

CFS41 Side-Event Report

The Contribution of Fisheries & Aquaculture to Food Security

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

12:30 - 14:00

Lebanon Room - FAO Headquarters

Chair: Andrew Mallison, Director General, the Marine Ingredients Organization, IFFO

Speakers:

- Árni M. Mathiesen: Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO (Iceland);
- Mark Griffin: President, Animal Nutrition Division, The Marine Ingredients Organisation, IFFO (United Kingdom);
- Iain Shone, Development Director, Global Aquaculture Alliance, GAA;
- John Connelly, President, National Fisheries Institute, NFI (USA);
- Ray Hilborn, Professor, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington (USA);

Fisheries and aquaculture make an important contribution to food security and the reduction of poverty. The oceans contain approximately 80% of the earth's biomass and the potential for nutritional, therapeutic and functional ingredients are endless. Our speakers highlighted that fisheries and aquaculture can have a positive impact on food security and the reduction of poverty, that they can offer important footprint benefits, in particular in terms of energy, fresh water use, carbon emissions and protein yields.

This event was attended by over 50 people from more than 20 countries. Representatives of the World Trade Organisation, FAO, World Food

Programme including many members of the USA, EU, Swedish, Norwegian delegation were also present.

The importance of fisheries and aquaculture in food security and poverty reduction was highlighted by the chairman, Andrew Mallison, Director General, the Marine Ingredients Organization, IFFO. Árni M. Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO (Iceland), then focused on Socioeconomic contribution of aquaculture and fisheries. Mark Griffin, President, Animal Nutrition Division, The Marine Ingredients Organisation, IFFO (United Kingdom) spoke of the importance of marine ingredients industry and IFFO's Responsible Supply Standard Key Principles. Iain Shone, Development Director, Global Aquaculture Alliance, GAA, highlighted the contribution of aquaculture to food security and emphasized advances in aquaculture and the challenges they face. He said that, whilst not without its challenges, the sector has a strong spirit of co-operation to research and improved practice throughout the industry. John Connelly, President, National Fisheries Institute, NFI (USA) then spoke about the significance of fisheries industry and the challenges they face. Ray Hilborn, Professor, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington (USA) highlighted sustainability and means to address environmental challenges. He highlighted a number of environmental costs of eating (water use, soil erosion, pollution, energy usage, biodiversity loss, etc.).

The presentations were followed by a discussion with audience members who were very interested in understanding the ways the panelists and their organisations deal with obstacles when working in developing countries. All speakers highlighted the fact that knowledge transfer, collaboration, offering technical advice, supporting local needs are crucial when working with developing countries. They also emphasized that social aspect has to be taken into account as 90% of fishermen live in developing countries. The panelists agreed that export markets are in unaligned in developing countries and that more needs to be done to overcome this obstacle.