

# ASIC

Asian Seafood Improvement Collaborative



**LOCALLY EMPOWERED SOLUTIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL CREDIBILITY**

# SHRIMP AQUACULTURE BY THE NUMBERS



90% of global farmed shrimp is from Asia

80% of which are  
small-scale farmers

Top countries are Indonesia,  
Thailand, Vietnam and India

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# THE PROBLEM

- Current sustainable seafood certifications remain limited in reach and mainly involve medium to large scale producers
- Barriers to certification are highest for smallholder farmers who are the predominant seafood producers in Asia
- In order to capture the value of certifications, an approach and mechanism that empowers stakeholders to engage in the program must be taken



# OUR SOLUTION



- ASIC offers the opportunity for seafood supply chain members to use a lower cost, more inclusive, and credible approach to improvement
- ASIC can help connect those that can demonstrate high sustainability performance to more valuable markets

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# ASIC VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT



**ASIC's commitment is related to Sustainable Development Goal 14.4 and 14b**

The originally-planned deliverables include:

- At least 10 shrimp farms verified against Level 1 (*ASIC Yellow*) and/or Level 2 (*ASIC Green*) of the Asian Shrimp Aquaculture Improvement Protocol
- Asian Fisheries Improvement Protocol supports improvement in at least 5 fisheries
- At least 300 Asian based seafood stakeholders engaged from at least 10 Asian countries

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# IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS



- ASIC has begun to establish itself as a strong regional NGO in Southeast Asia
- ASIC is working with shrimp farmers from Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia to assess their current status and develop improvement plans to achieve ASIC Yellow and/or ASIC Green
- To date, approximately 100 shrimp farms have been verified as ASIC Yellow

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# IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS



- This past October, ASIC recently announced a partnership with Minh Phu, Seafood Watch and SGS to support small-scale farmers in Vietnam. The program is seeking to target 20,000 farmers to help them move towards the ASIC Green level.
- In February, ASIC identified over 100 Indonesian farmers working under the ATINA Eco-Shrimp program who have been assessed using the ASIC shrimp protocols. Improvement plans were developed and shared with over 12 farms.

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# IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS



- In April, ASIC hosted stakeholder workshops and trainings in Can Tho, Vietnam. Training was carried out with ASIC partners MCD and ICAFIS.

- ASIC also hosted a Social and Gender workshop with 17 stakeholders in Vietnam to discuss the development of social and gender standards.



- ASIC recently signed a partnership contract with the Oxfam GRAISEA 2 project to work collaboratively on improving sustainability, and social and labour standards.

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# CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED



**Funding constraints** are a primary challenge for ASIC

- ASIC could only hire minimal staff due to lack of funding, which limits what ASIC was able to do logistically
- ASIC's partnership with the Oxfam GRAISEA 2 project will potentially ease the burden and enable ASIC to carry out more farmer trainings and assessments
- It will also allow for partnership building with entrepreneurs, buyers and other private sector actors throughout the supply chain

# SUGGESTIONS FOR VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT HOLDERS

ASIC is still learning how to best implement its activities, and the best advice that ASIC can give is:

- **To be flexible**

ASIC has adapted its focus and approach multiple times based on feedback from local stakeholders

This flexibility has ensured that ASIC is able to continue working towards its goals of fostering environmental and social sustainability, despite the challenges

- **Share Value and Goals among the partners**, All partners must have ownership over the partnership goals and work collectively to make the partnership a success.

The logo for ASIC, consisting of the letters 'ASIC' in a blue, serif font.