

10th Session of the FAO's Committee on Fisheries (CoFI) Sub-Committee on Aquaculture
Trondheim
23rd - 27th August 2019

IFFO, The Marine Ingredients Organisation 's intervention on Agenda Item 7

Aquaculture's contribution to ending hunger securing food supplies, and promoting good health and dietary practices

Dear Colleagues,

IFFO is an international industry trade body that represents approximately 60% of the global fishmeal and fish oil production worldwide, and more than 70% of traded volume. Fishmeal and fish oil are essential ingredients in aquafeeds, providing a range of macro- and micro-nutrients not found in any other single feed ingredient. Approximately 70% of global production is used annually in aquafeed production to ensure that the nutritional quality of feeds satisfies the requirements of farmed fish, crustaceans, and other fed aquatic animals.

The use of fishmeal and fish oil is often incorrectly positioned as a sustainability issue. In fact, the issue is one of volume of supply. Approximately 5 million tonnes of fishmeal and one million tonnes of fish oil, are produced very year – volumes that have been relatively constant for more than two decades, contrary to the criticisms of over-fishing. Fisheries which supply the raw material for fishmeal and fish oil are typically small pelagic fish species known as forage fish, which do not have strong markets as food fish. For a range of biological and ecological reasons, these fisheries are comparatively straightforward to manage. Whole fish contributes about two-thirds of the raw material supply every year, with the remaining third coming from the use of byproduct resulting from the processing of fish for food. These materials constitute a total of approximately 20 million tonnes of raw material that supports global protein production many times this quantity – an important multiplier effect. Currently, IFFO estimates over 54% of the annual production of fishmeal to be certified to the IFFO Responsible Supply Standard, a standard developed with the input of a broad base of stakeholder groups, and with key elements that draw from the FAO's own Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. That figure is well in excess of any other feed ingredient certification schemes by annual volume of supply.

The micronutrients present in fishmeal and fish oil are often essential to fish health, welfare, and growth and these marine ingredients avoid the need for inclusion of many single nutritional compounds in what would be both impractical and uneconomic. Without fishmeal and fish oil feed



companies have a major challenge in making feed formulations that are complete for farmed fish, and the materials are therefore the foundation of aquafeeds.

IFFO recognises the need for a greater volume of aquafeed and the development of alternative ingredients for aquafeeds is a step towards ensuring that there is satisfactory aquafeed availability in the future. It should be recognised, however, that the way to achieve optimal growth in aquaculture through aquafeed development is to use fishmeal and fish oil strategically to their most effective nutritional benefit. These high value ingredients will increasingly be used at key points in production cycles, such as juvenile and broodstock diets, where their full nutritional contribution may be realised, and they will remain important sources of nutrition in the production of farmed fish. They are not replaceable, nor should they be described as such, as they are key elements of global food security utilising raw material resources that would otherwise not be used. Alternative ingredients for aquafeed are very much needed, but their use should be in supplementation to fishmeal and fish oil, rather than replacement.

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