

Shrimp Sustainable Supply Chain Task Force

Overview and Progress
Update – May 2015

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Shrimp Sustainable Supply Chain Task Force



Established in July 2014, The Shrimp Sustainable Supply Chain Task Force (Task Force) is an international industry alliance including leading retailers, manufacturers, government and NGO's. It is tasked with ensuring Thailand's seafood supply chain is free from illegal and forced labour through accountability, verification and transparency.

The Task Force recognises that human rights issues and marine conservation problems are both linked with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) and its objectives are set based on this fundamental understanding.



Objective #1

Implement track and trace systems with international verification from feed mill to vessel

Deliverable

- An independent, internationally recognised Feed Supply Chain Validation Programme for adoption by all.

Objective #2

Drive Thai Port Codes of Conduct with international recognition

Deliverables

- A successful vessel monitoring system (VMS) trial and roll out.
- A standard code of conduct model for Thailand - all ports, brokers and vessels.
- New Fishery and labour law reform through lobby action.

Objective #3

Drive fishery Improvement Projects - Gulf of Thailand /Andaman Sea

Deliverables

- Successful Fishery Improvement Projects (FIP's).
- FIP Pre assessment – Gulf of Thailand & Andaman Sea - Business case, costings and suitable funding proposals leading to successful FIP programme implementation.

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Objective #1

Progress To Date

- Successfully combined strengths of all leading Thai seafood manufacturers, working together for the first time.
- Appointed UL, an independent auditing group, to develop a Feed Supply Chain Traceability Validation Programme.
- Conducted a pilot review to track and trace the by-catch supply chain from fishing vessel to feed mill.
- Shared each company's traceability systems and summary documents drafted with audit protocol and standard reporting template drafts prepared.
- Developed minimum required data / information from fishing vessel to include – vessel licence, fishing & fishing gear licence, compliance of fishing gear and full crew validation via crew list, port out, employment contracts, ID card, passports, work permits and Thai migrant labour ID card. Minimum required data from fishing port to include Marine Catch Processing Document (MCPD), Port-in Port-out, Fishing log book, docking bill and docking log book.
- Prepared and presented a full List of Task Force Asks required from the Thai Government.
- Held a series of working sessions with the Thai Government since Oct '14 and the Thai Government has committed to working with the Task Force on its 66 ports and 454 vessels audit activity.
- Produced the first draft of the Pilot Audit Report that is currently being reviewed internally with a view to the Shrimp Feed Supply Chain Validation Audit Protocol being completed by May '15.
- Scheduled a 3-month review in October '15 and a 6-month review in January '16.
- Scheduled supply chain audits for October '15 with completion expected in January '16.

Objective #2

Progress To Date

- Researched VMS systems worldwide and shared findings with the Thai Government.
- Facilitated a research visit for senior Thai government and other key stakeholders in April '15. Visit included meetings with The Satellite Applications Catapult and The Pew Charitable Trust (Oxford) and a mixed fishery in the South West of England to discuss progressing a VMS trial and to help inform the Thai Government with Fishery Improvement planning.
- The Thai National Legislative Assembly has approved the new fisheries act and subsidiary laws are now being written to cover the scope of fishery management. This will specify details regarding minimum net sizes, conservation zones and new punishment measures for breaking the law.

Objective #3

Progress To Date

- The key to long-term sustainability of Thailand's seas sits with fishery improvement projects (FIP's).
- The starting point for a FIP is the formation of a cross-functional stakeholder group and the commissioning of a pre assessment to understand the state of the fishery today.
- Members of the Task Force have encouraged all 8 seafood industry associations in Thailand to form the Thai Sustainable Fishmeal Roundtable (TSFR).
- The TSFR is engaging directly with the most senior levels of the Thai Government.
- The TSFR is currently working with NGO's –World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Sustainable Fish Partnership (SFP) on initial pre assessment work required for the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea. The pre assessment work for the Andaman Sea is currently due for completion in September '15. Following this, the Task Force will work with the TSFR to help build the business case and presentations required for funding discussions.

Summary

The Task Force is a dedicated group focussed on action. It accepts that there is much to do and that a pragmatic step-by-step approach is required. It is making steady progress. Interest is growing in its activities and it has received a number of expressions of interest from additional leading organisations seeking to join and assist over the last three months.

