Aquaculture Stewardship Council

The need for responsible aquaculture
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Meeting the growing demand for seafood

The demand for healthy food is increasing with a global population that is estimated to reach 9.6 billion by 2050.

Capture fisheries will not be able to meet the growing demand for seafood: more wild stocks are over exploited and many main fishing areas are being fished at their maximum capacity.

Aquaculture has the potential to contribute to this global demand. It is the fastest growing animal food producing sector; over 50 per cent of seafood produced for human consumption will come from fish farms by 2018.

However, as the sector grows so does its impact on the environment and local communities.

Farms that are not well managed can have adverse impacts associated with, for example, poor site management, water pollution, disruption of local ecosystems and poor working conditions.

What does ASC certification bring?

Meeting seafood demand can be done with environmental and social responsibility. ASC certified farms demonstrate that they are well managed and minimise adverse environmental and social impacts.

Certified farms are rewarded for their efforts towards environmental sustainability and social responsibility when shoppers buy seafood products that carry the ASC logo.

When more consumers buy certified, responsibly produced fish there is then a greater demand for responsibly run fish farms.

Increased consumer demand influences many more farms to undergo the rigorous assessment against the ASC standards, therefore, improving their farming practices and reducing any negative impacts.

ASC certified farms deliver a cleaner seabed, cleaner water and healthier fish; preserve the diversity of the species and wild population; adhere to strict feed requirements and ensure social responsibility.

Sources: ‘World Population prospects, the 2012 revision’ United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs
The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2012, FAO