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Results of the GOAL 2016 audience poll questions

Monday, 3 October 2016

By Global Aquaculture Advocate

Attendees of Guangzhou event weigh in on industry's major challenges, area management and antibiotics



[\(/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/GOAL-poll_lead.jpg\)](/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/GOAL-poll_lead.jpg)

Each year the attendees of the Global Aquaculture Alliance's GOAL conference – held in September in Guangzhou, China – have the opportunity to answer poll questions posed by speakers and moderators of panel discussions.

Here are this year's answers (all reported in percentage of overall responses):

What sector of the seafood business are you in? (90 responses)

Producer

20

Supplier

17

Buyer

29

Government/institutional

6

Other (finance, academia, NGO)

29

In which continent do you primarily do business? (90)

Asia & Australia

32

Europe

9

North America

57

Central & South America

1

Africa

1

Is “Prof. Wally Stevens” assessment of the aquaculture industry still appropriate now? (72)

[Note: In 2015, Stevens gave the industry the following grades, in terms of how it was handling its major challenges: disease (D); feed (C); environment (B); social responsibility (D); market support (B); investor support (C); leadership (incomplete); consumer awareness (C)]

Yes

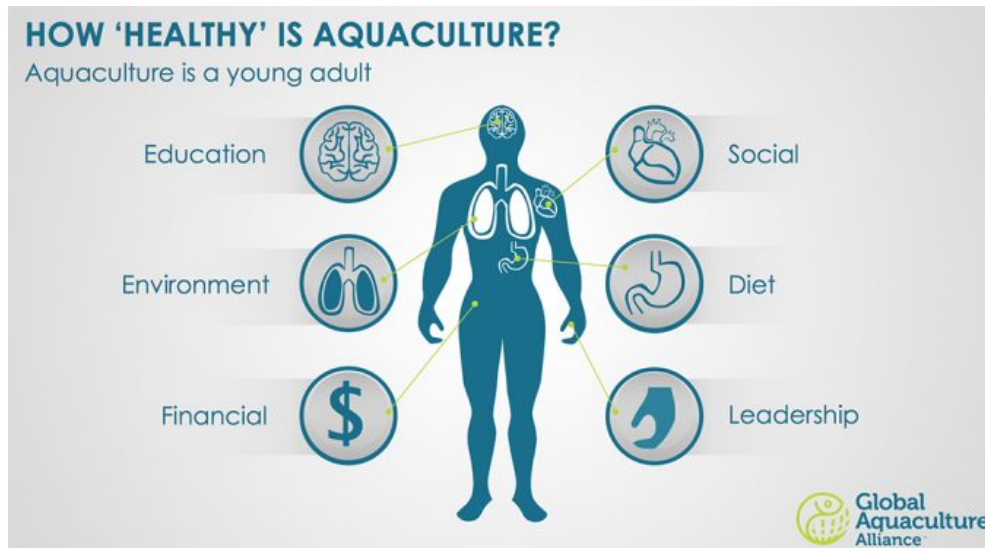
72

No, because we have improved

26

No, because we have improved greatly

1



During his opening remarks, GAA Executive Director Wally Stevens likened the aquaculture industry to a “young adult” that needs to mature.

What is the most important challenge limiting aquaculture? (87)

Health & disease management

53

Feed

6

Environmental/social issues

21

Leadership/investment/marketplace

11

Education

9

Which is the primary species of your business? (63)

Crustaceans

54

Salmonids

13

Marine finfish

11

Freshwater finfish

22

Bivalves

0

How should GAA communicate the Best Aquaculture Practices Biosecurity Area Management standards? (79)

As a BAP fifth star

28

Include in the BAP system, but revamp the star structure

18

As a special area management status listed on GAA website

25

Incorporate as a future element of the BAP farm standards

29



./wp-content/uploads/2016/09/GOAL-poll_2.jpg).

Do you think the industry has the capability to eliminate antibiotic residues? (72)

Yes

47

No

53

Do you think the industry has the will to eliminate antibiotic residues once and for all? (60)

Yes

40

No

60

Which is the most effective approach to managing antibiotic use? (74)

Make no change

0

Ban all use of antibiotics

7

Implement biosecurity area management

39

Ban antibiotics WHO deems critical for human use

22

Limit antibiotic treatments within a farm production cycle

32

Who do you think is best placed to ensure antibiotic residues are eliminated? (74)

Farmers

26

Processors

8

Certification schemes

5

Government

18

All of the above

42



(/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/GOAL-poll_3.jpg)

How does the marketplace address food safety while meeting growing demand for seafood? (68)

Increased purchases through non-traditional sources

0

Tighter control of supply chains, with better traceability

25

Greater adoption of third-party certification schemes

19

A combination of the above

54

Status quo – no change to current purchasing practices

1

What pressure will the marketplace put on suppliers to eliminate antibiotic residues? (69)

Trust the current food safety measures of suppliers

3

Source more products from trusted suppliers

49

Mandate a zero detection and require product testing

22

Mandate a zero-tolerance policy at the farm level

26

The industry's best approach to labor issues is: (75)

More effective government regulations

35

Encourage national boycotts

1

Better understand supply chain

47

Back FIPs, VIPs, certification

15

Replace fishmeal in aquafeeds

3

What progress has been made on social issues in two years? (75)

None, it has increased

3

None

4

Marginal gains

81

Significant gains

12

Problem largely fixed

0

Has there been progress in the battle against forced labor in the past year? (18)

Yes, greatly

6

Yes, somewhat

89

No, not at all

6

How concerned are your customers about antibiotic use in aquaculture? (20)

Very concerned

75

Somewhat concerned

20

Not concerned

5



(/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/GOAL-poll_4.jpg).

How do you feel about innovation? (68)

I seek out the newest thing

28

I'm an "early adopter"

44

I wait until it's common

24

I wait until it's ubiquitous

3

I lag behind others

1

What areas of aquaculture are investors most interested in? (68)

Feed sustainability (alternative ingredients)

57

Indoor/land-based recirculating systems

16

Offshore fish farming

7

Biotechnology

15

New species

4

What factor most limits scalability? (41)

Outside investment

39

Siting and permitting restrictions

37

Social license

2

Biotechnology

5

Information sharing/dissemination

17

Are the sustainable seafood initiatives just discussed moving the industry forward? (54)

Yes, they're critical to the sustainable seafood movement

68

Yes, but at times it's complicated to navigate

26

No, the fewer the NGO-fed initiatives the better

6



The closer: When Travis Larkin, president of The Seafood Exchange, takes the stage, you know that GOAL is about to come to a close. See you next year in Dublin, Ireland!

What's the best way to communicate the appeal of seafood's low feed-conversion ratio (FCR) to consumers? (57)

In-store

12

Traditional media

4

Social media

75

It's a lost cause – consumers aren't there yet

9

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