Chemicals and biological products used in Thai shrimp farming

A team from Sweden’s University of Stockholm have documented the use of chemicals and biological products in marine and brackish water shrimp farming in Thailand, the world’s top producer of farmed shrimp. The study focused on the eastern Gulf coast, the southern Gulf coast and the Andaman coast area. Farmers in the study used on average 13 different chemicals and biological products. The most commonly used products were soil and water treatment products, pesticides and disinfectants. Farmers in the southern Gulf coast area used a larger number of products than farmers in the other two areas. In the study, the use of more than 290 different chemicals and biological products was documented. Many of the pesticides, disinfectants and antibiotics used could have negative effects on the cultured shrimps, cause a risk for food safety, occupational health, and/or have negative effects on adjacent ecosystems. Manufacturers and retailers of the products often neglected to provide farmers with necessary information regarding active ingredients and relevant instructions for safe and efficient use.


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