

Duncan Leadbitter



Sustainable Fisheries Partnership

Duncan Leadbitter is technical director for the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership.

Prior to joining SFP, Leadbitter was international fisheries director for the Marine Stewardship Council.

He is a former executive director of Ocean Watch Australia and worked for the fisheries agency in New South Wales, Australia, as a habitat/conservation manager and in the private sector as an environmental consultant.

Leadbitter has held positions on several natural resource and biodiversity advisory councils.



Fish Meal In Asia

**Towards an assurance system that works
for highly diverse supply chains and fisheries**

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Presentation outline

- Fish meal production in Asia – what's the fuss?
- Challenges for existing approaches
- Direction and actions to date
- Progress made
- Gaps to be filled and next steps

What's the fuss?

- Standards established in western countries to suit known production systems – may not work elsewhere.
- Asia is the engine room of world aquaculture production – huge demand for fish meal – need systems that work there
- Significant sustainability issues, irrespective of what standard is applied.



A tropical Asian purse seine catch - 40+ species, including benthic species lured by FADs and/or lights (note, not all species may go to fishmeal). **Trawl is even more diverse**



Purse seine catch in Panama

Standards either too high or too low – require stock assessments for every species or only require a lack of endangered/IUU species

Traceability very difficult/impossible and complicated by species diversity. Some species go directly to fish meal plants, others via a human food processing plant (e.g. surimi)

From a fishery improvement planning perspective the lack of suitable fishery management guidance has hampered the setting of directions for improvements

Where have things progressed to?

- IFFO will ensure its RS scheme will be able to handle multispecies fisheries – trawl as a first consideration but could also do purse seine
- ASC preparing a dedicated feed standard
- Streamlining of auditing processes – discussions underway between ASC, GAA and GlobalGAP.
- FAO preparing trawl management guidelines
- Thai government has prepared Catch Documentation Scheme based on EU IUU certification.

Other initiatives

- Supply chain engagement in both Thailand and Viet Nam – including surimi producers
- FIPs underway in Viet Nam – Kien Giang and Ben Tre provinces
- Small group in Thailand to progress a FIP in the Gulf of Thailand – including Thai Union Feedmills and Lyons Seafoods
- CP to pay a financial incentive to producers that met the new Catch Documentation Scheme

The Ben Tre FIP

Current stakeholder group includes: Morrisons UK, Ben Tre Fishermens Association, Amanda Seafoods, Viet Tien, AgiFish plus a number of observers

Inaugural meeting held, project coordinator appointed (RECERD – Viet Nam based fisheries NGO)

Will conduct fishery assessment against IFFO RS Standard but will trial some changes suited to multispecies fisheries – aim to have completed by January 2014

Workplan and implementation phase

What's next?

- Test the model – assessing fisheries against IFFO RS, write improvement plan with new trawl guidelines
- Expand from trials to wider implementation
- Harmonise feed standard requirements for fish meal
- Resolve traceability questions
- Modify requirements for purse seine fish

Finally

What can companies do? Get involved and drive FIPs. We have shown that this can be done.