



SHRIMP MEDIA MONITORING 27 May- 9 June 2003

“A Synthesis of Shrimp News From the International Media and Internet”

This newsletter includes news on shrimp farming, and related issues of trade, environment and development, obtained from NACA and STREAM media monitoring program. This media monitoring program tracks some of the major news items on aquaculture and aquatic resources management, with an emphasis on issues relevant to the Asia-Pacific region. The news items are not edited for subject matter, except some items may be shortened for inclusion. The source of the news item is provided. For those interested in the media-monitoring program, please check out information sources at www.streaminitiative.org

If any comments and/or contributions please let us know at e-mail: shrimp@enaca.org

Change of Date for The Organic Aquaculture and Sea Farming 2003

The ORGANIC AQUACULTURE AND SEA FARMING 2003 conference planned for 15-17 June 2003, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, has been postponed, due to "prevailing travel and logistical constraints". The new dates, expected to be around February 2004, will be announced in due course.

For further information, contact: Tarlochan Singh (Conf. Coordinator, INFOFISH) at infish@po.jaring.my, or www.infofish.org.

Mangrove Annexes

Annexes for the Thematic Review on Coastal Wetland Habitats and Shrimp Aquaculture are now available for download on www.enaca.org/shrimp. The annexes contain papers on 13 case studies and a Mangrove Dictionary providing useful information on issues related to shrimp farming and coastal wetlands.

Thai Quality Shrimp

This web site provides information on the Thai Quality Shrimp program, including the Thai Code of Conduct, quality control measures and other issues related to production of shrimp in Thailand. <http://www.thaiqualityshrimp.com/eng/home.asp>

Shrimp Research in Bangladesh

A Shrimp Foundation has been formed in Bangladesh which aims to put into a data base materials from "a great deal of research" done over the last 15 years on virtually every aspect of the shrimp industry, along with all the "creative training materials that have been developed," and to make the material available for any stake-holder in the industry, for any service-provider or rights-activist non-government organisation, or any other grassroots operator on an as-needed basis.

For Bangladesh, shrimp is a major export item. Tiger shrimp from the Bay has a high demand as a prized item of seafood, and exporters from these parts have experience of the trade for some four decades. But until late seventies when some shrimp culture enterprises were undertaken on a sizeable scale, the main source of supply for Bay shrimp was trawling. Since then shrimp culture in this

country has proliferated substantially, with many small holding operating under a big buyer who in turn owns or controls supply to processing plant or plants in a particular area.

Despite the speed of growth of shrimp culture, it remained a troubled growth area to a large extent because of the socio-economic problems and those of environmental implication associated with the shrimp industry, apart from lack of knowledge of scientific aquaculture and fry-catching or breeding.

The foundation appears to be focused essentially on the socio-economic aspects of the troubled growth of shrimp industry in Bangladesh and how the odds have been overcome in many areas. It is also concerned with quality control problems, for which certain international and buyer-country bodies are already cooperating with the industry. The proposed conference will possibly involve such bodies or their representatives as well. We wish the venture success, and look forward to its possible achievements of a thriving aquaculture network linking Bangladesh to other Asian enterprises in the field.

(Source: The Independent, 27 May 2003)

Shrimp Alliance Plans to Differentiate SE, Wild Shrimp From Farm-Raised

Southern shrimpers in the United States have a new marketing campaign in their fight to stay in business while in competition against pond-raised shrimp from outside the US. In recent years, they claim imports from Asia and South America have depressed prices and left many fishing communities in financial ruin.

The Southern Shrimp Alliance plans to stake out a special place in the consumer's mind, just like black Angus beef and Vidalia onions sellers have. They're emphasizing that American shrimp are wild, not farm raised. Southern shrimpers have not come up with a specific brand yet, but by the end of the year their shrimp could be distinguished from imports as American shrimp harvested in the wild. Eddie Gordon, president of the group, says shrimpers can get a higher price if they differentiate their shrimp from foreign imports.

The shrimp alliance was formed last year. It's made up of shrimpers from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and North and South Carolina.

(Source: New Orleans AP, www.wistv.com 27 May 2003)

Fish and Shrimp Farming Picking up in India

More and more farmers in a desperate attempt to escape from the risky paddy-wheat rotation are taking to diverse agricultural alternatives, the latest being fish and prawn farming. Prawn farming was taken up by seven villages in Punjab this year alone, and is expanding elsewhere in India.

These are Badshapur, Kapurpind, Kah Kalan and Barra Pind in Jalandhar district, Dogawalli village in Kapurthala district, Punnia village in Sangrur district and Kishanpur in Ropar district. Villagers were motivated to take up prawn farming because it is remunerative, said sources.

Fish farmers are getting Rs 70,000 net profit per year from one hectare pond area, according to figures from the Punjab fisheries department. D S Sahota from Barra Pind said that fish farming has come as a blessing for his village as it has prevented the youth from Punjab going out in search of foreign visas.

"There is a good return, less risk factors and easier marketing than traditional agriculture. Farmers have the land and so construct ponds on that land," said Sahota.

"Farmers have developed not only low-lying, marshy and waste land, but even fertile agricultural land, probably because there is not much of a future for the wheat-paddy cycle," he added.

According to Dr Sawinder Singh, director and warden of fisheries, Punjab, "The state had 5,726 units at present covering a total area of 7,327 hectares under fish culture. Out of this 2,686 units had been set up by farmers on their own land covering an area of 3,084.36 hectares. The remaining 3,037 are panchayati village ponds covering 4,242.87 hectares. The total fish production in the state from all sources has touched 6,579.93 metric tonnes." He said as many as 2,113 persons were given basic training during 2002-2003 in fish farming.

"A total of Rs 556.49 lakh in loans were arranged from financial institutions for the fish farmers. The state has achieved a breakthrough in fish seed production with the setting up of fish farms, he added.

(Source: The Times of India 28 May 2003)

Ha Tinh, Vietnam Hosts Shrimp Baby Boom

Ha Tinh province in Vietnam could soon be home to one of the largest shrimp-growing projects in South East Asia.

American Technologies Inc (ATI), a US-based aquaculture and technology company, recently released 300 million baby shrimp into its central province breeding grounds to boost production. Two months ago the company invested VND750 billion (\$50 million) to turn 2,000 hectares of unused land in Ha Tinh central province into artificial lakes for breeding shrimp. ATI president Dinh Duc Huu, a Viet Kieu (overseas Vietnamese), faced initial skepticism over the project.

"Many people doubted our ability to make use of the uncultivated sandy soil. Now I believe the project is starting to generate profit," he said. The 300 million baby prawns (tom he) and black-tiger prawns (tom su) were released last week into more than 300 artificial ponds covering an area of 500 ha. Huu said ATI would extend the breeding area to 700ha by the end of the year and to the full 2,000 by the end of next year. "This year we expect to output around 1,000 tons of baby and black-tiger prawns, with an estimated market value of VND100 billion (\$6.7 million)," Huu said. The project has created a huge labor market for people in the harsh-weather region. Thousands of local workers are now involved in the project with an additional 4,000 to 5,000 jobs to be created in the next few years. Many more jobs are also expected to be created in related sectors. ATI also operates shrimp-harvesting and processing projects in Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Quang Ninh, and Haiphong. The VND76 billion (\$5.1 million) shrimp farm in Tien Lang district, Haiphong is the largest shrimp-breeding project in the north.

Vietnam is now the sixth largest shrimp producer in the world, supplying 5% of annual global demand. America and Japan are the world's two largest shrimp markets, importing around 75% of world output.

A former nuclear power plant employee, Huu established ATI in 1990 as a family company based in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. ATI has been in Vietnam since 1997 and is diversifying its operations to include oil, gas, real estate, e-commerce and tourism.

(Source: The Vietnam Investment Review 26 May 2003)

Surge in Brazilian Shrimp Exports Has Thai Farmers Worried

The improvement of shrimp farming in Brazil has raised concerns among Thai producers that Thailand might lose its share in the US market to the South American country. Brazil's shrimp business has soared, earning US\$155 million in 2001 compared with just \$2.8 million in 1998, with promising export trends continuing, according to local industry experts. Brazil plans to produce about 160,000 tonnes of shrimp by 2005, up from 60,000 tonnes in 2001, says Somsak Paneetatayasai, head of the Black Tiger Shrimp Farmers, Producers and Exporters Association. He said Brazil's shrimp industry was quite developed with integrated ventures that included shrimp-fry producing farms, hatcheries and processing plants.

(Source: Bangkok Post 5 June 2003)

Ocean Garden Sells \$250 Million Worth of Shrimp to U.S. in 2002

Mexico's state-owned Ocean Garden Company exported more than \$250 million worth of shrimp to the United States last year to remain the market leader, officials reported Wednesday. Exports of Mexican shrimp increased 45% in 2002 compared with 2001 'despite difficult market conditions,' according to a statement issued by state-run Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior. The financial institution reported that the sector sold 50 million pounds of shrimp to the U.S.

(Source: www.seafoodnews.com 5 June 2003)

Some Recent Shrimp Production Figures

A useful overview of recent shrimp production figures for some of the main countries is given on the shrimp news web site. <http://www.shrimpnews.com/Chamberlain.html>

***Litopenaeus vannamei* in Asia**

FAO and NACA will undertake an assessment and documentation of the introduction and positive and negative impacts of *L. vannamei* (and *P. stylirostris*) in the Asia-Pacific region. The review will: (a) document history of introduction and major factors leading to the introduction and trans-boundary movement of *L. vannamei* (and other recent introductions of shrimp from the Americas); (b) evaluate current status of farming of *L. vannamei* (and *P. stylirostris*) in Asia-Pacific, including advantages and disadvantages compared to indigenous shrimp species; and (c) profile the health status (with particular emphasis on the issues concerning SPF stocks and broodstock maturation in Asia Pacific) of *L. vannamei* (and *P. stylirostris*) and their contribution to the spread of trans-boundary pathogens in Asia-Pacific. The review is expected to provide guidance on policies concerning transboundary movement and use of *L. vannamei* in the Asia-Pacific region. More information on the study can be found at www.enaca.org/shrimp, or contact shrimp@enaca.org.

Prepared by NACA for the Consortium on [Shrimp Farming and the Environment](#).