



**“SEAT – WP8:
Framing key values within a
broader ethical framework”**

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The Norwegian team from the University of Bergen:

- Dr. Matthias Kaiser (prof. – team leader)
[philosopher of science and technology]
- Dr. Arne Sveinson Haugen (post-doc)
[biologist]
- Cand.polit. Vibeke Almaas (researcher)
[sociologist]



This WP includes:

- University of Bergen
(WP leader, 36pm)
- University of Stirling (8pm)
- CEFAS Weymouth Laboratory (0.5pm)
- University of Copenhagen (1pm)
- Wageningen University (1pm)
- Leiden University (1pm)
- Shanghai Ocean University (2.5pm)
- Can Tho University (2.5pm)
- Kasetsart University (2.5pm)
- Bangladesh Agricultural University (2.5pm)
- World Wildlife Fund (8pm)
- World Fish Centre (3.5pm)
- FAO (6pm)
- Danish Institute for International Studies (4.5pm)

The WP addresses in particular:

- the second S&T objective:

”...develop improved and transparent measures of sustainability for [selected production systems]. ... underpinned by an ethical understanding developed and informed by tools which combine expert and stakeholder participation, leading to development of improved, transparent standards through refinement of an Ethical Aquatic Food Index (EAFI). ...”

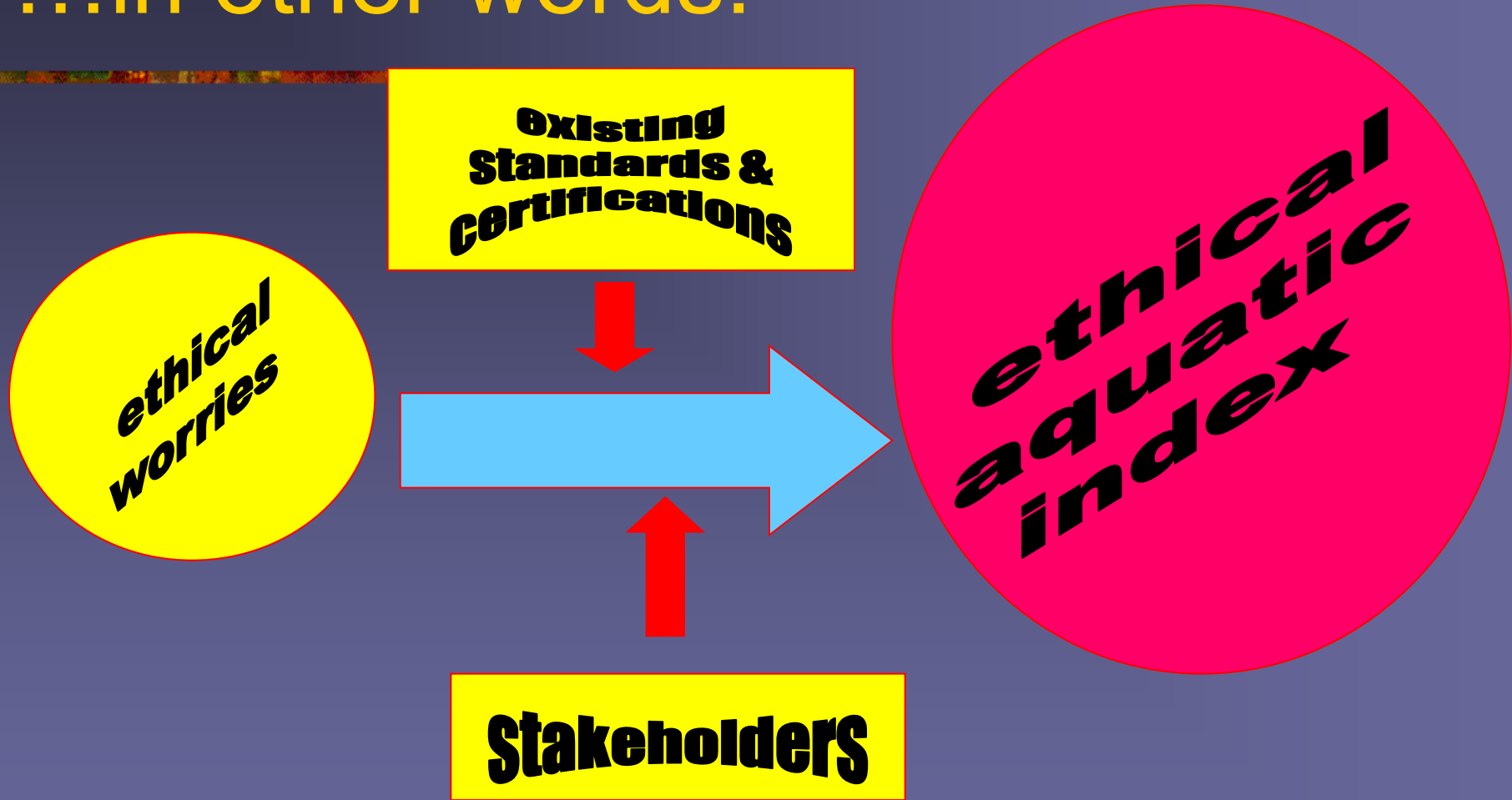
Objectives of WP8

1. Evidence-based ethical advice
 2. Transparent deliberative methods for quality assurance
 3. Applying ethical tools (matrix)
 4. Identifying opportunities for harmonizing ethical standards and certifications
 5. Overall ethical aquatic food index (EAFI)
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Basic characteristics of task:

- Participatory method
 - With experts
 - With stakeholders
 - Dividing line between two groups a bit unclear;
 - Stakeholder ~ interested parties; affected groups
 - NB: nature and animals as stakeholders? By proxy?
 - Practical ethics rather than high level theory.
 - Transparency
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...in other words:



Ethics?

- Ethics and morals? What's the difference?
- Normative, not just descriptive!
- “Pro-social attitudes”?
- Based on basic values! (PS: how does “value” translate into your language?)
- Not purely instrumental, but relating to objects of “moral concern”.



Values and ethical principles:

- E.g. human dignity/autonomy is a value, and thus respecting human dignity is an ethical principle!
 - E.g. justice is a value, and thus fair treatment is a principle.
 - E.g. human or animal welfare is a value and thus increasing welfare and reducing harm / risk is a principle.
 - Etc.
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NB: some values are not purely ethical!

- E.g. income / profit / money is an economical value, but is also related to human welfare, thus also ethical!
 - E.g. sustainability relates to the environment and natural resource management, but also to respect for nature, human welfare, and global equity, thus also ethical!
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Ethics and food: 5 main challenges

- Impact of food on climate & impact of climate on food
 - World population growth (9-10 bill in 2050)
 - Limits of arable land & natural resources
 - Food and health relation (malnutrition vs obesity)
 - Failure of global market (prices / finances vs consumer skepticism & expectation)
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Examples of ethical worries relating to aquaculture - sustainability

- Fish feed → transforming cheap fish into expensive fish? → increasing the strain on natural fish resources?
- Fish escapes → genetic threat to wild stocks? → diseases? → threatening cultural identity?
- Environmental discharges -> avoidable?
- Environmental degradation -> bad management schemes? Regulations?



Related to aquaculture in local / global community

- Conflicts over sites → colliding interests of various users (agriculture, tourism, industry, etc.)
- Globalised production and markets → , fair trade and good socio-economic track-record?



Aquaculture and animal welfare

Animal welfare issues arise in connection with:

- Fish life in fish cages
- Slaughtering



Aquaculture and consumer issues

- Overall issue: possibility of free and informed consumer choice:
 - Labelling; traceability of products;
 - Animal welfare
 - Fair trade?
 - Eco-label?
 - Child work? Other ?
- Nutrition and contamination (PCBs, dioxin etc.)



What do we DO when assessing ethics?

- Identify all groups / parties / systems that are **affected** by our action / practice!
 - Give attention to those that are moral objects (related to ethical values) -> ethical stakeholders
 - Identify the values that are at stake!
 - How do the stakeholders perceive these values?
 - What overall ethical principles are they related to?
 - Provide an overview of all ethical impacts!
 - Use ethical judgment to weigh different concerns!
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What is an "ethical tool"?

- A procedure helping to clarify important and relevant considerations before making a decision;
 - Something that makes an ethically complex situation simpler and more structured;
 - A procedure that can show to others what has been considered and how and why things have been evaluated in a certain way (transparency).
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Ethical Tools

with tools you can build...



tools are dependent on competent builders / moral persons!

Providing an overall *ethical* assessment:

Based on B.Mephram (Nottingham) & NENT's further development:

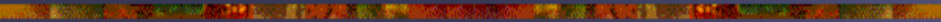

- A simplified ethical matrix was constructed;
- Four principles, similar to the ones in medical ethics, define the principal ethical considerations
- Stakeholder groups specify the aspect of the principles that one has to consider

<i>Ethical matrix for gm-salmon</i>	Do not do any harm	Do try to do some good	Dignity / autonomy	Justice / fairness
Small producers	Dependencies on nature and corporations	Adequate income and work security	Freedom to adopt or not to adopt	Fair treatment in trade
Consumers	Safe food	Nutritional quality	Consumer choice	Affordability of product
Treated fish	Proper animal welfare	Improved disease resistance	Behavioural freedom	Living out natural capacities
Biota	No pollution or strain on natural resources	Increasing sustainability - Conservation	Maintenance of biodiversity	No additional strain on regional resources

Using science to assess the impact on ethics:


- Using scientific results to order the assumed consequences
- The + implies an improvement, the – implies worsening, and the 0 implies no change
- One can see that advantages and disadvantages are unequally distributed among the stakeholders = ethically affected groups
- One may note that the situation would have been different if the gm-salmon was sterile!

<i>Consequence matrix for gm-salmon</i>	Do not do any harm (reduce risks)	Do try to do some good (provide benefit)	Dignity / autonomy	Justice / fairness
Small producers	+ less dependency on seasons - Some costs for control	+ fast production + less use of resources	+ Can choose to adopt or not	+ able to compete globally
Consumers	0 without health risk - assumedly	- no change in nutritional quality	(+ can choose, if labelled)	+ somewhat reduced price + available in weak markets
Treated fish	-Some deformities ? - more prone to diseases	- No advantage	0 No change	-Less adaptive to stress - Behavioural changes ?
Biota	-Potential loss of wild stocks - more disease transmission	- No benefit	- Danger of reduced biodiversity	- Needs more protective arrangements to isolate from the wild

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- The gm-salmon implies what economists term an "**externalisation of all costs**", i.e. while all benefits accrue to the producers and in part to the consumers, the costs are carried by the animals and the environment.
 - Such a situation is unethical.
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Our aim in SEAT

- To design an ethical aquaculture food index (EAFI) on the basis of transparent methods with stakeholders
 - For the benefit of the consumers and the industry and the involved society
 - As a response to the need of designing ethical and sustainable production and trade.
-



What d you
think of this
B SE then?

Doesn't bother
me - I'm
a helicopter!

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Thank you!

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