

Step 4 of 4 Acknowledgement - World Fisheries Congress 2389378*Sustainable Fisheries in a Changing World*7th - 11th May 2012  Edinburgh, Scotland**Submission Acknowledgement**

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Abstract Title (max 150 chars)

Are industrial fisheries ethical?

Abstract Text (max 2500 chars)

Amongst those who work with, or take an interest in, fisheries and aquaculture there are those who consider industrial fisheries the wrong thing to do – that it is unethical. Some hold this view because they consider feeding fish and shrimp with feeds containing fishmeal to be a mistake. They claim this practice actually reduces the amount of fish available, implying or affirming that the fish so used could or should be consumed directly by man. The author holds that the above reasoning does not look at more than part of the issue and therefore is not valid. It is too restricted in terms of the time-span considered and not comprehensive enough as it does not consider the employment/income that aquaculture generates. And, it is superficial as it

apparently considers neither the constraints that a market economy imposes on those selling fish nor the fact that consumers are not equally enamored of all fish species. This is evident when the fish caught in industrial fisheries is looked at from the point of view of their marketability. The fish harvested and used for fish meal and oil manufacture in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Eastern Pacific can be divided into three categories of consumer acceptability. The first category has no markets at all as food (sandeels, menhaden). The second category includes nine major species (inter alia, capelin and Peruvian anchovy) which at times are sold for food, but where landings often far exceed what the food market absorbs. The third category consists of prime quality pelagic species (sardines, mackerels, herrings) which are fished for food, but where landings in excess of processing capacity are used to produce fish meal. During the period 2001–2006 annually about 13 million tons of fish from categories one and two were processed into fish meal because this fish could not be sold on food markets. The fact that the fish were caught and landed meant first that more fish – acceptable to the consumer – was made available. The mere fact that fish from categories one and/or two were used as fish feed meant that the world experienced a net addition to supplies of fish as food. Today economic growth, or growth in income, is a priority worldwide. Fisheries and aquaculture are no exception. Thus it is important that millions of man-years of employment is generated in aquaculture that uses fish-meal and oil as feed, and that most of those employed are farm workers in the developing world.

Topics

D.7 D.7 - The role of forage fisheries in aquaculture: sustainability, economics and ethics

D.2 D.2 - Demands of aquaculture on ecosystem services

D.1 D.1 - The importance of fish in food and nutrition security

Presentation

Oral or E-poster Presentation

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