

Letter to WWF from 70 International NGO Networks, Organizations and Individuals Opposing the Formation of the Aquaculture Stewardship Council

We the undersigned non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and concerned individuals from around the world are deeply troubled by the intentions of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to form the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC). Strong opposition to this latest among many such recent certification initiatives is based upon our years of collective experience in working to counter the negative effects of the industrial aquaculture of shrimp, salmon and other carnivorous marine fin-fish species. We see the ASC as yet another attempt by a Big International NGO to formulate some ill-conceived plan to remedy the problems of unsustainable industrial aquaculture. These kinds of flawed remedies do not involve the local communities and grassroots movements in the process of defining steps to be taken, thereby excluding those peoples most affected by these industries' ongoing assaults on ocean health and coastal integrity.

Current attempts by WWF and other intended certifiers are not supported by local communities and indigenous peoples, the global network of NGOs, academics and citizens who are still demanding a moratorium on further expansion of these socially disruptive and ecologically destructive industries.

Having gained a better understanding of the proposed mechanism for developing global standards for industrial aquaculture, we NGOs and representatives of regional NGO networks and organizations from Asia, Latin America, Africa, Europe and North America must continue to take a strong stance against these various certification schemes. We believe that these attempts at certification are funder and industry driven, and do not allow the voice of the majority of affected stakeholders – local communities and indigenous peoples - to have meaningful input into this so-called "dialogue" and standard-setting process.

The proposed standards that will define the Aquaculture Stewardship Council appear to be largely based upon supporting unsustainable, open throughput systems of aquaculture production, whether for shrimp, salmon or other fin-fish species, and not upon more sustainable closed production approaches, indicating that the proposed ASC's process is aimed in an inappropriate and environmentally dangerous direction.

We demand that WWF halt this initiative to form the ASC and immediately initiate real and meaningful dialogues with affected communities, not just with industry and a few NGOs and academics. There still is a great need for strict social and rights-based standards, not just environmental and technical fixes initiated at the aquaculture farm level. That vital component of the dialogues with the local communities and indigenous peoples is still missing, and their voices are still not heard within those elite circles that are now attempting to form the ASC. We the undersigned now join hands to strongly state our opposition to the ASC process:

- Asia Solidarity Against Industrial Aquaculture (ASIA), Natasha Ahmad, Secretariat, Bangladesh
- Association Amigos da Prainha do Canto Verde, René Scharer, Switzerland
- Nijera Kori, Khushi Kabir, Bangladesh
- Katrin Aidnell, Bangladesh/Sweden
- International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)
- Red Brasileira de Ecosocialistas, Brazil
- Fórum em Defesa da Zona Costeira do Ceará, Rogério Costa, Brazil

- Instituto Bioma Brasil, Brazil
- Jeovah Meireles - Prof. Dr. del Departamento de Geografia de la Universidad Federal de Ceará (UFC)/Brasil
- Rede Mangue Mar Brazil
- Instituto Ambiental Viramundo, Vital Farias, Brazil
- Canadian Wild Salmon Alliance Society, Terry Anderson, Canada
- Centro Ecoceanos, Executive Director, Juan Carlos Cardenas
- Centro Salvadoreño de Tecnología Apropiable (CESTA), Friends of the Earth, El Salvador, Ing. Rafael Vela
- Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements, Béatrice Gorez
- Elsa Cabrera, Executive Director of Centro de Conservación Cetacea
- First Nations Environmental Network of Canada Steve Lawson & Susanne Hare, Canada
- Fundación Pumalín, Chile
- Proyecto y Parque Pumalín , Hernán Mladinic, Chile
- Fundación Yendegaia, Chile
- Fundación Conservación Patagónica, Chile
- Centro de Conservación Cetácea, Elsa Cabrera, Chile
- Fundación Meliyou, Carlos Cuevas, Chile
- ASPROCIG, Juan Jose Lopez Negrete, Colombia
- RedManglar, Secretariat, Colombia
- FUNDECOL, Muisne Esmeraldas, Ecuador
- Asociacion De Vecinos Para El Desarrollo Integral De Champerico, Guatemala
- Trópico Verde/ParksWatch Guatemala, Carlos Albacete, Guatemala
- CODDEFFAGOLF, Blanca Estela Herrera, Presidenta, and Jorge Varela Márquez, Goldman Prize, 1999, Honduras
- ARPMDC, Dr. Felix N. Sugirtharaj, India
- National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF), India
- National Alliance of Peoples Movements(NAPM), India
- World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), Thomas Kocherry, India
- National Alliance of Peoples Movements (NAPM), India
- Lolong Ulak Karang Padang, Khalid Saifullah, Indonesia
- WALHI, Mukri Friatna, Indonesia
- KIARA (Fisheries Justice Coalition of Indonesia), M. Riza Damanik, Indonesia
- WALHI/FOE Indonesia, Teguh Surya, Indonesia
- KPNNI National Committee for Fisherfolks Organization, Dedy Ramanta, Indonesia
- COMMIT Center for Ocean Development and Maritime Civilization Studies, M. Karim, Indonesia
- La Ventana, Investigación y Divulgación Científica para el Desarrollo Regional, Mexico
- RED VENE Científica para el Desarrollo Regional, A.C. México
- Red De Organizaciones Y Grupos Ambientalistas De Zihuatanejo, Mexico
- Bios Iguana A.C. Colima, Mexico
- Marea Azul AC. Marco Antonio Rodriguez Badillo, Mexico
- Niger Delta Project, Patrick Naagbantou, Nigeria
- Foundation for Agric and Social Transformation (FAST), Ibisime Etela, Nigeria
- Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development, Nenibarini Zabbey, Nigeria
- Green Warriors of Norway, V. Kurt Oddekalv, Norway
- African Mangrove Network, Abdoulaye Diamé, Senegal
- AGAMAR, Natalia Laino, Spain

- Dr. Jose J. Pascual-Fernandez (Director, Instituto Universitario de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales, Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales, Campus de Guajara, Spain
- National Fisheries Solidarity Movement of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka
- Fältbiologerna (Nature and Youth Sweden), Ilektra Avgerinou, Sweden
- Malena Karlsson, Individual, Gudrun Hubendick, Sweden
- The Stockholm Society for Nature Conservation, Gudrun Hubendick, Sweden
- The Swallows India Bangladesh, Ragnar Hallgren & Eva Hägerstrand, Sweden
- Association Amigos da Prainha do Canto Verde, Switzerland
- The JAF Foundation, Dr. Wolfram Heise, Switzerland
- Yadfon Association, Pisit Charmsnoh, Thailand
- WRM International Secretariat, Ricardo Carrere, Uruguay
- Forest Peoples Programme, Maurizio Farhan Ferrari, United Kingdom
- Mangrove Action Project, Alfredo Quarto, USA
- Go Wild Campaign, Anne Mosness, USA
- Foundation for Deep Ecology, USA
- The Conservation Land Trust, USA
- Asociación Ecologista Para La Preservación Ambiental Del Estado Falcon (Aepa Falcón), Addison Fischer, Venezuela
- Foro De Pescadores Falconianos, Venezuela
- Pescadores Artesanales, Venezuela
- Redmanglar Venezolana, Dolores González, Venezuela
- Zolana De Lucha Contra La Desertificacion Y Sequia (Riod), Venezuela