

Independent organizations join efforts to boost aquaculture

[Aquaculture Stewardship Council](#) (ASC), [Global Aquaculture Alliance](#) (GAA) and [GLOBALGAP](#) met at [Seafood Expo Global](#) to demonstrate how their collaborative working will provide greater access for producers.

As Global GAP expressed in its website, having the goal of responsible aquaculture in mind, the three competing organisations came together to develop the next steps towards achieving efficiencies across the three programmes.

In the memorandum of understanding (MoU) the three entities signed a year ago, common requirements on responsible sourcing of fishmeal and fish oil across the programmes' standards were identified and published.

“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.

And the director added: “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.”

It is also reported that more recently, GAA and GLOBALG.A.P. have taken up an active role in ASC's work on developing its feed standard, which should be ready by the end of 2015 and will lead to ASC certified feed which can be used by farms seeking or holding ASC certification.

Both organizations 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. Their involvement will promote further common elements across the three programmes to benefit the feed industry and suppliers of raw materials.

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

- Reduce duplication of effort for farms that undertake certification against more than one standard;
- Develop common feed requirements;
- Develop common approaches to auditor training;
- Develop shared approaches to chain of custody certification;
- Encourage accurate and objective messaging regarding the claims made for certified aquaculture products;
- Explore common approaches to the management of certificate information potentially through shared IT platforms.

“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 GLOBALGAP.

Source : <http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&ndb=1&id=68432> (12/05/2014)