the CWP for Aquaculture Statistics.

Expected roles for a CWP-like body for aquaculture:

- Harmonization and/or standardization of concepts, definition and terms used in aquaculture data and information
- Identification of data and information needs for policy making and management of aquaculture
- Development of guidelines on data collection methodology
- Harmonization and streamlining of data collection among different sectors (e.g. between aquaculture and capture production data, agriculture, socio-economic data, trade and commodity data etc.)

The workshop discussions will be informed by a draft set of terms of reference and by a set of possible scenarios for moving forward with the establishment of the CWP for aquaculture. The expected outputs from the workshop are as follows:

- Develop terms of reference for an international CWP-like body for discussion, advice and guidance on issues related to data, statistics and information on aquaculture.

- Develop a plan of action, with a time frame and assignment of responsibilities, for moving forward towards establishing the CWP-like body for aquaculture, including institutional and financial aspects.

Considering your interest, expertise and experience in improving information and data for aquaculture, I hope you would attend this Workshop, or that you would nominate an appropriate person from your organization. I strongly believe that your contribution to the workshop as an expert will be significant. However, due to current budgetary constraints, FAO is unable to cover the cost of participation of all, and I hope that, considering your interest in the subject and the interest of your organization in improving aquaculture information, data and statistics, you will be able to secure funds to attend the workshop from your end.

Your favorable consideration is highly appreciated.

With kind regards,



Dr. Alan Lowther  
Fisheries Statistician (Aquaculture)  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Information and Statistics Service  
FAO