

Poseidon Newsletter

Autumn 2011 – 10 Year Anniversary

We hope this short newsletter will be interesting for those of you who may not be aware of the range of work we have been involved with recently.

Poseidon 10 year anniversary

Poseidon was established in October of 2001, and we have now been working together for 10 years. It is very satisfying to think back over all the interesting projects we have completed around the world (more than 250 in the last ten years), the people we have had the opportunity to work with, and the contributions we hope we have made. Thank you to all those who continue to support our activities.

New Poseidon office in Northern Ireland

Rod has re-located to Northern Ireland, with Fiona keeping our Scottish presence in Edinburgh. Rod will be involved with projects across Europe and beyond and will continue Poseidon's long history of working in Ireland. Rod's contact details remain: rod@consult-poseidon.com, +44 (0)7974 351325. His new address is: 18 Gorse Road, Upperlands, Maghera, County Londonderry, BT46 5XH.

New Poseidon website

Our website (www.consult-poseidon.com) has recently been updated, and provides information on all of our activities. The site has many downloadable reports and you might also enjoy browsing our rapidly expanding Photo Gallery.

Global certification activities and fisheries improvement projects (FIPs)

We continue to be very active in MSC pre- and full-assessment activities, particularly in the Australia/Pacific region and in Europe, working through a variety of different certification bodies. In the Pacific, Poseidon staff have led or worked as part of full assessment teams on the PNA Pacific purse seine skipjack fishery, the Australian northern prawn fishery, the South Australia Spencer Gulf fishery, and the Fiji longline albacore tuna fishery. In Europe, our staff have been part of assessment teams for Shetland scallop dredge and lobster creel fisheries, the Dutch razor shell



The Poseidon team



MSC assessment of Shetland scallop dredges

dredge fishery, the Dutch cockle hand-raked fishery, the Dutch plaice and sole fisheries, and the Scottish rope grown mussel fishery. We also completed a study this year (with MRAG), to assess the environmental and fisheries management improvements resulting from the MSC certification programme.

Recent developments in the field of sustainable sourcing involve the willingness by many retailers to buy from fisheries that have embarked on a 'Fisheries Improvement Project', or FIP, rather than just from fisheries that have already been certified under an appropriate eco-labelling scheme. This is an initiative supported by WWF and the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP), and Poseidon staff have been very active over the last year in the Asia/Pacific region working with local stakeholders on FIPs for Indonesian tuna, Thai tonggol (long-tailed) tuna, Philippines sardine, Indonesian and tropical reef fish, the South West Indian shrimp trawl fishery, and Vietnamese and Thai blue swimming crab fisheries. As part of an initiative, Poseidon is developing fishery management plans to support each fishery. Poseidon also provided a presentation on the FIP process to a recent FAO/Asia Pacific Fisheries Commission regional workshop held in Myanmar.

Implementation of the EC IUU regulation in the Americas and the Pacific region

The EC IUU regulation requires all countries exporting fish to Europe to have a catch certification scheme in place. Working through GOPA consultants, Poseidon staff completed four missions over the course of last year, to assist countries implement the Regulation so that they don't fall foul of its requirements thereby jeopardising exports. Work was completed in Suriname and Guyana (both predominantly shrimp trawl fisheries, but with some tuna and demersal exports to Europe), in Papua New Guinea (mainly tuna exports), and in Vietnam (principally shrimp).

UK, Irish and EU fisheries

As a company with staff based throughout the UK and in France, we retain a strong commitment to working on UK and European fisheries issues. Recent and ongoing work includes development of a management strategy for brown crab in Northern Ireland, a review of the economic and socio-economic role and contribution of the fisheries sector in Castletownbere in Ireland, environmental impact assessment work for offshore windfarms in the North Sea, analysis of the relationships between fish farming and tourism in Scotland, and an evaluation of the UK's fishing vessel decommissioning scheme and use of EFF funds. Poseidon also continues to contribute to the debate on reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) as this process nears its conclusion with a reformed CFP entering into force in 2013. We recently completed a project for the European Parliament on the nature and role of small-scale fisheries in Europe, and also conducted a review for the EC on the use of effort management regimes in European fisheries.



PNA MSC purse seine assessment



EC IUU regulation support in Suriname



Hornsea round 3 wind farm fisheries impact assessment

Asia and the Pacific

Along with our certification & FIPs work in the region, we have recently completed a strategic review of SE Asian marine fishery capacity development requirements (with MRAG and on behalf of the Australian government). Poseidon is also participating in a strategic review of *Te Vake Moana* (South Pacific) fishery development opportunities. Other recent or ongoing work in this region has included an assessment of the current status of Indian mackerel and Hilsa shad fisheries and their management in all eight Bay of Bengal countries, a review of fisheries and marine environmental policy in these countries, and project supervision of an IFAD project on value-chain development in the Maldives.

Africa

The global economic crisis makes achieving the Millennium Development Goals a considerable challenge and nowhere more so than in Africa. We are therefore pleased to have been especially active in Africa during the last year. Some of our recent projects have focussed on the aquaculture sector, for example, completion of value-chain studies on fish farming in both Egypt and Uganda, while others have involved evaluation of projects in the region e.g. Mid-term evaluation of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project, and the terminal evaluation of a UNEP project to develop a marine environmental resource database and atlas for East Africa. We also completed a project in Seychelles to specify fisheries development opportunities for Praslin island, and prepared a business plan for a fisheries sector investment in Gabon. And we have just been awarded a contract to improve fish quality and hygiene issues in Malawi.

The Middle East

As well as the Egyptian value-chain study mentioned above, we have a second project in Egypt to identify a fisheries and aquaculture project for the northern lakes. We have also been working throughout the last year in Saudi Arabia to prepare a sector review (the first for over 30 years) and a fisheries and aquaculture development Master Plan for the Kingdom. This work has led to other specific projects on aquaculture zoning in the Red Sea, development of freshwater re-circulation systems, and small-scale aquaculture parks. We are also about to commence some project activities in Oman on the development of the ports sector.

Climate change issues

Climate change issues in fisheries have an increasingly high profile. We are currently assisting FAO to prepare for a workshop early next year on Green House Gas emissions (strategies for reduction and methods for estimation) in the seafood sector. We will be presenting a background paper at the workshop, reporting on the workshop findings, and preparing an FAO technical paper on the subject.

Kind regards from Richard, Rod, Tim, Graeme and Fiona



Assessment of small pelagic fisheries in the Bay of Bengal



Uganda value-chain analysis of fish farming – tilapia cages on Lake Victoria



Cage farming in Saudi Arabia – fisheries and aquaculture master plan