

learning more about the supply chain safeguards industry leaders have in place. In August of this year, delegations from both the Labor Department and Capitol Hill traveled to Thailand to observe labor conditions first hand. We have made our Thai inspector available to the delegations and in addition anticipate ongoing dialogue to better understand their concerns and to help educate them as to our efforts as a company.

❖ **Audit and Sourcing Goals**

As was discussed in the preceding case study, Mazzetta Company set as a near term goal expanding significantly the number of third-party social audits we perform each year. In 2008 we conducted twenty-one third-party food safety audits and ten social audits. Through June 2009 we conducted eleven third-party food safety audits and four social audits with others scheduled for the near term. Our goal for 2010 is to match 100% of our third-party food safety audits with social audits.

In terms of sourcing, as was mentioned earlier, Mazzetta Company sources products from 19 countries around the world. Based on this diversity, we feel strongly about the benefits of certified products. At a minimum, a certified product – be it ACC, MSC, or another, carries with it a measure of social, environmental, and food safety standards. Certification alone does not satisfy our requirements at Mazzetta Company, but the benefits are such that we have set the near term goal of increasing the percentage of certified products we offer. Initially we will focus this effort on warm water shrimp as it represents our highest volume product, but gradually plan to move into other species and ultimately the products we offer as a whole. In 2007, roughly 40% of Mazzetta Company's warm water shrimp were ACC certified. In 2008 we increased that number to 50%. The goal we set last year was to achieve 75% by the close of 2010; however we're pleased to say that at we're well ahead of that goal reaching 95% midway through October of this year. Achieving this goal so quickly has a lot to do with the internal high standards of Mazzetta Company, but it is also likely a reflection of the continued maturation of the shrimp aquaculture industry. In either case, it is our belief that by awarding our business to farms and plants that are committed to sustainability through high certification standards we reaffirm our own commitment to these important issues. In the long run, we see that as the right decision for the growth and viability of our industry and also essential to ensure that future generations have the same resources available to them that exist today.

