

Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue?

The Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue is a multinational, multi-stakeholder, and science-based forum initiated by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in 2004 to address the negative impacts of salmon farming. The goal of the Dialogue is to credibly develop and support the implementation of measurable, performance-based standards that minimize or eliminate the key environmental and social impacts of salmon farming, while permitting the industry to remain economically viable.

2. Who participates in the salmon Dialogue?

The Dialogue is open to anybody who agrees with the goal of the Dialogue. It brings together a wide range of stakeholders, including producers and other members of the market chain, researchers, NGOs, government officials, and investors. The Dialogue is a forum to listen and respectfully resolve potential negative impacts of salmon farming and associated conflicts among stakeholders. The Dialogue is managed by a nine-member Steering Committee. The organizations represented on the Steering Committee are the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR), Fundación Terram, Marine Harvest, the Norwegian Seafood Federation (FHL), the Pew Environment Group, Salmon of the Americas (SOTA), SalmonChile, Skretting, and WWF.

3. What does the salmon Dialogue hope to achieve?

The goal of the Dialogue is to credibly develop and support the implementation of measurable, performance-based standards that minimize or eliminate the key negative environmental and social impacts of salmon farming, while permitting the industry to remain economically viable.

4. What has the salmon Dialogue accomplished to date?

Working under the direction of the Steering Committee, participants have used a transparent, consensus-building process to approve the goals and objectives, identify and agree on the main impacts of salmon farming, create principles, and begin to create criteria and indicators. See answer 5 for a definition of these terms.

To gain a better understanding of how to address the impacts, the dialogue Steering Committee created geographically diverse and balanced technical working groups to research key impacts in more detail. Members of the Dialogue were actively involved in choosing experts and developing a scope of work for each group. Drafts of each report were reviewed and generally agreed to by the members of the Steering Committee. Each report was also presented at a full Dialogue meeting, either in draft or final form. Six scientific reports were commissioned (five by TWGs and one by an individual) and five have been completed. They are available on the

Dialogue website , and each was open for a 60-day comment period after being posted on the site. The comments will be used along with the reports to guide the development of standards.

5. How do you define “standards”?

The salmon Dialogue is an iterative, participatory process that began with identifying the key negative environmental and social impacts of salmon production, as well as principles to address the impacts. Next, agreement will be reached on criteria, indicators and standards, with each phase building on the previous phase. These terms are defined in the table below.

	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Non-aquaculture example</i>	<i>Aquaculture example (from the tilapia Dialogue)</i>
<i>Impact</i>	The problem we want to minimize or eliminate	Overweight	Water pollution
<i>Principle</i>	The guiding principle for addressing the impact	Maintain a healthy weight	Conserve and protect water resources
<i>Criteria</i>	The area to focus on to address the impact	Food consumption *	Nutrient use and release
<i>Indicator</i>	What to measure in order to determine the extent of the impact	Calories	The amount of phosphorus added and released per metric ton of fish produced
<i>Standard</i>	The number and/or performance level that must be reached to determine if the impact is being minimized **	< 4.5 calories/kilogram of body weight/day	Phosphorus input or utilization in tilapia aquaculture operations will not exceed 30 kg P / mt fish produced and loads of phosphorus released into natural receiving waters will not exceed 22 kg P/mt fish produced

**For this example, only one criteria is listed, even though there often are several criteria for each principle, as well as several indicators for each criteria.*

***A number is not necessary when an indicator cannot be numerically measurable (e.g., the indicator for the principle “obey the law,” which might be “documentation of compliance with national and local regulations”).*

6. What will happen with the standards when they are completed?

The suite of standards, which will be voluntary, are intended to be the basis for an aquaculture certification program. They also can be used to benchmark other standards, incorporated into

existing certification programs, adopted for government programs, and potentially be the foundation for buyer and investment screens.

The standards will be given to a standards holding entity that will use independent third-party certification bodies to audit farms. Third party involvement is critical to ensure fair and effective management of the standards. WWF is assessing which standards holding entity – new or existing – to use. That entity will be allowed to grant permission to other entities to use the standards to certify farms, as long as the auditing is done by an independent third party. The standards will be farm-level standards. Producing companies will have the option to operate none, some, or all of their production sites (e.g. farms) in compliance with the standards.

7. How was the Steering Committee formed and how are groups chosen to be on the Steering Committee?

The formation of the Steering Committee was discussed at salmon Dialogue meetings in 2004. At the third meeting of the group, in October 2004, individuals volunteered to form a breakout group “interim steering committee” that would develop a proposal for the shape of the SC. This interim committee included representatives from SOTA, CAAR, WWF, Nutreco, NET and AquaNET. They proposed the steering committee consist of 6-8 members and be a geographically diverse mix of approximately half NGOs and half industry representatives and also include one a research institution. They also recognized the need to ensure that Chile was represented in the Steering Committee and agreed to reach out to organizations in Chile who might be interested in participating. Over the next few months this outreach occurred. An acting steering committee was formed and agreed upon at future meetings. As companies merged and split, the names of the organizations on the SC changed.

Currently, the SC consists of nine member organizations, and the SC decides by consensus about changes to the SC composition.

8. When will the standards be complete?

The SC aims to have draft standards complete and available for public comment by the end of 2009. The public comment process will include, at a minimum, two 60 day comment periods.

9. How can I participate in the Dialogue?

The Dialogue is open to all participants who agree to the goal of the Dialogue. Individuals and organizations can participate in a variety of ways, including attending meetings; reviewing documents and submitting comments via the website; and providing feedback directly to a Steering Committee member.

10. What are the responsibilities of the Steering Committee?

The Steering Committee guides the Dialogue process and serves as the decision-making body of the Dialogue. The Steering Committee is committed to reviewing, discussing, and determining how to incorporate feedback received from the Dialogue at large.

The Steering Committee also jointly funds the Dialogue, including meeting costs and costs associated with Technical Working Groups.

11. Where can I get additional information?

The Dialogue is coordinated by WWF. More information on the Dialogue is available at www.worldwildlife.org/salmondialogue. Questions can also be directed to Dialogue coordinator Katherine Bostick at katherine.bostick@wwfus.org.