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Fishing Technology Digest

A Newsletter on Fishing Technology, Gear and Methods, Vessels and Equipment

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INFOFISH, based in Malaysia, and set up with the assistance of FAO, provides Advisory Services related to Fishing Technology for the Asia-Pacific. It strives to facilitate dissemination of information on fishing technology and equipment for the industry besides research and training. It also promotes links among research institutions, administration and industry. Since 1992, INFOFISH, issued a quarterly newsletter collating global fisheries news and advancements related to fishing technology.

Information on various aspects of fisheries and aquaculture industry also appears in INFOFISH International. A supplementary section on 'Industry Notes' provides information on the latest developments in the global fisheries scene. New equipment and innovations are also featured. Comments and contributions are welcome. Please feel free to share the latest news on fishing technology and innovations that you want to see in the next issue. Suggest new equipment and supplies and mention name of the relevant industry experts for inclusion in the INFOFISH mailing list.

For more information, please visit: https://tuna.infofish.org/

Scientists Begin Mission to Save Seaweed Stocks

Leading seaweed scientists from Malaysia and the UK and officials from the Department of Fisheries Sabah are meeting with more than 50 stakeholders to propose a new Progressive Management Pathway for Improving Biosecurity in the Seaweed Industry (PMP/AB-Seaweed). Seaweeds are a vital part of the ocean ecosystem and support more than six million farmers in 56 countries worldwide, but industry is facing increasing pressure from climate change. The 2.5 day workshop in Sabah, Malaysia focused on the main commercially grown seaweed species in Malaysia, the key pest and disease challenges faced by the industry and the practical solutions that will allow the industry to develop to its full potential. The workshop also discussed other seaweed species that could potentially be commercialised and how wild seaweed stocks can be protected and restored in Malaysia, since they are so important in providing the climate-resilient cultivars of the future. The workshop is part of an international GlobalSeaweed-PROTECT three-year programme (February 2025-February 2028) funded by the UKRI Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) under the Sustainable and Resilient Aquaculture Systems in Southeast Asia programme. The ultimate goal of the programme is to improve livelihoods for the long-term for seaweed farming communities in Southeast Asia by building a productive seaweed industry that is resilient to climate change, is biosecure and protects wild seaweed diversity. Project lead Prof. Juliet Brodie based at the Natural History Museum, London said: "Seaweeds are vital for the functioning of the marine ecosystem and there are more than six million seaweed farmers who rely on seaweed for their livelihoods. The vast majority of farmers are in Asia, which accounts for more than 95% of global seaweed farming. "Yet, commercial seaweeds are threatened by outbreaks of pests and diseases, as a result of climate-induced increases in seawater temperatures, which is limiting an already fragile production in a very competitive global market. It is hoped that the PMP/AB-Seaweed will provide a practical road map to help the seaweed industry in Malaysia increase its resilience to climate change." GlobalSeaweed-PROTECT also involves a core research team of Prof. Phaik Eem Lim of the University of Malaya, Prof. Elizabeth Cottier-Cook of the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), as well as contributions from the Department of Fisheries Sabah and the United Nations University Comparative Regional Integration Studies.

Read more: *here.*

MSC and the 100% Great Lakes Fish Initiative Receive United Nations Awards

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) celebrated its 80th anniversary and the 30th anniversary of its Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries by presenting multiple awards to organisations for their impact on global food security and sustainability. Among the honorees on October 15 at the FAO headquarters in Rome were the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and the 100% Great Lakes Fish Initiative. The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), a non-profit organisation founded over 25 years ago to combat overfishing, was recognised for its contribution to the responsible development of fisheries. Rupert Howes, MSC CEO, accepted the award.

- MSC operates in line with the principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which was adopted in 1995 by 160 countries.
- Currently, 20.7% of the total global marine catch comes from 738 MSC-certified fisheries worldwide.
- In 2022, MSC data was recognised as an official progress indicator for two of the 21 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which aims to halt biodiversity loss by 2030.

The 3-year-old initiative, led by the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP), received the "Blue Transformational Leader Award for Sustainable Aquatic Food Systems." John Schmidt, GSGP program manager, received the accolade during the 2025 World Food Forum (WFF). The binational initiative, which involves seven U.S. states and two Canadian provinces, promotes the full utilisation of every fish caught to drive sustainable blue economy growth and reduce waste in the Great Lakes region.

- The project includes the 100% Great Lakes Fish Pledge, where processors commit to utilising 100% of every fish by the end of this year.
- The Pledge has recruited 44 processors and aquaculture farms, representing about 90% of all commercially caught fish from the Great Lakes.

David Naftzger, GSGP Executive Director, commented that the UN recognition indicates they are "on the right path toward reducing waste while maximising the value of [the region's] fish resources."

Read more: *here.*

WFAS Drives Dialogue on Responsible Fishing and Freezing-at-Sea

The Conxemar International Frozen Seafood Products Exhibition (CONXEMAR 2025) was the setting chosen by the Wild & Frozen at Sea with Responsible Fishing (WFAS) certification to foster a space for reflection on quality, innovation, and social responsibility in the fishing industry. WFAS, an initiative promoted by the Organization of Producers of Freezer Vessels for Hake, Cephalopods, and Various Species (OPPC-3), inaugurated its stand with the panel discussion

"Freezing-at-Sea and Social Responsibility." The event brought together key industry representatives and experts to debate sustainability and best practices in wild fishing. During the session, speakers highlighted the fundamental role of freezing-at-sea (or ultra-freezing on board) as the primary tool for ensuring the freshness, quality, and traceability of seafood products from the moment they are caught. Edelmiro Ulloa, Managing Director of OPPC-3, Javier García Galdo, marine biologist and scientific communicator and Isabel Núñez Caamaño, Executive Director of Walvifish were present at the panel discussion among with the other participants. The experts shared their perspectives on the need to incorporate social responsibility criteria throughout the product chain of custody. As part of its agenda at Conxemar, WFAS also offered free of cost tastings of certified products that allowed visitors to experience the quality of the seafood ultra-frozen on the high seas firsthand. With its presence, WFAS reaffirms its commitment to promoting responsible wild fishing models that guarantee traceability, sustainability, and respect for marine resources from their origin.

Read more: *here.*

FISHING TECHNOLOGIES

Marine Fishery Economy Thrives in Shandong

To date, Shandong has built 139 "marine farms" at or above the provincial level, including 71 at the national level, or 38 percent of the country's total at the level. The province now boasts an integrated industrial chain for marine fishery that ranges from aquaculture, fishing to intensive processing.

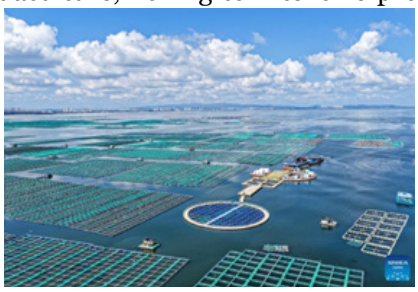

Photo: An aerial drone photo shows an ecological marine cage breeding area in Rongcheng City, east China's Shandong Province. As a province noted for its major marine fishery economy, Shandong has been actively building marine farms in recent years, aiming to continuously enrich the "blue food depot."

The output of marine aquatic products in Shandong reached 8.25 million tonnes with an added value exceeding 100 billion yuan (about USD 14.09 billion) in 2024, topping among all regions at the provincial level in the country.

Photo: Workers package sweet shrimp products at Shandong Meijia Group Co., Ltd. in Rizhao City, east China's Shandong Province. Credit: Li Xinjun/Xinhua.

Read more: *here.*

Cage Camera Puts Petuna in the Picture Despite Low Light Levels

Scotland-based fish farming supplier Ace Aquatec has secured a multi-unit order for its A-BIOMASS cage camera from Tasmanian salmon farmer Petuna. Ace Aquatec said the camera had proved its worth in trials with Petuna, which operates in the Tamar River estuary at Rowella and in Macquarie Harbour. Both sites present challenges for any technology, from highly conditioned fish adapted to local environments to tannin-rich waters with low light levels.

Read more: *here.*

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

The whitefish processing industry faces a confluence of challenges, from environmental pressure and fishing stock instability to labor shortages and strict traceability regulations. With the technical support of Marel we will try to address these challenges as key opportunities for sustainable growth and sector modernisation. In this series, we will provide technical information for the readers regarding **fish filleting, fillet skinning** and **automatic deheading** respectively.

Fish filleting Machine MS 2730, which can handle whitefish from 400g to 16 kg, allows processors to switch between species like cod, hake, pollock, and saithe with minimal downtime. This adaptability turns stock fluctuation into a market opportunity.

Key features:

- Fillets whitefish such as cod, hake, pollock, saithe, haddock and more
- Fish ranging from 400 g to 16kg
- Robust and reliable design
- Additional conversion kits enable processors to grow
- Easy to adjust maintain and clean

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TILAPIA 2025 Brings Global Tilapia Experts Together in Bangkok

Over 280 tilapia experts and industry leaders from more than 40 countries gathered in Bangkok, Thailand, for the 5th INFOFISH World Tilapia Trade and Technical Conference & Trade Exhibition (TILAPIA 2025) from 3–5 November 2025. The event, themed *"Innovation, Integration and Profitability: Modernisation for a New Era"*, covered global and regional production, trade, value-added products, integrative production systems, feed and nutrition, biosecurity, certification, welfare, and partnership opportunities.

A trade exhibition highlighted the latest technological solutions for the aquaculture industry. A key highlight was the formation of the Southeast Asian Tilapia Association (SEATA), aiming to unite stakeholders and rebrand tilapia as a preferred farmed fish. Participants also visited Manit Genetics to explore the latest IPRS technology and sample unique tilapia cuisines. Mr. Amorn Luengnaruemitchai received the Monsignor Heine Award for his contributions to the tilapia industry. TILAPIA 2025 was jointly organized by INFOFISH and ISTA13, co-organized by the University of Arizona and the US Soybean Export Council, with technical support from FAO-GLOBEFISH. The event was hosted by Thailand's Department of Fisheries and supported by AIT, ACIAR, CAPPMA, NACA, TIF, the University of Stirling, UNIDO, and VASEP. Media partners included The Fish Site, Aquafeed.com, and Aquaculture Asia Pacific Magazine. Sponsors included GenoMar Genetics, Saudi Aquaculture Society, Grobest Seafood Global, JBT Marel, CAT, FAI Farms, ODS Seafoods, and the National Fisheries Authority of PNG. The three-day conference concluded with a call for profitability and sustainability across tilapia value chains, preparing stakeholders for the challenges of the new era. Presentations, participant lists, and photographs are available on the TILAPIA 2025 webpage for the registered participants.

TARS 2025: Concluded Successfully With the Call for Precision Farming and Nutrition; and Improved Farm Management Matrices in Shrimp Aquaculture

The 14th edition of The Aquaculture Roundtable Series® (TARS), TARS 2025, took place from August 20-21, 2025, at the Shangri-La Hotel, Chiang Mai, Thailand focusing Shrimp Aquaculture. The two-day conference brought together about 285 participants from 22 countries including speakers, panelists, moderators and industry leaders. Dr. Thitiporn Laoprasert, Deputy Director-General, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand, officiated the conference. TARS 2025 programme included 10 sessions highlighting 'State of Global Shrimp Supply and Demand, Effective Genetics and Production Planning, Nutrition and Feed Management, Chat with NextGen farmers, Pathogen Control and Disease Mitigation, Future Proofing Shrimp Aquaculture, Interactive roundtable Breakout (03), Hard talk with business leaders, Revolutionising shrimp farming etc' respectively. The conference brough together more than 50 international and regional speakers, panelists and industry players who share their insights and markets trends. It is important to mention here that INFOFISH participated in TARS 2025 as a part of their exchange with the Aquaculture Asia Pacific Magazine as the Media Partner.

UNESCO Award "For Women in Science" 2025 in Argentina

Argentina celebrates six scientists recognised in the 19th edition of the National L'Oréal - UNESCO "For Women in Science" award in collaboration with CONICET, bringing the country's total to more than 70 honorees. Women represent only 31.7% of the global scientific community, and less than 4% of Nobel Prizes in scientific disciplines have been awarded to women. In response to this reality, and in a continued commitment to highlight and promote the work of

Argentine women scientists, L'Oréal Groupe Argentina, together with the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), has been leading the National L'Oréal–UNESCO "For Women in Science" Award for 19 years. This initiative seeks to recognise women's contributions to scientific development, inspire new vocations among girls and young women, and support research excellence in a field where women remain underrepresented. In this edition, distinguished projects were framed within the "Life Sciences" category. Since 1901, only 25 women have received the Nobel Prize in scientific disciplines, and of them, 15 that is, 60% won the award after the creation of the L'Oréal–UNESCO "For Women in Science" program in 1998. In fact, seven of those 15 laureates had previously been recognised with the International L'Oréal–UNESCO Awards before receiving the Nobel Prize. Historically, women in science have faced profound invisibilisation: their contributions were often undervalued or even attributed to male colleagues to gain credibility. With the aim of reversing this inequality, the L'Oréal–UNESCO "For Women in Science" program has, since 1998, consistently recognised and celebrated the talent and achievements of women scientists around the world. Over the years, the L'Oréal–UNESCO alliance has honored more than 4,700 women scientists globally, including 137 international laureates and more than 4 000 young researchers helping to bring visibility to their work and inspire new generations of women in science.

Read more: *here.*

Bangladesh: Faster-Growing Carp for a Food-Secure Future

Carp is the most important group of fish species in Bangladesh, accounting for over half of the country's aquaculture production. WorldFish and partners are leading efforts to develop and disseminate faster-growing carp strains through a family-based selective breeding approach. Current efforts are focused on three key species: rohu *(Labeo rohita)*, catla *(Catla catla)*, and silver carp *(Hypophthalmichthys molitrix)*, species that together account for over one-third of Bangladesh's aquaculture output.

Photo: Participants at the end of the workshop in Khulna, Bangladesh. Credit: Mohammad Shohorab Hossain/ WorldFish.

WorldFish Bangladesh hosted a workshop titled "Carp Genetic Improvement and Dissemination: Progress and Future Pathways" on 24–25 September 2025 in Khulna. Organized under the CGIAR Sustainable Animal and Aquatic Foods (SAAF) and Scaling for Impact (S4I) programs, the event brought together participants from government agencies, universities, hatcheries, nurseries, and farmer groups, reflecting a strong spirit of collaboration across Bangladesh's aquaculture community. During the workshop, participants reviewed the progress of the WorldFish Carp Genetic Improvement and Dissemination Program (CGIDP) and explored its future pathways. They also visited an ongoing G5 rohu on-farm trial in Bagerhat and the program's breeding facility in Jashore. These visits gave participants first-hand insights into how carp genetics is advancing in the field. Since its inception in 2012, the WorldFish carp program has made steady and meaningful progress. G3 rohu, which grows 37% faster than local strains (Hamilton et al., 2022), now reaches more than 200 000 farmers each year. G5 rohu, currently under on-farm trials, is expected to grow over 50% faster than unimproved strains, offering farmers even greater potential for higher yields and shorter production cycles. Work on other species is also advancing, with G4 silver carp and G3 catla expected in the coming years. These improved generations are not just about faster growth; they mean higher productivity and profitability for farming households. As productivity rises, the availability and affordability of fish also increase in local markets, helping improve food and nutrition security for communities nationwide. The progress achieved so far reflects not only scientific success but also a shared commitment among government, research, and private partners to turn genetic innovation into real benefits for people.

For more information: *here.*

Cambodia: EU CAPFISH-Capture Project Boosts Country's Fisheries Sector

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), in partnership with the EU and UNIDO, has successfully concluded the EU CAPFISH-Capture: Post-harvest Fisheries Development project. Under the theme "Transforming Cambodia Fisheries for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth," the initiative strengthened the sector through improved food safety, quality, and market access. Key achievements include 22 enterprises receiving the Cambodia Quality Seal (CQS), 4 obtaining HACCP certification, and enhanced employment opportunities particularly for women and persons with disabilities across 64 fish processing enterprises. Sustainable practices, such as solar drying, were promoted, and local production was strengthened to reduce reliance on imports while boosting competitiveness. "The project has generated tangible socio-economic

impact, improving livelihoods, food safety, and market access," said Dejene Tezera, UNIDO. EU Ambassador Igor Driesmans highlighted the importance of local ownership and partnerships, while MAFF Minister Dith Tina emphasised scaling the results nationwide to ensure continued benefits for fishers, processors, and entrepreneurs. The project's legacy sets a strong example for inclusive, sustainable, and modern fisheries development in Cambodia and beyond.

Read more: *here.*

China: Changing Fisheries, in Numbers

China remains the world's largest fish producer, accounting for nearly 40 percent of global output in 2022. While marine wild catch has declined by almost 18 percent since 2015, aquaculture has surged, driving not only China's growth but global expansion in farmed fish. Domestic overfishing, climate change, and coastal depletion have prompted policies to reduce wild catch, including vessel limits, seasonal moratoriums, and quota systems. China has also restricted distant-water fishing to promote sustainability, setting a target of 2.3 million tonnes by 2025. Aquaculture now dominates the sector. In 2022, China contributed over half of Asia's growth in animal aquaculture, producing more than four times the volume of capture fisheries. The government has promoted "green" aquaculture technologies, including wastewater management, controlled drug use, and environmentally zoned production areas, though gaps remain in policy enforcement and skills development. China is a major exporter of seafood, primarily to Japan, the US, and South Korea, but imports have also risen, making it a net importer by value. The FAO projects aquaculture will supply 54 percent of global aquatic animal production by 2032, underscoring China's ongoing role as a driver of the transition from wild catch to farmed seafood.

Read more: *here.*

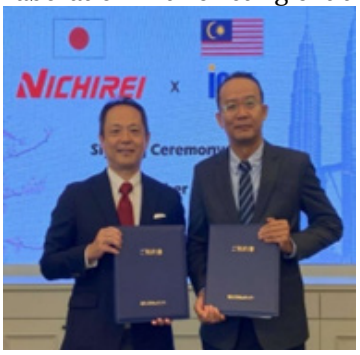
Kiribati: Empowering Island Communities Through Fisheries Awareness and Market Access Training

The islands within the line and phoenix group are well known for their abundant marine resources, which play a vital role in supporting local livelihoods and offer significant opportunities for sustainable fisheries development. To ensure that these valuable resources are managed responsibly through ensuring seafood safety and quality, sustainable fishing, and promoting income diversification. The MFOR team comprising of the SVD, CFD and PDD undertook a significant task from 29th of October to 10 November 2025 to strengthen local knowledge on seafood safety, fisheries management and market access. The awareness program was delivered to community members and students of Teraina, Tabuaraean and Kiritimati Islands, covering topics on proper fish-handling practices, market access requirements, cold chain management, business strategies, income diversification, and key principles that promote sustainable fishing, improved livelihoods, enhanced economic opportunities, and promotes public health. The team expresses its sincere appreciation to the Honorable Minister and Secretary for the Ministry of Line and Phoenix Development, the Mayor, Clerk and IEC for the three islands, and the principals of the schools visited for their support throughout the awareness program. Sincere appreciation is also extended to the World Bank through the PROP project for their financial support. Their invaluable support was pivotal in ensuring the successful implementation of this important task.

More information available: *here.*

Malaysia: Nichirei Boosts Cold Chain Presence in Southeast Asia

Nichirei Logistics Group Inc., a subsidiary of Nichirei Corporation, signed a share transfer agreement to acquire ICCL Group (Integrated Cold Chain Logistics Sdn. Bhd.), a major cold chain logistics operator in Malaysia. The acquisition is scheduled for completion around December 2025, making ICCL Group a new member of the Nichirei Logistics Group. This strategic move is central to Nichirei's medium-term management plan, "Compass x Growth 2027," which emphasises bolstering overseas growth and profitability. ICCL Group, which operates its own multi-temperature warehouses and refrigerated vehicles from its base in Penang, will significantly expand Nichirei's service offerings within Malaysia through collaboration with existing entities, NLCCN.



Read more: *here.*

Malaysia: Sharks and Rays Face Digital Threat

A study by Traffic Southeast Asia and WWF-Malaysia reveals a booming online trade in sharks and rays' worth over USD 78.24 million (RM 326 million), including critically endangered wedgefish and endangered whiprays. The report warns that e-commerce platforms are enabling illegal sales of meat, fins, and whole bodies, highlighting gaps in traceability and species protection under the Fisheries Act 1985. Conservationists urge stronger legal protection, improved monitoring, and responsible trade practices to safeguard these vital marine predators and preserve ocean health.

Read more: *here.*

Maldives: Takes Steps to Boost Fisheries

Under President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, the Maldivian fisheries sector is undergoing major reforms to modernise infrastructure, support fishers, and expand export opportunities. Investments include new harbors, upgraded cold storage, vessel maintenance, and financial aid packages, alongside low-interest loans for the fishing community. Sustainable practices are being prioritised with new catch limits, reef protection, and awareness programs in collaboration with NGOs. The government is also pursuing new export markets for high-value products like tuna and reef fish. Training programs are being introduced to equip young Maldivians with skills in sustainable fishing, marine biology, and business management. Stakeholders have welcomed these initiatives, which aim to boost incomes, promote sustainability, and strengthen the Maldives' position in global fisheries.

Read more: *here.*

Papua New Guinea: NFA Reaffirms Active Role in Fisheries Surveillance

The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) has emphasised its ongoing commitment to protecting Papua New Guinea's vast maritime resources, countering claims of inactivity in Manus Province. NFA highlighted its participation in joint regional surveillance exercises through the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and Pacific Maritime Security Program (PMSP). Facing one of the Pacific's largest EEZs, the Authority stressed that illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing threatens food security, economic sovereignty, and fisheries sustainability.

Key measures include:
- Advanced satellite monitoring and real-time catch verification systems.
- Two forward command bases (Daru by Nov 2025, Vanimo by Q3 2026).
- Deployment of four new dedicated fisheries patrol vessels.
- Offshore vessel charters and ICT upgrades for real-time reporting.
- Community-based management, awareness campaigns, and training for provincial officers.

The NFA confirmed extensive inspections, patrols, and prosecutions nationwide, calling for collaboration and fact-based decision-making to safeguard PNG's fisheries.

Read more: *here.*

The Philippines: BFAR Starts Sardine Fishing Ban

Noting the continuous positive impact of a seasonal ban on sardine fishing, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the fishing sector started implementing the closed fishing season in Mindanao. The sardine fishing ban aims to allow an increase in its reserves next year. The three-month ban will run from 15 November 2025 to 15 February 2026, and covers areas in the east of Sulu Sea, Basilan Strait and Zamboanga Sibuguey Bay. The closed fishing season, which was initially self-imposed by the fishing sector in 2010 and adopted by the BFAR, had a positive

impact in the significant increase of the reserve as it allowed sardine species to spawn and regenerate during the peak breeding season, typically between November to February. The BFAR in Region 9 led the kick-off ceremony as it sent its personnel, along with the Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Navy, Police Maritime Group and representatives of the Southern Philippines Deep Fishing Association to patrol and implement the fishing ban in Zamboanga Peninsula. Al-Zath Kunting, BFAR-9 director, said the ban temporarily prohibits the catching, selling, buying and transporting of sardines within the declared conservation zones. "The continued implementation of the sardines closed fishing season is proof that conservation and livelihood can go hand in hand. Science-based governance, enforcement and cooperation among stakeholders make this program a continuing success for the Zamboanga Peninsula," Kunting said. Based on the BFAR-9 national stock assessment program, the landed catch of sardines in the region increased 33.5 percent from 0.151 million tonnes in 2023 to 0.227 million tonnes last year. The total sardines landed catch from 2018 to 2024 reached 1.47 million tonnes, highlighting the long-term benefits of sustained management interventions under the closed season, according to the BFAR.

Read more: *here.*

Saudi Arabia: Aquafarm will Manufacture and Operate Kingfish Facility in the Red Sea

Aquafarm Equipment, which makes a GRP (glass reinforced plastic) floating closed containment fish farm enclosure, has announced that the first components for its latest project have arrived in the Port of Neom (formerly Duba port), Saudi Arabia. Neom is a project in a region bordering the northern tip of the Red Sea. The Neom vision includes a sustainably powered, high-tech linear city, and multiple regions including a floating industrial complex, global trade hub, and tourist resorts.

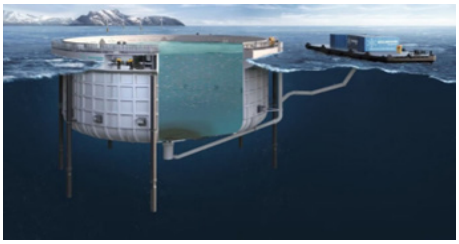


Photo: A cutaway illustration of a floating closed containment tank supplied by Aquafarm Equipment. The tank has an interior diameter of 40 metres, circumference of 126m, and depth of 22m. Credit: Aquafarm Equipment

Read more: *here.*

China - Thailand: Deepen Cooperation in Sustainable Aquaculture and Innovative Technology

Photo: Li Shengli, Executive Vice President and Secretary-General of the China Fisheries Association (Left) and Dr. Thitipong Laopasak Director General of the Department of Fisheries, Thailand (Right).

A delegation from the China Fisheries Association, led by its Executive Vice President and Secretary-General, Li Shengli, conducted an inspection visit to Thailand from October 13 to 17, 2025. The mission focused on technical exchanges and cooperation, aiming to inject new momentum into collaboration between the two countries' fisheries sectors, achieving a series of substantive results. The Chinese delegation held a key meeting with the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Thailand. Dr. Thitipong Laopasak, Director General of the Department of Fisheries, along with representatives from areas such as International Cooperation, Marine Aquaculture, and Disease Control, provided a comprehensive overview of the Thai fisheries industry and its strategic plans for ecological aquaculture and sustainable development. Vital experiences in healthy aquaculture, disease control, and aquatic product quality supervision were shared. For his part, Secretary-General Li Shengli presented an overview of China's fisheries development, while Guo Jian, Secretary-General of the Fishery Medicine and Water Conditioning Products Branch, detailed China's innovative initiatives in healthy aquaculture practices. Both sides agreed to establish a regular liaison mechanism, laying a solid foundation for future collaborations. Furthermore, the delegation visited the FAO Asia-Pacific Office, where fisheries officials expressed a strong interest in strengthening collaboration and developing joint projects, which could expand the Chinese association's access to vast international fisheries cooperation resources in the region. The Chinese team visited the National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Thailand, exploring its advances in aquaculture and its industry service model. Key technical challenges, such as shrimp virus control, were discussed, generating collaboration opportunities. They also visited manufacturers of water conditioning products and developers of red tilapia vaccines, highlighting the Thai focus on probiotics for healthy aquaculture, which offered

inspiration for Chinese technological innovation. The delegation was warmly received by local associations, including the Thai Fish and Shrimp Federation and the Tilapia Association. Visits were facilitated to 10 Thai fishery companies, including nurseries and breeding bases for species such as whiteleg shrimp *(Litopenaeus vannamei)*, giant river prawn *(Macrobrachium rosenbergii)*, tilapia, and seahorses, as well as aquatic product processing plants and feed manufacturers. More than 50 Thai companies engaged in direct discussions with the Chinese delegation on key topics such as upgrading disease prevention and control technologies, optimising aquaculture models, and expanding aquatic product trade. This targeted matchmaking effort broke down information barriers, transitioning Sino-Thai fisheries cooperation from macro intentions to concrete projects, and consolidating deeper industrial collaboration. This visit was a crucial follow-up to the China-Thailand Fisheries Cooperation and Exchange Conference held in Fuzhou in June 2025. Chinese participants noted that the visit deepened their understanding of the Thai aquaculture market. Going forward, the China Fisheries Association will continue to follow up on the various cooperation intentions reached during this visit, focusing on promoting substantial breakthroughs in areas such as joint technological research and development, upstream and downstream collaboration in the industrial chain, and trade facilitation, thereby pursuing high-quality and sustainable development for the fisheries industries of China and Thailand.

Read more: *here.*

PUBLICATION

Policy Guidance on the Elimination of Child Labour in Fisheries and Aquaculture

This policy guidance provides a practical framework for governments, industry, workers' and employers' organiSations, communities and international partners to turn international commitments into real action. By working together, stakeholders can promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture while protecting children's rights and well-being. Child labour continues to occur in many parts of the sector, including coastal communities, inland fish farms and seafood processing facilities. Children may face hazardous conditions, long working hours, chemical exposure and risks of exploitation and trafficking. These harms affect their health, education and development, reinforce poverty and threaten the long-term sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture. Eliminating child labour requires integrated strategies that combine prevention, protection and sustainable alternatives. The root causes are interconnected and include poverty, limited decent work for adults, poor access to inclusive education, weak social protection and social norms that accept child labour. Effective responses must be holistic, gender sensitive and tailored to local realities.

Download this complimentary publication: *here.*

Seaweed For the Future: Public Policy Recommendations Toward A Blue Transformation in Latin America

FAO. 2025. Seaweed for the future: public policy recommendations towards a blue transformation in Latin America. Rome.

This policy document outlines a roadmap to strengthen regulatory frameworks, improve marine-coastal planning, promote applied research and integrate local knowledge, with the aim of positioning seaweed as a pillar of a new blue economy in Latin America.

This important policy document can be downloaded complimentarily from: *here.*

EVENT CALENDAR

2026

JANUARY
26-28,
Saudi International Marine Exhibition,
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
https://www.simec-expo.com/en

FEBRUARY
9-11,
World Seafood Congress (WSC),
Chennai, India.
https://www.wsc2026.com/

MARCH
11-13,
VIETSHRIMP Asia; Aquaculture,
Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam.
https://www.aquafisheriesexpo.com/en/

15-17,
Seafood Expo North America,
Boston, USA.
https://www.seafoodexpo.com/north-america/

APRIL
21-23,
Seafood Expo Global,
Barcelona, Spain.
https://www.seafoodexpo.com/global/

MAY
6-8,
Aquaculture Taiwan,
Tainan, Taiwan.
https://www.aquaculturetaiwan.com/

JUNE
2 - 5,
World Aquaculture Singapore 2026,
Singapore.
https://was.org/meeting/code/WA2026

The Fishing Technology Digest for Asia-Pacific Region

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION FOR MARKETING INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

Here is how INFOFISH helps:

- providing technical advisory services on all phases of harvesting, handling, processing of fish, aquaculture and marketing of fishery products
- offering marketing links to and from the largest fish producing area in the world
- assisting the day-to-day fish trade by identifying new marketing opportunities for companies in the Asia-Pacific Region and new sources for supply importers
- offering technical and sales support services through informative publications
  i) INFOFISH Trade News
  ii) INFOFISH *International*
  iii) Special studies
- offering training and consultancy services
- organising conferences, seminar & workshops

The next issue of **INFOFISH Fishing Technology Digest** will be distributed in **January, 2026.** Please forward any information you may wish to have disseminated through this digest to:

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