

**CIVIC PARTICIPATION PRIORIZATING BIG LAKES FOR ACUICOLA  
USE.  
XI REGION, CHILE.**

**Isabel Spencer, Claudio Garuti**  
Fulcrum Engineering  
ispencer@cl.ibm.com  
[fulcrum@bellsouth.cl](mailto:fulcrum@bellsouth.cl)

**Keywords:** Civic participation, land (lakes) uses, application

**Abstract**

The XI Region of Aysén in the deep south of Chile, contains approximately 1/3 of the total country lakes, and it is an interesting site option for the practice of acuiculture, that currently is developed in the Region's coast.

The experience of this activity effects on lakes of other areas of the country and the impact that acuiculture could generate on the development of the tourism, important source of investment and economical resources, motivated the Regional authorities toward the identification of the lakes where could be authorize for acuiculture practice. For such effects, Catholic University of Chile, performed a study of which lakes could be technically dedicated to this activity and in complement, the National Commission of Environment (CONAMA) of the XI Region, organized a series of work-shops of Civic Participation to capture the community preferences regarding the exclusive use of previously preselected lakes for acuiculture use. This information will be considered in the final decision for acuiculture authorization land use. The workshops were carried during April, 1997 in 4 towns representing different Regional zones.

The region was divided in 5 geographical zones: coast, north, interior, General Carrera and south. During the workshops several actors attended the workshops: institutions (CONAMA, National Secretary of Fishing, National Secretary of Tourism and the Forest National Commission, mayors and governors, enterprise managers (salmonicultores, tourism, and fisheries) and resident citizens.

The objective of each workshop, was to generate a ranking of the lakes for the associated zone, in terms of the environmental, social, geopolitical and interference acuiculture risks with alternative uses of the lakes (tourism or hobby fishing, mainly). The process was a novel experience, integrating groups with opposite interests, as well as using a structured decision making system to capture and asses citizens perception of the use of the land and lakes.

An average of 30 people attended each workshop, with extremely heterogeneous degree of instruction and highly polarized positions related to economic activities; in consequence, the need to provide the main results "on line", became an entire challenge for implementing AHP in this scenario.

Finally it is necessary to highlight the importance of structuring in a solid and reliable way any participate processes of decisions making, since at last, the audience is mainly affected by the final decision.

