

devastating, impact.txt

#### The High Cost of Factory Farming Shrimp

The tendency of shrimp farming systems to be too profit-oriented exacts a high social cost and creates a host of new complex environmental problems. As with agriculture and fishing, the rapidly growing world demand for the products of modern aqua culture has resulted in development of technologies and production systems that accelerate increasing scale and intensity of operations until they outstrip the carrying capacity of the environment. Factory farming has led to depleted and eroded soils, reduced genetic stock, and widespread crop failures; Factory fishing has created global over fishing and the collapse of several commercially important fishery stocks, and even entire marine ecosystems; and now "factory" aqua culture is headed in the same direction. Shrimp aqua culture provides a particularly disturbing example: as the intensity of operations and the density of shrimp farms has exploded along tropical coastlines, there has been degradation of coastal ecosystems and hardships suffered by neighboring communities; wild stocks of shrimp, and now even the cultured stocks, are collapsing due to rampant disease and other problems.