GOVERNO DO ESTADO
RIO GRANDE DO SUL
SECRETARIA DA AGRICULTURA, PECUÁRIA E IRRIGAÇÃO

Global Aquaculture Occupational Health and Safety: Latin America and the Caribbean and Brazil

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Latin America and the Caribbean

Occupational Health and Safety

- It is common for employees to work 50 or more hours per week
- High-demand work. Few data available are regarding to ergonomic risks
- Working in hot temperatures is a major hazard
- Some aquaculture employees, works from 10 to 12 hours a day.
- Occupational injuries and illnesses are seriously underestimated in the region.
- 69% of the countries in the region have ratified all eight ILO conventions
- However, there are indications of violations of rights at work



Latin America and the Caribbean

Social organization

- LAC are part of the treaties against child labour but almost 6 million working children are engaged in agricultural activities (including aquaculture)
- There are a number of initiatives in the region designed to eliminate child labour
- Children are employed in aquaculture in feeding, fertilizing, cleaning ponds, harvest and processing

Brazil

Occupational Health and Safety

- A set of norms and laws are available regarding safe and health work in Brazil
- Just one law involving OHS issues in Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Aquaculture.
- Brazil's safety and health policies have been guided to a significant degree by the International Labour Organization.
- Occupational injuries and illnesses are underestimated in the country.
- The yearbook does not mention what diseases are related to aquaculture
- Data on labour accident and disease are provided in few scientific papers.



Brazil

Occupational Health and Safety

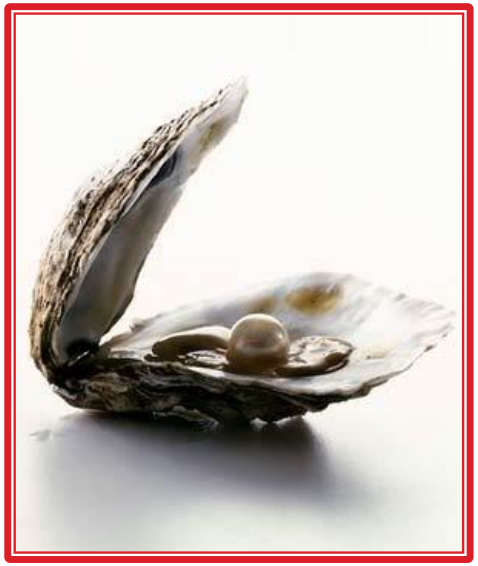
- Most present data of ergonomic injuries are related to postures and weightlifting in aquaculture.
- Causes of ergonomic injury involve the use of tools, improper posture or inappropriate equipment
- In shrimp farming, the ergonomic risk involves transporting feed, lifting weights and physical effort at harvesting.
- Fatal illnesses include: pulmonary edema after inhalation of sodium metabisulfite (shrimp farming);





Brazil





In mollusc production, lifting oyster lanterns and boxes with inadequate weights causes fatigue, muscle pain and musculoskeletal disorders.

Fish Farming

Worker transporting 8 **feed** bags containing 25kg of feed in a wheelbarrow **feed bags to the margin and feeding fish.**



Source: Viana, 2013



Diving activities are developed in net cage fish farming, to check holes in the nets and for periodic cleaning

The risk of falling and drowning is greater due to the process being carried out on floating platforms



Source: Viana, 2013

Brazil





In all aquaculture: drowning or electric shock risks occur. Small and medium-sized enterprises tend to have poor hygiene conditions, UV radiation can damage the eyes as well as the skin

Source: Oliveira et al., 2016

Brazil

Decent Work

- In 2006, ILO and the Government of Brazil launched the National Decent Work Agenda, consisting of three priorities:

1. generation of more and better jobs,
2. eradication of slave labor and child labor,
3. strengthening social dialogue

- During the second half of the 2000s, the growth trend of women's participation in the labor market and their level of employment continued to develop.
- The pace of expansion of formal employment accelerated and, as a consequence, the formal labor rate increased from 46.7 percent to 52.6 percent between 2004 and 2009.
- However, there was still a large difference between the units of the federation, in relation to this indicator

(OIT, 2006)

Brazil

- **Decent Work**

- The real increase in the minimum wage (+ 53.7 percent between 2003 and 2010) has grown the levels of income of workers.
- Consequently, contributed significantly to reducing poverty and inequality, improving the population's living conditions and reducing income differences between men and women, for example.
- Brazil has a very large poverty index, and aquaculture can be an interesting alternative to improve living conditions. Aquaculture plays an important role in social development.
- Therefore, decent work and decent pay contribute to better life quality and decreased poverty. When the worker has a decent salary, this guarantees dignity, freedom and better conditions of survival and family support.

Brazil

Decent Work

- Decent work means decent life, and the guarantees of a safe workplace.
- In this period (2003 and 2010), child labor was significantly reduced and the measures increased the number of workers freed from forced labor or slavery-like conditions.
- Additionally, the percentage of workers with excessive weekly working hours (more than 44 weekly hours) has decreased.

- **Despite these significant reductions during 2003 and 2010, gender and racial inequalities in the country contribute decisively to the persistence of decent work deficits, especially among women, children and ethnic minority.**

With Dilma impeachment and Brazilian crisis after this episode, Decent Work Agenda has stopped. And this difficult situation continues

Brazil

Social organization and Decent Work

CHILDREN

- Child labour involving diving (with or without equipment) is on the list of the worst forms of child
- In Brazil, the legislation prohibits work for children under 16 years of age, except as apprentices from 14 years
- The majority of the children working in agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing and aquaculture are in activities considered to be family farms
- However, during inspections in the state of Rio de Janeiro in 2010, children were found working as divers to remove nets tangled round boat engines

Thank you!!



Source: http://www.aquaculturebrasil.com