



Best Aquaculture Practices Fact Sheet

THE GLOBAL AQUACULTURE ALLIANCE AND BAP STANDARDS

The Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA), the leading global standards-setting organization for aquaculture seafood, is a non-profit trade association, committed to the mission of feeding the world through responsible aquaculture practices. GAA's standards, known as Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP), address all the components necessary to conduct aquaculture operations in a responsible and sustainable manner. Products from BAP-certified facilities carry the BAP logo.

WHY BAP?

One in every three fish consumed in the world is now farm-raised. As demand for seafood increases, aquaculture products will represent more than 50% of all total seafood consumption by 2010. BAP certification assures marketers and purchasers that the product from a certified facility has been responsibly produced.

HOW ARE BAP STANDARDS DEVELOPED AND CERTIFIED?

Species-specific Technical Committees develop draft standards; these are reviewed by an independent Standards Oversight Committee that suggests changes, as necessary. These draft standards are then published for public comment. The process of certification is managed by the independent Aquaculture Certification Council (ACC); certification audits are conducted by independent inspection entities.



WHAT SPECIES ARE INCLUDED?

At present, BAP standards exist for shrimp (hatchery, farm, and processing plant), channel catfish, and tilapia. Feed mill standards are imminent; and salmon and Pangasius standards will be developed in 2009.

BAP IN TODAY'S MARKETPLACE

BAP standards are now the dominant standard in use in the marketplace. Currently, 15% of the global production of farmed shrimp is BAP-certified. In the U.S. market, more than 30% of shrimp sold is BAP-certified.

What areas are covered by BAP?

BAP standards, which strive to comply with the aquaculture standards proposed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), address the following key areas:

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

At the hatchery, farm, feed, and processing levels, BAP standards are independently reviewed for impacts on such issues as habitat, water quality and effluents, and so on.

■ SOCIAL JUSTICE

This category includes compliance with local laws for worker safety, child labor, and community rights at the feed mill, hatchery, farm, and processing levels.

■ ANIMAL WELFARE

Standards for animal welfare cover a wide spectrum of best practices in animal husbandry, including health and welfare from cultivation to harvest (disease control, growing conditions, transportation). BAP standards emphasize humane treatment throughout the life cycle of the animal.

■ FOOD SAFETY

BAP standards for food safety ensure that no banned antibiotics or other chemicals may be used during farm production and that all approved chemical treatments must be carried out in a responsible fashion. Random samples of finished product are analyzed in processing plants for bacterial contamination and antibiotic residues to verify that control processes are effective.

■ TRACEABILITY

Supply chain traceability from the source to the marketplace is mandated by the BAP program before a product can be considered BAP-compliant.

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