Data Sharing Summary
Streamlining the path towards sustainability in the aquaculture industry¹

March 2022

Background

One of the key conclusions of an initial standard and data mapping study under the ISEAL Innovations Fund project - “Integration of seafood certification and jurisdictional assurance models” was “Where the data collected apply at different scales, there is the potential to build a more robust understanding of farm-level and industry contributions to cumulative impacts”.

Specifically, information and data from Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) certified farms held the potential to inform assessments conducted by the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) and the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s Seafood Watch (SFW) programme at their respective provincial and national levels. The fields of 1) feed, 2) effluent, and 3) aquaculture health and disease were identified as offering the most opportunity.

ASC to SFP and SFW

The creation, use, and subsequent digitalization of new ASC farm audit templates presented an opportunity to realize this. The project therefore decided to initially focus on sharing information from ASC farm audits in the three key fields identified above and from shrimp farms only – as this is a sector characterized by a lack of publicly available information and where SFP and SFW assessments are frequently constrained by a lack of public data. Information on farm and production data from all sectors was also collected. A restricted access portal was then created in order to share the collated information from ASC with analysts from SFP and SFW.

¹Integration of seafood certification and jurisdictional assurance models industry is a project under the ISEAL Innovations Fund supported by State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO
SFP and SFW to ASC

Meanwhile, the project identified the opportunity to use SFP FishSource Aquaculture scores and SFW assessment criterion scores as part of the ASC Improvement Programme (ASC IP) Risk Calculator under the ASC Improver Programme. These scores will be used in combination with other external indicators to help trained ‘verifiers’ evaluate initial ‘self-assessments’ and the progress of improvement plans. Information from SFP is now being shared via dashboard and is available for download; while information from SFW was provided in a summary excel table. However, the transfer still requires automation to match the utility provided by the ASC SharePoint link.

In summary, data sharing between the three organizations remains a work in progress, but it is one that has yielded positive results laying the groundwork to support greater use of public data. However, it also strengthens the relationship between these three organizations – one that can be built upon in order to innovate and support each other’s programs and data needs in the future.

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