



GLOBALG.A.P.

Promoting and assuring more sustainable and responsible practices for the benefit of aquaculture stakeholders and society at large

Sharing the goal of responsible aquaculture

Today the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA) and GLOBALG.A.P. came together to develop the next steps towards achieving efficiencies across the three programmes.

A year on since the memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed, the three competing organisations once again met at Seafood Expo Global to demonstrate how their collaborative working will provide greater access for producers.

Developing common feed requirements

Last year the three organisations identified and published common requirements on responsible sourcing of fishmeal and fish oil across the programmes' standards. More recently, GAA and GLOBALG.A.P. have taken up an active role in ASC's work on developing its feed standard, which will lead to ASC certified feed which can be used by farms seeking or holding ASC certification.

GAA and GLOBALG.A.P., which already have operational feed standards, are taking part in the ASC Feed Dialogue steering committee meetings (as observers) and are actively participating in the technical working group on marine ingredients.

The ASC feed standard should be ready by the end of 2015. The involvement of GAA and GLOBALG.A.P. will promote further common elements across the three programmes to benefit the feed industry and suppliers of raw materials.

Comparing the standards to reduce duplication

Also underway is the comparison of the three organisations' standards with the aim of identifying commonalities. Initially, the focus is on *Pangasius*; other species will be added over time.

"When we signed the MoU we made a promise to achieve greater efficiencies to benefit all of our stakeholders," said Bas Geerts, ASC Standards Director. "To achieve this we must be certain not to compromise the quality of each of our standards. Comparing a large number of process based indicators with outcome based indicators is certainly less straightforward than most would think. Each of the organisations' standards is very precise, so identifying the common elements across them is a complex task. We have recently started this intricate process, it's an exercise that will take some time to complete, but it's great to see the willingness of all three parties committed to making this work."

"We will not stop our efforts until we will have published a single set of criteria and language that can be used to demonstrate compliance with all elements addressing the same aspects in the three standards," said Kristian Moeller, Managing Director of GLOBALG.A.P. "Duplication of control points shall become history!"

Making certification more accessible

The three organisations signed the MoU in April 2013 agreeing to work together to make certification more accessible for farmers and processors by reducing duplication across the three programmes' auditing processes.

There is a substantial amount of work identified so ASC, GAA and GLOBALG.A.P. have prioritised the activities. Over time together the organisations will:



GLOBALG.A.P.

Promoting and assuring more sustainable and responsible practices for the benefit of aquaculture stakeholders and society at large

- reduce duplication of effort for farms that undertake certification against more than one standard (status: standards' comparison process started)
- develop common feed requirements (status: initial overlap determined and published)
- develop common approaches to auditor training (status: relies on standards' comparison)
- develop shared approaches to chain of custody certification (status: not yet started)
- encourage accurate and objective messaging regarding the claims made for certified aquaculture products (status: this process has begun through mutual recognition of common objectives. Detailed messaging will rely on the standards' comparison work.)
- explore common approaches to the management of certificate information potentially through shared IT platforms. (status: not yet started)

The MOU recognises the continued integrity of each programme.

ENDS.

About ASC

The Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation co-funded by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and The Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) in 2010 to manage the certification of responsible fish farming across the globe. The ASC standards require farm performance to be measured against both environmental and social requirements. Certification is through an independent third party process and (draft) reports are uploaded to the public ASC website. The on-pack ASC logo guarantees to consumers that the fish they purchase has been farmed with minimal impacts on the environment and on society.

About GAA

The Global Aquaculture Alliance is an international, non-profit trade association dedicated to advancing environmentally and socially responsible aquaculture. Through the development of its Best Aquaculture Practices certification standards, GAA is a leading standards-setting organization for farmed seafood. For more information, visit www.gaalliance.org.

About GLOBALG.A.P

GLOBALG.A.P. Aquacultural Standards have been operational for over 10 years as part of a global food certification system for agricultural products. Its standards cover food safety, environmental, social and animal welfare requirements for feed, hatchery and farming operations. It operates as a business to business program with a consumer facing traceability code. GLOBALG.A.P. also operates a benchmarking system with more than 20 national and international standards recognized as equivalent.

More information

ASC: Sun Brage, sun.brage@asc-aqua.org

GAA: Steven Hedlund, steven.hedlund@gaalliance.org

GLOBALG.A.P.: Claudia Meifert, meifert@globalgap.org