

Travel Report to World Seafood Congress 2019 (Penang, Malaysia)

Dr Stephen Pahl from SARDI Food Sciences Research Division travelled to Penang, Malaysia from 7th September 2019 to 14th September 2019 to attend the World Seafood Congress 2019. The purpose of the trip was to deliver an oral presentation on the research being undertaken in Australia to understand and manage seafood safety risks associated to climate change and to continue to build SafeFish's international profile. The Congress was attended by over 350 delegates from 41 countries. Key themes of the Congress included reducing post-harvest losses and waste, supply chain management, use of big-data to improve product traceability, development of novel products and seafood fraud prevention. Presentations focussed on strategies towards supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 12, 13 and 14 under the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Dr Pahl also attended the International Association of Fish Inspectors / WorldFish / FAO Pre-Congress Networking workshop at WorldFish's headquarters. The pre-congress workshop involved approximately 60 participants and focused on the importance of seafood and the seafood industry on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the key challenges faced by the seafood sector in the post-harvest activities. Dr Pahl visited the Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies (CEMACS) which was established in 1991 as a research site by the Universiti Sains Malaysia. The centre focuses on research on biodiversity, marine invertebrates and marine mammals, long-term monitoring of the atmospheric and marine environment, and aquaculture development for macroalgae, sea cucumber and oysters.

Dr Pahl also met with representatives from the Malaysian Fisheries Research Institute. The Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) is an agency under the Research Department of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia and is responsible for undertaking research on aspects of fisheries and aquaculture resources and ecology. FRI focuses on six major disciplines of research including fishery resources (marine and inland), aquaculture, aquatic ecology, biotechnology, fisheries product development and fish health. FRI performs fisheries assessment surveys, research into hatcheries, culture and open-sea cage culture technology and the establishment of baselines on aquatic contaminants, toxins and microorganisms.

Dr Pahl gained a better understand current international research activities and made valuable contacts for future collaborative opportunities in seafood post-harvest safety and quality. Follow up work will include strengthening international networks, investigating pathways to establish effective collaboration opportunities. Dr Pahl was also invited to prepare an article for INFOFISH International on the SafeFish programme and its relevance to helping to resolve barriers to trade, and maintaining food safety and quality of Australian seafood.