

Organic Food Federation

Explanatory Note 333

These notes are intended to help applicants comply with OFF Organic Aquaculture Standards (Salmonids and Gadoids). They are not exhaustive and are for explanation only. In cases of doubt the Regulation or the OFF should be consulted.

Key Requirements for the Development of an effective Environmental & Quality Management System

OFF Organic Aquaculture Standards require operators to have an effective quality management system. This includes provisions for fish welfare, health control and prevention of adverse environmental impact

The management plan must ensure that adequate qualified and trained personnel are employed to provide effective control in all areas covered by the scope of the plan which must document:

a) Details of the site which must include:

The name and registration number of the undertaking

The ordnance survey location of the undertaking

Proposed species to be farmed and consent details (if applicable)

The estimated production quantities

b) Policy Statements to include:

Commitment to Organic Aquaculture Principles and service quality levels.

Environmental policy

Stock welfare policy

Training Policy

c) Management Plans and Procedures to include:

Health and Bio-security Plan (see E-Note 39)

Purchases of Young-stock and Feed

Cage and mooring specifications and Maintenance

Feed (systems and waste prevention)

Water Quality Monitoring

Assessment of Threats and control measures (eg Predators, Parasites, Pollutants)

Humane Live Grading Transportation (fingerlings and adults)

Humane harvesting and slaughter

Training records and plans

Usage and traceability of Stock, Feed and Veterinary inputs

Internal auditing and management review.

d) With Hatchery Operations a number of additional aspects must be covered:

Sourcing Brood-stock

Production of/Sourcing of Brood and Juvenile feeds

Breeding and Health Plan (see E-Note 39)

Site bio-security (Materials and methods)

Water source and quality

Grading

Transport to Sea Cages

Control of effluent

Records

Each of the above plans and procedures must be documented and supported by records kept of monitoring and quantities of inputs used and stock bought- in and/or produced.

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