

Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue in Bergen, Norway: November 17-18, 2009

On behalf of the Steering Committee of the Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue, I am pleased to invite you to attend a meeting of the Dialogue in Bergen, Norway on November 17-18, 2009. The salmon Dialogue provides a unique opportunity for stakeholders to actively participate in and shape standards development.

The Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue was formed to develop measurable, performance-based standards that minimize or eliminate the key negative environmental and social impacts of salmon farming while permitting the salmon industry to remain economically viable. The Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue is directed by a steering committee that consists of representatives of the salmon industry and the NGO community from a range of countries.

Meeting Objectives

The primary objective of this meeting is to collect constructive feedback from meeting participants on draft environmental indicators, focusing on the most challenging areas for indicator development. The Steering Committee will provide for discussion a draft set of environmental indicators that have been the focus of the work of the Steering Committee and experts from the Technical Working Groups in recent months. The input from Dialogue participants at the meeting will be critical to help ensure that the draft indicators address the core concerns around the environmental impacts of salmon farming and are feasible to implement. This feedback will be used to revise, refine, and improve the draft environmental indicators. For those individuals unable to attend the meeting in Bergen, there will be an opportunity to provide comments via the website.

Social indicators are not yet developed and will be the focus of a future Dialogue meeting.

Materials for the meeting, including a detailed agenda and the draft indicators will be posted on the website and distributed to participants approximately two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Meeting Logistics & Registration

This meeting of the Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue will run from approximately 9:00 to 17:00 hours on both November 17 and 18, 2009 and will be held at the Neptun Hotel in Bergen (www.neptunhotel.no/). The hotel is offering a rate of 1190 NOK including breakfast for meeting participants. Please book your room directly with the hotel by emailing booking@neptunhotel.no or calling +47 55 30 68 00.

An alternate hotel, the Strand Hotel (www.strandhotel.no), is located a 5 minute walk away from the Neptun. The Strand hotel is offering a rate of 990 NOK including breakfast for meeting participants. Please book your room directly with the hotel by emailing post@strandhotel.no or calling +47 55 59 33 00.

When making your reservation at either hotel, you will need to specify that you are with the Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue meeting. Please make your reservations as soon as possible as a block of rooms is being held until October 16.

If you would like to attend the salmon Dialogue meeting, please register as soon as possible, and by October 28, 2009 at the latest. To register, email Elizabeth Vincent (elizabeth.vincent@wwfus.org) and provide the following information:

Name:
Title:
Organization/Company Name:
Email address:

Background

The Dialogue is an iterative, participatory, process that began with identifying the key environmental and social impacts of salmon production. Scientific experts from around the world developed State of Information reports for the Dialogue for each of six key environmental impacts. A parallel report related to social, labor and community impacts is underway.

Dialogue participants have also developed principles that address the key impacts associated with salmon aquaculture, as well as criteria that provide direction on how to reduce each impact. The principles and criteria provide the framework for indicators, which will address how to measure the extent of each impact. The standards will be quantitative performance levels that evaluate whether a principle is achieved. Performance-based standards will ensure that farming sites achieving the standards measurably demonstrate minimized environmental and social impacts.

More information about the salmon Dialogue, including the complete list of Steering Committee members, is available at www.worldwildlife.org/salmondialogue. Please contact me (Katherine.bostick@wwfus.org) or any of the Steering Committee members with questions and feel free to forward this invitation on to other individuals or organizations who may be interested in attending.

Sincerely,

Katherine Bostick