

ROME DECLARATION ON SHRIMP FARMING

Mangrove Network International (REDMANGLAR INTERNACIONAL), World Forum of Fisheries Peoples (WFFP), the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) and GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL, attending the 27th Session of the Committee on Fisheries of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisations, meeting in Rome from the 5th to the 9th of March 2007, declare:

1. that despite increasing discussions about the social and environmental impacts of shrimp farming, the destruction of coastal ecosystems by this activity continues to take place at an alarming rate, causing privatisation of water and indigenous lands, expulsion of local populations, pollution, salinization of fresh water, and decrease of the access of local populations to their traditional fish resources;
2. that despite the history of human rights violations, social dislocation and environmental destruction, shrimp farming continues to expand;
3. that our national laws are being revised in order to reduce protection of critical coastal ecosystems and allow for further expansion of shrimp farming and the appropriation of these ecosystems by the shrimp farming industry;
4. that the introduction of this export-oriented industry is not helping to meet the food needs of our coastal populations, but rather the contrary, continues to undermine our food security and food sovereignty;
5. that the FAO, whether alone, whether through consortiums with financial institutions, or intergovernmental institutions and NGOs, is actively promoting the expansion of this activity and the development of so-called "principles on responsible shrimp farming" and Certification schemes for shrimp farming. These have not resulted in a decrease of the global impact of this industry;
6. that in the processes established to elaborate such principles, local populations, indigenous people and other stakeholders in the countries affected by shrimp farming continue to be marginalised;

We, therefore, demand the Committee on Fisheries of the FAO, at this 27th Session,

- Recommends that its member countries apply a moratorium on the expansion of shrimp farming as approved by the 7th Conference of the Parties of the Ramsar Convention in San Jose, Costa Rica, which called on governments to apply a moratorium until studies have been carried out on the carrying capacity of coastal ecosystems;
- Recommends its member countries to stop subsidising shrimp farming activities and establish policies to use public funds for the recovery of degraded coastal ecosystems;

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- Opens an effective consultation process with concerned peoples, community group, organisations, networks, etc, in Latin America, Africa and Asia, to discuss, suggest and produce recommendations for the participative co-management and restoration of coastal ecosystems destroyed by shrimp farming all around the world;

Finally,

- We state that current shrimp farming certification schemes do not guarantee, in our view, an ecologically and socially responsible activity, and that there has been a lack of consultation with affected peoples and community in developing such schemes. We therefore demand a moratorium on the certification of this activity, and we call for the establishment of a consultative process, with the full and effective participation of indigenous, local communities, and international networks working on mangrove ecosystem conservation, and concerned over the continued expansion of shrimp farming. Such a consultative process will allow us to properly evaluate the different certification schemes and to propose a way forward that meets the needs of coastal communities and the environment.

Our networks of organizations in Latin America, Asia and Africa are now engaged in an international discussion with partner organizations in Europe and North America working in the key markets countries for shrimp aquaculture products. We believe that truly sustainable aquaculture is in the interest of all governments and peoples.

NAME	SIGN	ORGANIZATION
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