



The Aquaculture Association of Southern Africa:

Regional Stakeholders and Cooperation



The Association

- Established in 1981 by producers
- Driven by research organisations until 2006
- Entered the “free market” environment in 2006
- Now runs a permanent (small) office in Pretoria
- Regional focus but limited to local activities ?
- Product and project recognition is playing an increasingly important role
- Newsletter now reaches over 3000 direct recipients
- Bi-annual conferences have grown from strength to strength



The Structure

The association is managed by a Management Committee, constituted at the Biannual Conference, consisting of:

- Chairman
- Vice-Chairman
- Treasurer
- Members representing different sectors in the industry from different countries



Affiliations to AASA

- Abalone Farmers Association of SA
- AISA
- Catfish Producers
- Mussel & Oyster Forum
- Mpumalanga Trout Forum
- Western Cape Trout Farmers Association
- Limpopo Tilapia Producers Association
- Southern Tilapia Producers Association
- SAKTA
- Western Cape Tilapia Growers Association
- Country representatives
- More.....



Benefits to Members

- Effective representation of interests on national and international forums.
- The creation of a platform that can be used by any individual or corporates to interact with government and regional authorities.
- Access to discussion groups
- Access to an Aquaculture Services Directory
- Discounted rates for the AASA Conference
- Access to the website – www.aasa-aqua.co.za
- Access to the bi-monthly newsletter
- Email notices on relevant issues
- Facebook / Twitter



Global Involvement

- Recognized by WAS
- Good international conference in 2007 / 2009
- Key role in the African Chapter of WAS.
- Future WAS conference
- AASA has sensitized WWF responsible fisheries (aquaculture) to OIE



Constraints to Aquaculture Development ?

Logistics, skills, infrastructure
Species
The Environment
Lack of a facilitative environment



Cooperative Information Sharing ?



What underlies the need for Cooperative Information Sharing ?

- Poor access to accurate and aligned information
- Flood or irrelevant or locally inapplicable information
- The “price” of information
- Lack of alignment between information frameworks
- Lack of sharing knowledge
- Unaligned research
- Poorly communicated research



Example of South Africa

- Multiple acts that effect aquaculture
- Multiple policies
- Various strategic plans
- Departmental and provincial strategies
- Multiple programs and development frameworks

•All have been created with good intention but creates a jumble / cauldron of non-aligned frameworks



Regional Stakeholders

- AASA
- NEPAD
- SADC
- AU
- INFOSA
- SARNISA
- Governments
- WWF
- WAS
- OIE.....



The need for a cooperative framework

- It can ensure better sector development
- Alignment of African objectives
- Better avenues to attract investment and participation
- The creation of an information doorway
- Elimination of duplicated effort
- Elimination of unacceptable “information costs”
- Lessen the expense and frequency of “repetitive failure”



How do we move forward with an active cooperative framework

- Can we approach SADC?
- AASA?
- Funding?
- To commence we need closer channels of communication between role-players

•END

