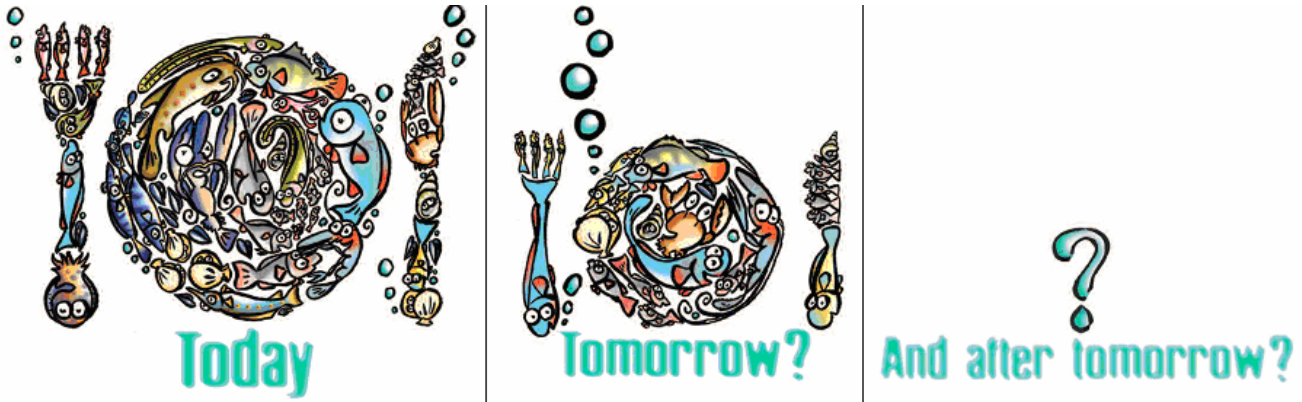


# World Wetlands Day 2007 – 2 February

## Fish for tomorrow?

*Wetlands support fisheries, keep them healthy.*



- 2 February each year is World Wetlands Day.
- The focus for February 2nd 2007 is on wetlands and fisheries in recognition of the needs of the one billion people who rely on fish as their primary source of animal protein. Demand for fish and seafood has nearly doubled in the past 40 years and will continue to grow.
- But the fish are under threat from fish poisoning, water pollution, irrigation, hydro-electricity generation, road construction, eutrophication, sedimentation and human disturbance.
- 75% of our important fisheries are being over-fished or fished to their limit.
- Fishers, decision makers, fishery managers, wetland managers and consumers – all have vital roles in sustainable fisheries.

### Code of conduct for responsible fisheries

- Manage stocks using the best available science;
- Use conservative management approaches when the effects of fishing practices are uncertain
- Avoid overfishing; prevent or eliminate excess fishing capacity;
- Minimize discarded fish and bycatch;
- Prohibit destructive fishing methods;
- Restore depleted fish stocks;
- Monitor the effects of fishing on all species in the ecosystem, not just the target fish stock;
- Recognize the importance of artisanal and small-scale fisheries, and the value of traditional management practices;
- Develop aquaculture in an environmentally and socially responsible manner.

