

Wetlands and Agriculture

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High priority task

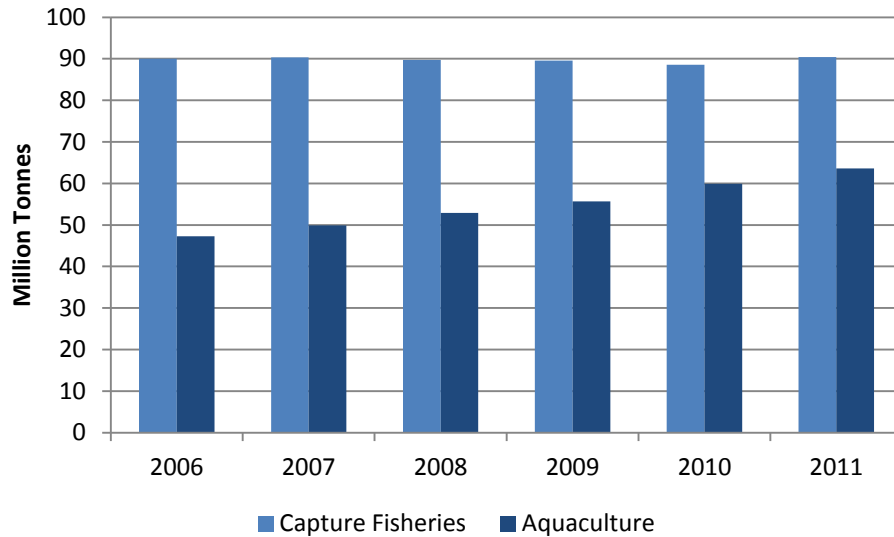
**Wise use of wetlands in relation to coastal and inland aquaculture
(2013-15/46)**

**Develop guidance for the wise use of wetlands
in relation to coastal and inland aquaculture.**

Builds on aspects of COP9 Resolution IX.4 (2005):
productive and sustainable use of fisheries resources



Rationale



Source: FAO State of World Fisheries 2012

The global dependence on aquaculture is growing and wild stocks continue to be depleted

Impacts

Direct - habitat loss, wild harvest of species

Indirect - pollution, contamination of wetlands, impact of novel compounds, genetic modification

Guidance

Guidance is needed for the wise use of wetlands in relation to burgeoning new coastal aquaculture but also for stocked inland wetlands

Guidance for: wetland managers/aquaculture practitioners?

Outcomes/outputs: Briefing Note; Guidance for Parties (RTR, COP 12 information paper)

Existing Guidance:

FAO code of conduct for responsible fisheries (includes aquaculture)

FAO Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management

World Fish

Water Resource Commission

IWMI – Rice-Fish Systems

Something new?

Maybe case studies from Ramsar sites

Lower Priority tasks

1. Impacts of agricultural practices on rice paddies as wetland systems (2013-15/47)

Compile and review information on the positive and negative impacts of agricultural practices on rice paddies as wetland systems in terms of enhancing their biodiversity and ecosystem services, and prepare advice to the Convention on these matters

2. Re-engineering agricultural landscapes (2013-15/48)

Prepare guidance on re-engineering agricultural landscapes. Revitalization of wetland biodiversity within agricultural landscapes is an emerging issue with the transformation of past collective farming systems (e.g., in Central Europe) to individual landholdings. Community aspirations to develop eco-agricultural farming systems as part of such transformations need to be supported by technical/scientific guidance on best practices.

Aquaculture definition

- **Aquaculture**, also known as **aquafarming**, is the farming of aquatic organisms such as [fish](#), [crustaceans](#), [molluscs](#) and [aquatic plants](#). Aquaculture involves cultivating freshwater and saltwater populations under controlled conditions, and can be contrasted with the harvesting of [wild fish](#).
- Particular kinds of aquaculture include [fish farming](#), [shrimp farming](#), [oyster farming](#), [algaculture](#) (such as [seaweed farming](#)), and the cultivation of [ornamental fish](#). Particular methods include [aquaponics](#) and [Integrated multi-trophic aquaculture](#), both of which integrate fish farming and plant farming