

GAA, ASC, GLOBALG.A.P. agree to combined audit checklists

The [Global Aquaculture Alliance](#) (GAA), [Aquaculture Stewardship Council](#) (ASC) and [GLOBALG.A.P.](#) have taken a significant step forward in executing their memorandum of understanding (MoU) at [Seafood Expo Global](#) (SEG) in Brussels, Belgium.

The three standards-setting organizations — which are working collaboratively to increase efficiency and reduce duplication in the auditing process — agreed to combined checklists for farms pursuing more than one certificate.

A combined checklist minimizes duplication of audit points between certification programmes and comprises all audit points of one standard supplemented by specific add-on clauses for other standard(s).

A farm pursuing multiple certifications can select any one of the three programmes as the primary standard and then select the desired add-on(s).

If a farm proves to be compliant with the schemes' standards it may be able to gain two certificates (or later even three) through this process.

By signing the MoU at SEG exactly two years ago today, the three organizations recognize that by working together they can more effectively promote environmentally and socially responsible seafood farming and processing. The goal of the MoU is to make certification more accessible and create greater value to a greater number of farmers and processors.

Auditors will be able to combine audits to a large extent. In order for them to grant certification against individual schemes they will need to meet all the scheme's requirements.

The three organisations will continue to retain their independence while striving to offer further synergies wherever possible.

Combined audits for ASC and GLOBALG.A.P. covering shrimp, salmon and pangasius; for GLOBAL GAP and BAP covering finfish and crustaceans; and for ASC and BAP covering pangasius, will be available for piloting from 22 April and, if successful, they can lead to farms obtaining multiple certificates.

Other species are likely to be considered after the pilots have been evaluated and other combined pilot audits will be available soon.

Source : [http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&ndb=1&id=76016\(23/04/15\)](http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&ndb=1&id=76016(23/04/15))