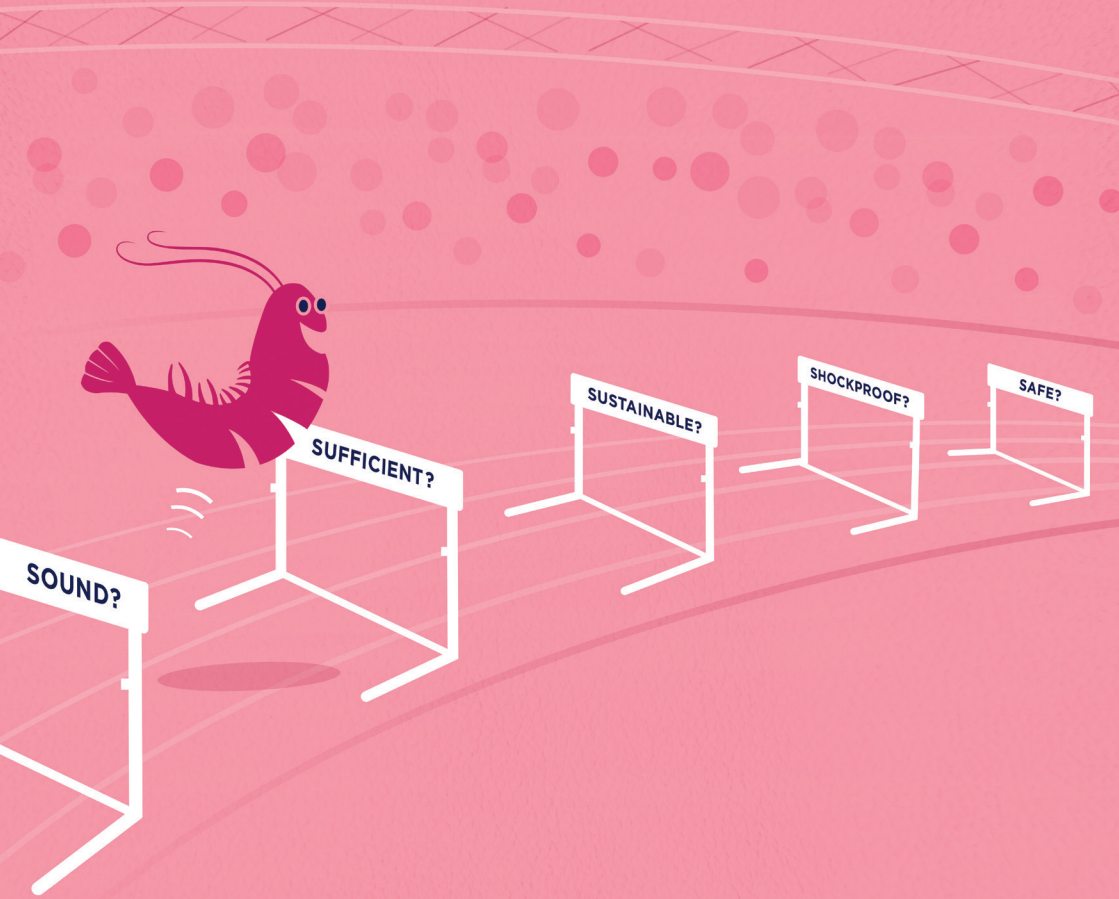




# Cefas

# 11 | 20



## THE HURDLES TO ACHIEVING AQUATIC FOOD SECURITY

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Centre for Environment  
Fisheries & Aquaculture  
Science

# THE HURDLES TO ACHIEVING AQUATIC FOOD SECURITY

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Achieving food security is a major global challenge for a growing human population (estimated to rise to over 9 billion by 2050). Seafood (finfish, shellfish and algae) plays a key role in nutritional and financial security, particularly in developing economies where it is often the most highly traded food commodity. Globally, aquaculture is growing faster than any other food production sector and now supplies half of seafood. However, capture fisheries appear to have reached their peak, so to meet rising demand, food supply from global aquaculture must continue to increase (doubling by 2050). In the UK, aquaculture production has increased to offset some of the decrease in national capture fisheries, but the predicted rate of growth falls short of the global average. Five elements of aquatic food security were defined by Cefas in 2016; that production meets legal and ethical standards (SOUND), that supply meets all needs (SUFFICIENT), that food is available now and in the future (SUSTAINABLE), that supply is resilient to changes (SHOCK-PROOF) and that food poses minimal risk to consumers and the environment (SAFE).

For the last 20 years Cefas has contributed to the development of sustainable aquaculture within the UK, Europe and further afield by playing a key role in monitoring and advice to the industry on

disease issues, publishing of production statistics (via the UK Fish Health Inspectorate), and in targeted research in support of UK and international policy. In recognition of the growing contribution of aquaculture to the global aquatic food supply chain, Cefas research and advice is focussed on supporting development of a sustainable industry that creates safe and tradeable food, produced with minimal environmental impacts and, with high animal welfare standards. Cefas engages with government and industry at home and abroad to support cultivation of new species (e.g. lobster, wrasse), in developing new ways of farming sustainably (e.g. on-shore recirculation systems, off-shore production, aquaponics), and in the development of aquaculture partnerships across the world (e.g. including decentralised diagnostic testing in Thailand, training in salmonid biosecurity in China, and assistance with spiny lobster culture in the Caribbean). Cefas has recently established the Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture Futures in conjunction with the University of Exeter, UK. The Centre will align policy-related research and advice with cutting-edge research capacity in support of a sustainable global aquaculture industry.

For more information please visit:  
<http://bit.ly/2tfCnLP>



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