Greenhouse gas emissions – industry meeting

Seafish offices, Humber Seafood Institute, Grimsby, September 19th 2012

Attendees: John Jukes (Coldwater/Icelandic Group UK); Daniel Lee (GAA); Andrew Nicholson (Co-operative Group); Alex Olsen (Espersen); Simon Rilatt (Trident Seafoods); Huw Thomas (Morrisons); Angus Garrett (Seafish)

Apologies: Dominic Collins (Coldwater); William Davies (Icelandic UK); Tracey Heyworth (Birds-Eye/Iglo Group); Hannah McIntyre (M&S); Ben Norbury (Cooperative Group); Walter Speirs (Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers); Phil MacMullen (Seafish)

Main points of the discussion

1. Collective action to address GHG emissions in seafood – recap

- Alex Olsen has kindly agreed to the role of Chair of this industry group
- Recap on what we’re trying to achieve:
  - The issue of ‘Food miles’ is still on the radar – the question was asked by a food service customer at a recent meeting in London for example
  - Identify hotspots in seafood systems and work with supply chains to understand and resolve issues through action

2. Progress on key issues (work packages in Collective Action to address GHG emissions in seafood)

**Common Methods**

- Industry would like to see a copy of the technical report, including participants, from the first FAO workshop “Expert workshop on GHG emissions Strategies and Methods in Seafood” held in January 2012
- The second FAO workshop “Strategies and practical options for GHG reduction in the fisheries and aquaculture sector”, scheduled for November 2012, would benefit from a more convenient calendar date (industry is very busy in November) and possibly a shorter or flexible duration (3 days is a large commitment)
- FAO should focus on ensuring this GHG emissions development work is applicable in an international context
- FAO could help support a data sharing initiative

**Common Standards**
• British Standards Institution (BSI) has brought together international stakeholders in seafood to reach broad consensus on how greenhouse gases from seafood and aquatic foods can best be assessed. This is based on, and provides supplementary requirements to, the generic method for assessing GHG emissions in goods and services (BSI PAS2050:2011).
• This consensus, now formalised as a Publicly Available Specification for seafood (PAS2050-2), will provide a common and reliable method for the reliable, repeatable assessment of GHG emissions from the whole life cycle of seafood and other aquatic food products.
• There is a need to emphasise the international dimension of the standard and supplementary requirements. Rather than a British Standard it may be better to refer to it as a British led standard.
• Need to establish position and journey of this standard concerning ISO LCA guidelines.
• A BSI licence fee for free availability of the Publicly Available Specification for seafood is unwelcome.
• The specification is a very good starting point and could be the reference point for the multiple retail sector. Approach the UK British Retail Consortium for endorsement and also Euro-commerce. Approach the Carbon Trust as a potential endorsing body.
• Communicate this development to the Common Language Group and Aqua Common Issues Group.

Understanding GHG emissions in key seafood systems

• If addressing GHG emissions is left to a competitive approach then regulation will result
• The Dairy sector has a 20 year roadmap – Some retailers collaborate and share data (with suitable rules and regulations and for which they pay a fee) and provide all dairy farmers with a hotspot report. At company level there is a major economic driver (e.g. energy cost savings) but at a sectoral level can take a “triple bottom line” perspective.
• The seafood industry needs to have a baseline level from which it can then start a communications strategy. Differences across the seafood industry must be appreciated but commonality is required. Context is also important: there are economic reasons but also other reasons e.g. policy and other pressures. Context must also recognise local and international boundaries – not just the UK.
• A workshop approach to engaging industry groups was reasonable in order to identify hotspots in seafood systems and work with supply chains to understand and resolve issues through action. Workshops could link with existing seafood conferences as a special session e.g. Groundfish forum, North Atlantic Seafood, Brussels Exposition, Tuna conference. However, to be successful, workshops will need gravitas with the right people in the room and potentially face-to-face meetings with individuals. Canvass industry network for contacts.

Data sharing

• The online summary of existing seafood LCA studies would benefit from easier recognition of how recently they were conducted - put a date in column at end of GHG contributions table.
• Explore opportunities for industry data sharing on GHG emissions and for producing a GHG emissions profiling tool. Come back to this group with a proposition.
• Explore opportunities for collaborating with LCA scientists – very happy.
3. Opportunities for action in next 6 months:

In summary:

- Access technical report for first FAO workshop (January 2012) and attendees. Provide feedback to FAO on proposed second FAO workshop.
- Communicate and promote the PAS2050-2 standard
- Identify and engage industry networks and workshop opportunities to understand seafood systems and improvement action
- Explore opportunities and proposition for data sharing and link with LCA scientists

4. Any other business

Next 6 monthly meeting to be held in March 2013, to review progress and next steps