

Seafood Certification for Aquaculture

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Meeting

May 9, 2013



The GAA

- The [Global Aquaculture Alliance](#) is a non-profit association whose mission is to further environmentally responsible aquaculture in order to meet world food needs. The GAA also articulates the importance of aquaculture as a source of food and employment. It supports technological research and provides this information openly to membership and research facilities. GAA also advocates for the industry regionally and globally, and promotes effective, coordinated government regulatory and international trade policies.
- The GAA was created in 1997 by 59 aquaculture sector stakeholders from the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa
- Currently the GAA has more than [1100 members](#) from 70 countries – stakeholders in the aquaculture of shrimp, salmon, tilapia, pangasius, channel catfish, etc.
- Sustainable financing model :
 - Membership fees
 - Annual [GOAL](#) conference
 - Sponsorship
- Bimonthly specialized magazine '[the Advocate](#)'
- [BAP](#) program coordination
 - Responsible and sustainable aquaculture standards
 - Certification
- Massive resource of aquaculture expertise available



The BAP Program

- BAP = **B**est **A**quaculture **P**ractices
- B2C consumer pack label
- Robust standards for aquaculture facilities throughout the production chain, developed with multi-stakeholder input
- Modular building block approach, up to 4-star certification



1. Processing plant (exporter)



2. + farm



3. + hatchery



4. + feed mill



- IOM – Integrated operating module for small and medium sized farms
- ISO 65 governed third party certification

BAP Standards: Scope

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Salmon ✓ Finfish - Tilapia, Pangasius, Cannel Catfish, barramundi, perch, trout, Sea bass, and others. ✓ Crustaceans – Shrimp, Mussels 	<p style="text-align: center;">Feed ★★★★</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Hatchery ★★★★</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Farm ★★</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Processing ★</p> 
Social Ethics	✓	✓	✓	✓
Environment	✓	✓	✓	✓
Animal welfare		✓	✓	✓
Food safety	✓	✓	✓	✓
← Traceability →	✓	✓	✓	✓

BAP Standards: Key Points

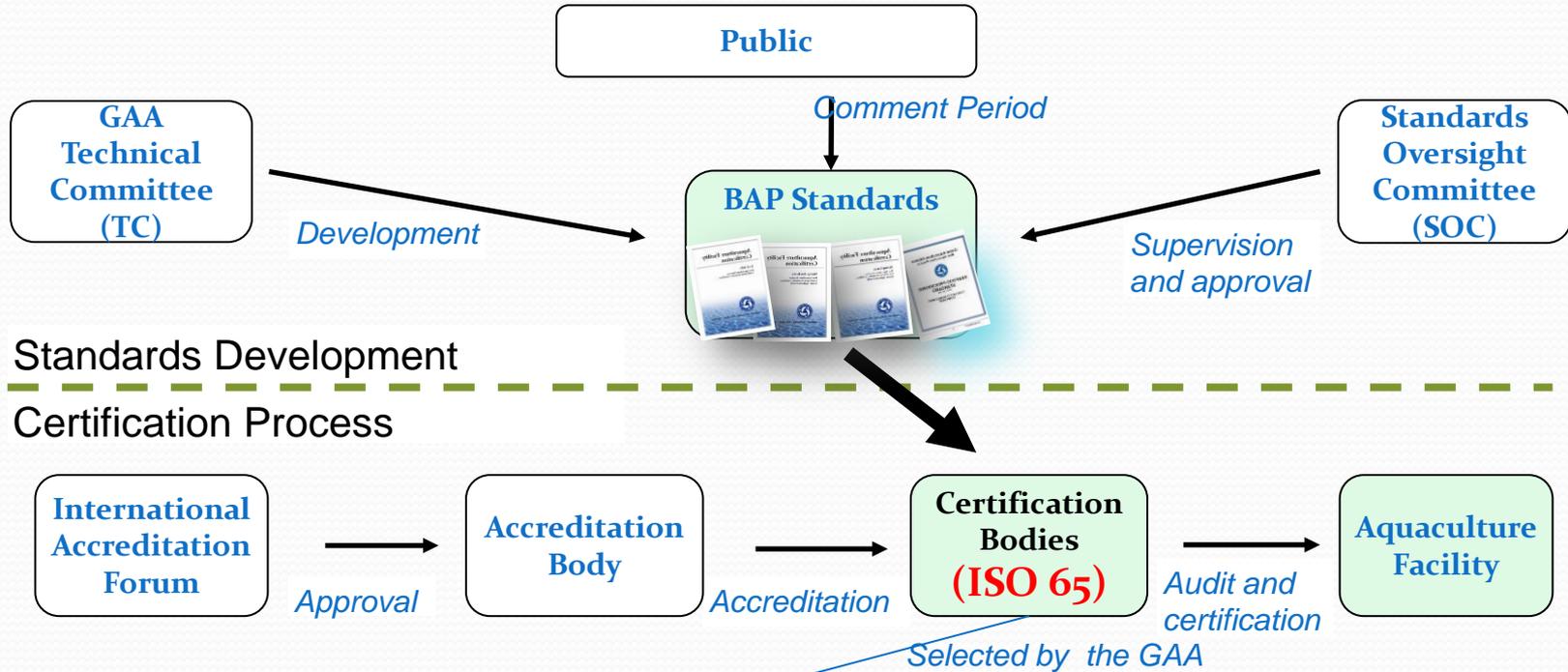
Social Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Property Rights and Regulatory Compliance• Community Relations• Worker Safety and Employee Relations
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sediment and Water Quality• Fishmeal and Fish Oil Conservation• Control of Escapes and Use of GMOs• Predator and Wildlife Interactions• Storage and Disposal of Farm Supplies
Animal Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health and Welfare• Biosecurity and Disease Management
Food Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Control of Residues and Contaminants• Harvest and Transport
Traceability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Record-keeping

BAP Standards: Development



- **SOC (Standards Oversight Committee)**
 - 4 NGOs, 4 industry reps, 4 academics / regulatory / policy
 - Official standards approval
 - Minimum 2 NGOs needed to vote ‘yes’ for the standard to be approved
- **TC (Technical Committee)**
 - SOC approved members
 - Develops standards and submits to SOC for approval, after careful review and response to all comments received from public consultation periods
- **Continuous Improvement**
 - Annual review with a revision every 3 years or more often if needed
- **Commitment to conformance with FAO’s ‘Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification’ and with the GFSI (Global Food Safety Initiative)**
 - BAP processing standard on the GFSI recognised schemes list since June 2010, along with BRC and IFS... **but** with additional social ethics and environmental coverage
 - Target compliance of BAP standards with the FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification

BAP Certification Process



SGS



The BAP difference

- Modular building block approach, up to 4-star certification
- No royalties for consumer pack label usage
- Complete and updated list of certified facilities available online:



- [Processing plants](#) , [Farms](#) , [Hatcheries](#) , [Feed mills](#) (click to access)

- Comprehensive scope covering different aquaculture species
 - Transverse coverage: Social Justice, Environment, Animal Welfare, Food Safety, Traceability
 - Specific coverage of each step of the production process, pre and post farm gate, including strong feed ingredient related requirements (possibly the 5th star in the future)
 - Specific small-scale aquaculture coverage (in development)
- Robust and evolving standards
 - Recognized **GFSI** equivalency with additional social ethics and environmental coverage
 - Commitment to **FAO** compliance
 - Transparent and inclusive multi-stakeholder development
- Independent and transparent governance
- Significant experience – already 10+ years out in the field
- Training Programs

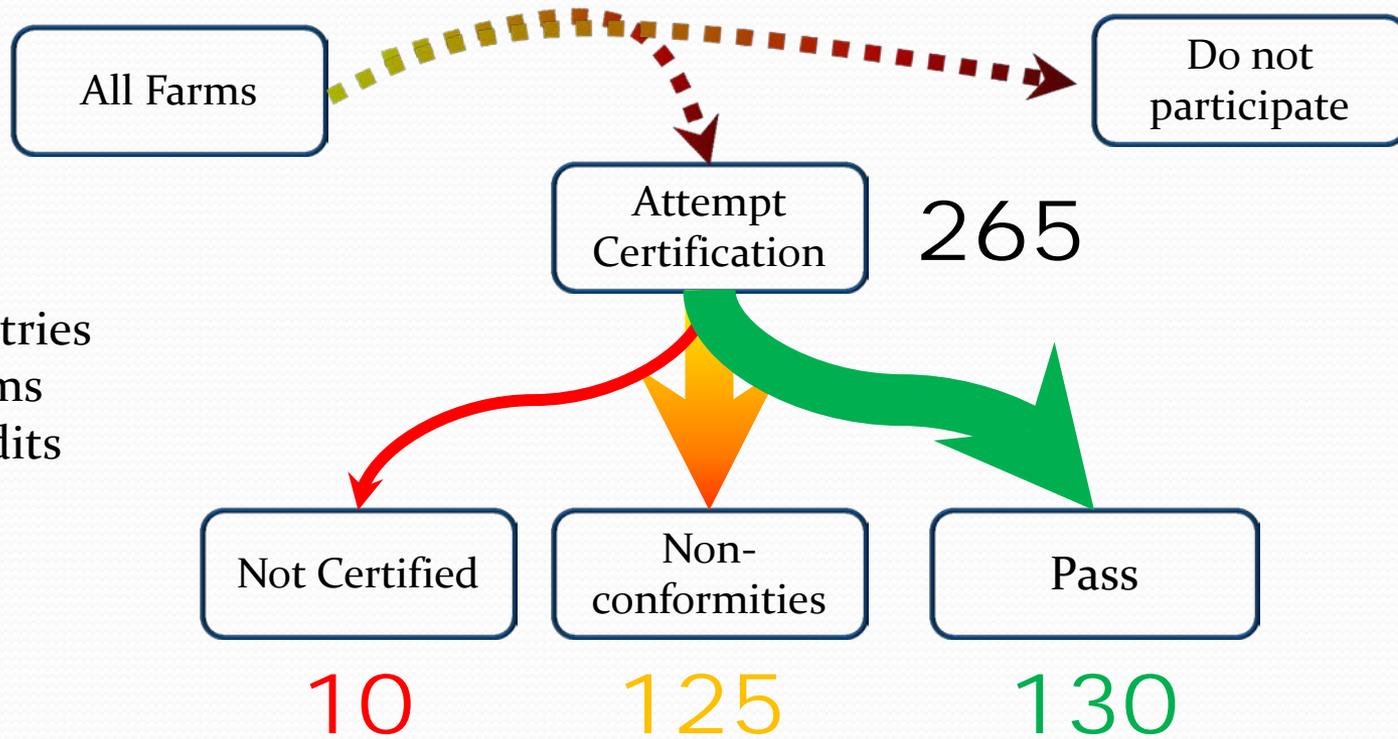


Does Certification Make a Difference?

- Reporting provided by:
- **Michael Tlusty, Ph.D.**
- New England Aquarium
 - Director of Research

The Findings

11 countries
152 farms
265 audits



New England
Aquarium

Making a Difference

- Not a random sample...self selected
- 50% of farms that passed had non-conformities
- 50% of “non-conforming” farms do not meet effluent standards
- “Pass” farms have significantly greater “Scored” values than Non-Conforming farms
- Yearly checks are important

Thank You

