

INDUSTRY UPDATE: GAA's GOAL 2015 Conference

A few hundred executives from the global fish farming industry visited Vancouver, British Columbia Canada for the Global Aquaculture Alliance's (GAA) Global Outlook on Aquaculture Leadership (GOAL) 2015 Conference.

The Conference opened October 27, 2015 at the Four Seasons Hotel and is the sixteenth edition of the event and the first to be held in Canada. Top professionals are educated about the current state of the world's fish farming industry at the three-day seminar.

Current issues and advancements in fish farming science; production and market moving topics; along with various regulatory issues are all discussed across several plenary sessions.

Attendance was varied across buyers, sellers and producers. There was a heavy Indian and Asian presence, which makes sense given the current states of production and inventories for farmed shrimp, pangasius and tilapia. Of course the farmed salmon industry was represented. Jon Hindar, the CEO of Cermaq was a keynote speaker and opened a series of discussions.

All in all there was an upbeat sense to the Conference with all areas of the farmed fish sector well represented at the start of aquaculture industry's premier event.

GOAL Presents Optimistic Annual Shrimp Outlook

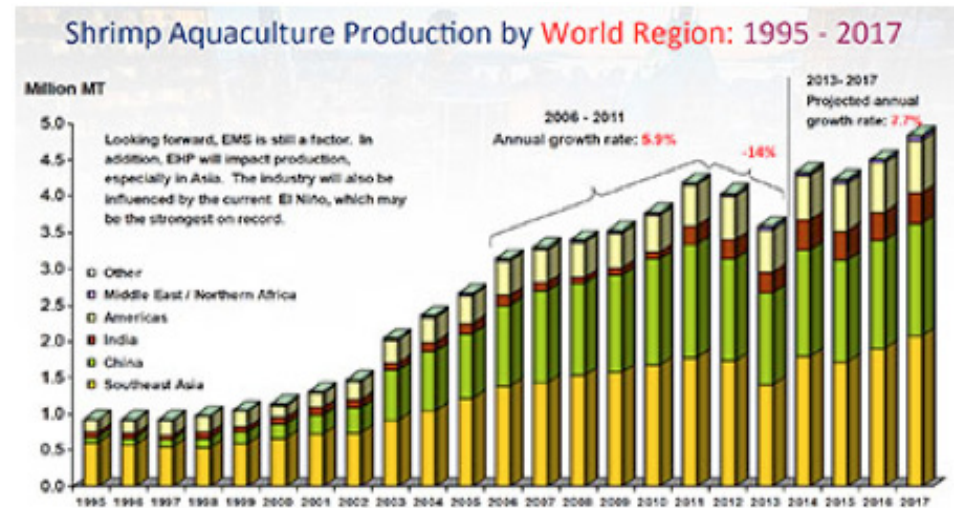
On the first day of the Global Outlook for Aquaculture Leadership (GOAL) conference, Dr. Jim Anderson presented the results of the annual shrimp industry survey for global production.

The survey garnered 72 responses, which were all weighted equally. Respondents were asked a number of questions about shrimp production in their own country. There was generally a big variation in response.

Overall farmed shrimp production fell 2% in 2015, according to the respondents. However, they expected an optimistic recovery of 9% by 2017. With total production around 4.1 million metric tons in 2015, the respondents expected a total output of about 4.5 million tons in 2016, and 4.75 million tons in 2017.

However, many felt this was overly optimistic, because there are significant problems with disease. Once again, disease issues topped the list of the survey of producer concerns.

The latest disease is not EMS- the hardest hit countries, especially Thailand, are recovering. Instead it is a fungal infection called



Dr. Jim Anderson, GOAL Meeting 2015

EPH. This disease does not cause dramatic mortality, but slows growth and prevents shrimp from growing to a larger size. It causes farmers to reduce density in their ponds.

So India, for example, where EPH is widespread, is expected to have flat production in 2016. This disease has also decimated China's shrimp farms, pushing the Chinese to import more large shrimp from Ecuador, since they cannot grow large shrimp themselves.

Ecuador is still expected to ramp up output, but the density in the ponds has been reduced, and producers there are being very vigilant about disease. Indonesia is expected to have a healthy increase, as is Thailand.

Central American production may be impacted by El Niño, which causes drought in the region.

In general, the shrimp presentations presented two opposing camps. One group argued that the spread of EPH disease, which is often not detected in hatcheries, is becoming a major constraint on production. Also the low prices have led farmers to be more risk adverse. But the survey presented an optimistic picture, where biomass and production rebounded sharply in 2016.

This did not seem to square with the cautious market outlook and the prevalence of this new fungal disease.