

WSFC

World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress

October 18-22, 2010
Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

The inaugural World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress (WSFC) will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, October 18-22, 2010. This conference series is first of its kind that features small-scale fisheries as the central theme at the global scale. The Coastal Development Centre at Kasetsart University and the Department of Fisheries, Thailand, will co-host the WSFC in partnership with the International Coastal Network at Memorial University, Canada, and other research institutions and organizations around the world including SEAFDEC and WorldFish Center. Researchers, practitioners, policy-makers, community members, industries and students interested in small-scale fisheries are invited to participate in this gathering, making it a useful forum for interaction and strengthening of networks.

The focus of the WSFC is on '*issues and solutions*.' As many fisheries around the world face challenges brought about by factors such as resource over-exploitation, habitat destruction, pollution, unplanned development, population pressure, and climate change, there is a need to understand the root causes of these problems and their social, ecological and economic consequences, to learn about what has been done and to discuss future research directions. These issues and solutions are different not only for small-scale and large-scale fisheries, but also within each small-scale fishery sector. The WSFC is organized to address the current lack of integrated knowledge about small-scale fisheries, and the insufficient coherent and direct policies guiding them at regional and global levels.

Prior to the meeting, an 'issue scan exercise' will be conducted so that small-scale fisheries stakeholders, including fisher groups, practitioners and researchers can provide their input on what the primary concerns are. The conference themes, plenaries, and speed and poster presentations will then be organized based on these key issues. A 'research handbook' summarizing the key issues facing small-scale fisheries and the prioritized research agenda for the future will be produced and made available to all interested parties after the congress, along with a global database of projects, institutions and researchers detailing what has been done to advance small-scale fisheries. Further information and call for paper submissions will be available in the coming months.

For information, questions and suggestions, please contact wsfc2010@mun.ca or visit the website: www.seafdec.or.th/wsfc2010

