

(DRAFT)
Aquaculture Eco-Label Certification Standard
Marine Eco-Label Japan

Preface

This document provides necessary components as a standard for aquaculture certification, in accordance with standards and certification scheme provided by Marine Eco-Label Japan Council (hereinafter referred to as MELJ). Bearing this in mind, aquaculture for this certification should be conducted realizing importance of protection of natural stocks, conservation of environment, and responsible aquaculture in consideration of consumers' confidence and moreover it should be conducted for the purpose of materializing proper aquaculture production through evaluating the commitment to the above. It is necessary for aquaculture farmers to satisfy those standards in order to obtain certification issued by MELJ.

This document provides necessary components as a standard for aquaculture certification, in accordance with standards and certification scheme provided by Marine Eco-Label Japan Council (hereinafter referred to as MELJ), recognizing protection of natural **stocks** and conservation of environment, and importance of responsible and sustainable aquaculture production in consideration of confidence of consumers. It is necessary for aquaculture farmers to satisfy those standards for the purpose of obtaining certification issued by MELJ.

TheThis standard and the certification scheme based on it herein contained are established

based upon “Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries” adopted by FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) in 1995, and “Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification” adopted by FAO in 2011 (hereinafter referred to as TGAC) and take into consideration diversity of aquaculture production in Japan is taken into consideration by securing equivalence with other global standards for aquaculture certifications. With regard to the basic requirements of this standard, four principles specified hereunder are applied, and with regard to the certification scheme, basic principles listed from “a” to “m” in the Article 17 of TGAC, are applied to secure certification scheme with transparency, objectivity and credibility.

Principle 1 Social responsibility of aquaculture production activity

(To surely fulfil matters that aquaculture farmers are socially responsible responsibilityfor)

Principle 2 Consideration for health and welfare of aquatic life for aquaculture

(Health and welfare of aquatic life are securedassured)

Principle 3 Assurance of food security

Aquaculture operation is properly managed conducted so as to assure safety of products

Principle 4 Consideration for conservation of environment

Aquaculture operation is properly managed conducted in consideration for minimizing adverse impact on environment

In principle, application Application of this standard should be based on the scientific evidences. When any scientific evidence on the influence of aquaculture operation against human health and environment is not shown, and when social system is not established in carrying out necessary effort, aquaculture farmers are requested to do every precautionary effort within the way scope that such effort does not cause any important adverse impact on the sustainable aquaculture production. In addition, this standard is supposed assumed to apply to all kinds of target species for aquaculture and all types of production system in Japan. The characteristic particular requirements are specified as individual standard regarding every target specie s for aquaculture operation and every type s of production system.

The certification based upon this standard is done by the independent third party (Certifying Organization), organization accredited to conform to the ISO (International Standardization Organization) standard (IEC17065:2012) which provided provides capability and ability as a certifying organization. And the accreditation of such organization is done by the member organizations of IAF (International Accreditation Forum).

This document is duly made both in English and Japanese which constitute s original text. In order to maintain the validity and efficacy of the standard, this document is

reviewed more than once every five years and revised if necessity arises. Moreover, every time when the international guidelines or standards such as “Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification” of FAO or any related laws and regulations of the Japanese Government are revised, this document is reviewed and revised if necessary.

References

This standard is made referring with reference to the latest issue of following global documents.

- . FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
- . Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification
- . GSSI Global Benchmark Tool (Version 1)
- . World Trade Organization (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement Annex 3 Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards
- . ISO/IEC Guide 59:1994 Code of Good Practice for Standardization
- . ISO/IEC 17065:2012 Conformity Assessment – Requirements for Bodies Certifying Products, Processes and Services
- . ISO/IEC 17067:2013 Conformity Assessment – Fundamentals of Product Certification and Guidelines for Product Certification Schemes

Scope and Unit of Certification

The scope of certification by this standard should be cover aquaculture industries operated

legally in light of the Japanese fisheries related rules and regulations under the official permissions and licenses issued by the Minister of Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries or the governors of Tokyo, Hokkaido and all the other prefectures. Although the aquaculture industries are operated in other countries than Japan, the standard should be applied to similar similar aquaculture industries in all places. The unit for certification is an aquaculture industry operated for specified target species and by specified production method under the identical rules and regulations. (Note: The aquaculture marine/aquatic products produced by aquaculture industry certified under this standard should be a certification target under Chain-of-Custody (CoC) determined to be provided separately.

Terms and Definitions

Aquaculture:

The farming activities of to increase the number of aquatic organisms involving artificial rearing measures by promoting breeding and growth involving artificial rearing measures under human management control in order to harvest them for human consumption.

Mariculture:

Aquaculture operated in the offshore for public use.

Fresh water culture:

Aquaculture operated in the inland water for public use.

Terrestrial faming:

Aquaculture operated in the hydrosphere not for public use such as inland aquaculture facilities by using sea water or fresh water.

Rearing unit:

Such Minimum Minimum production unit such as fish pen or fish pond where aquatic organisms are accommodated and reared under the same condition. Usually, single rearing unit is treated as one lot.

Seed:

The eyed eggs, juvenile fish, seaweed netnet attached with seed of seaweed for aquaculture, juvenile shellfish larva and juvenile prawn that are brought into aquaculture facilities for the purpose of selling their products after a certain period of rearing and production management.

Feed:

In the fish aquaculture, bait to be supplied to the fish is collectively used as a term of feed for fish farming. Under this standard, food is a term used to for solid or powdery compound food and feed is a term used for a term used captured fish to a feed to be supplied to aquaculture of fish as food bait in the fresh or frozen form.

Aquatic organisms animals and plants:

Organisms farmed Farmed animals and plants for human consumption.

Aquatic life:

The term is used for general organisms living in the sea, rivers and lakes and marshes in the vicinity of aquaculture site.

Principles, Criteria and Indicators for Certification**Principle 1 Social responsibility for aquaculture production**

(To surely fulfil responsibilities obligations that aquaculture farmers are socially responsible for.)

Criterion 1.1

The aquaculture of aquatic organisms should be conducted in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and ordinances provided by local governments where the aquaculture site locates.

(This criterion is applied to all types of aquaculture industry.)

Indicator 1.1.1

The aquaculture business industry is conducted legally and appropriately in compliance with all applicable national laws and regulations, such as Fishery Act (Act No.267 of 1949), Act on the Protection of Fishery Resources (Act No. 313 of 1951), Sustainable Aquaculture Production Assurance Act (Act No.51 of 1999), Act on Promotion of Inland Waters Fishery (Act No.103 of 2014), The Laws on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products Including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices (Act No. 145 of 1960), Act on the Assurance of Safety and improvement of Quality of Feed (Act No.35 of 1953), Food Sanitation Act (Act No.233 of 1947) and Food Safety Basic Act (Act No.2003), and also moreover with among the local ordinances and regulations provided by local governments where the aquaculture site locates, aquaculture farmers are complying with such ordinances and regulations most probably applied to them..

Indicator 1.1.2

The aquaculture producers farmers should legally conduct aquaculture business industry

with necessary license and permission and the aquaculture site and target species should accord with the provisions of such license and permission.

Indicator 1.1.3

The employees engaged in aquaculture industry should be provided with appropriate wages, welfare and working conditions under the related laws and regulations. Furthermore, the proper health management and working environment should be secured for them.

Indicator 1.1.4

Illegal labor such as child labor is not done strictly.

Principle 2 Consideration for health and welfare of aquatic animals for aquaculture

(Welfare of aquatic animals is secured.)

(This criterion principle is applied to the aquatic animal farming.)

Criterion 2.1

The aquatic animals for aquaculture should be reared under the suitable environment for such species, and under as much as stress-free breeding management where precautionary measures against diseases are undertaken.

Indicator 2.1.1

Aquaculture should be conducted in the proper waters area using proper waters in conformity with quality of fisheries water standard in accordance with according to target animals and growth stage.

Indicator 2.1.2

Rearing should be conducted in the pen with proper space and density established in order to maintain satisfactory rearing environment.

Indicator 2.1.3

Monitoring whether satisfactory environment is maintained or not for aquaculture

animals should be conducted by using proper indices and necessary countermeasures should be provided in the case of deteriorating conditions.

Indicator 2.1.4 Aquaculture animals should be under the management for healthy growth through feeding them properlyproper feeding according to their nutritional requirement.

Criterion 2.2

Precautional approach against diseases out-breaking among aquatic animals and against their diffusion should be taken for their healthy growth.

Indicator 2.2.1

Procedures for regular monitoring for of the health of aquatic animals are provided and implemented properly for the purpose of detection and prevention of diseases at early stage.

Indicator 2.2.2

Procedures for regular collection and proper treatment of dead eggs, dead fish or moribund aquatic animals are provided and implemented in accordance with procedures to prevent spreading of diseases.

Indicator 2.2.3

In order to reduce risks of spreading infectious diseases within the aquaculture facilities and aquaculture sites nearby and to other aquatic life as well, aquatic animals should be kept in a rearing unit. The aquaculture facilities should be managed properly in order to prevent intentional release of aquaculture animals by aquaculture operator and escape of from the facilities.

Indicator 2.2.4

It is assured properly that the aquaculture seeds before introducing them into the farming site are not infected with the specific and important pathogens.

Indicator 2.2.5

Proper sanitary control including effective measures for epidemic prevention and fisheries vaccination should be implemented throughout all the stages from introduction of eyed-eggs and seeds to shipping shipment of aquatic animals.

Criterion 2.3

In the case of outbreak of diseases among the aquatic animals for aquaculture, they should be appropriately cured in conformity with applicable laws and regulations.

Indicator 2.3.1

In the case of abnormality, appropriate procedures for countermeasures against outbreak of diseases including those to prevent infection of such diseases by restricting their transfer are established and implemented..

Indicator 2.3.2

Suitable Proper countermeasures for diagnosis and a treatment method of diseases are established under the direction of supervision by Fish Epidemic Prevention Officers and cure of such diseases is implemented in accordance with countermeasures and method accordingly.

Indicator 2.3.3

In the case where aquaculture drugs/veterinary medicines are used, procedures for the management and use of such drugs/medicines are established and implemented accordingly in compliance with the Law on Securing Quality, Efficacy and safety Safety of Products including Pharmaceuticals and Medical devices (Act No. 145 of 1960) and other related laws and regulations as well as including consideration to minimize any adverse effect on environment.

Indicator 2.3.4

The antimicrobial agents should be used in compliance with Aquatic Animal Health Code and provisions of Chapter 6.2 in the Section 6; Principles for responsible Responsible and prudent Prudent use Use of antimicrobial Antimicrobial agents Agents in aquatic Aquatic animals Animals by World Organization for of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code. (OIE).

Indicator 2.3.5

The aquaculture operators should be trained and educated in sanitary control of aquatic animals and safe and proper handling of aquaculture materials and equipment. The aquaculture operators They should always have high awareness for these matters

and make responsible effortactivities.

Principle 3 Assurance of food security

(Such aquaculture should be conducted so that food security might be assured.)

Criterion 3.1

The aquaculture industry should be implemented under proper management to minimize risks of possible contamination pollution to human health caused by aquaculture activities, aquaculture environment and aquaculture materials and equipment.

(Note: This criterion is applied to all species for aquaculture industry.)

Indicator 3.1.1

At the aquaculture site and in the surrounding environment with pollution risks, suitable proper place is selected as an aquaculture site based upon proper evaluation assessment of contamination pollution risks.

Indicator 3.1.2

Appropriate monitoring should be conducted as to the possible risks of over- allowable level of accumulation of chemicals to cause important adverse effect on the human health through rearing activities.

Criterion 3.2

As to prevention of residuals of antimicrobial agentsaquaculture medicine, proper operating procedures should be provided and medicines are used accordingly.

(This criterion is applied to aquaculture of aquatic animals.)

Indicator 3.2.1

Medicines Veterinary medicines for the use of fisheries should be used in accordance with expertise and accurate diagnosis in order that effective medicinal treatment is demonstrated. And moreover, proper record should be developed kept in order not to cause any residual in the aquaculture fisheries product under the direction of Fish Epidemic Prevention Officers in compliance with the directions, dosage and withdrawal terms provided for each medicine.

Criterion 3.3

The risk of contamination pollution caused by hazardous chemical substance originating in feeding should be controlled and proper management of feeding is implemented. (Note: This criterion is applied to aquaculture where aquatic animals are fed.)

Indicator 3.3.1

Feed, feed additives and their ingredients should be used by assuring prevention measures against mixing in of hazardous chemical substance and at the same time foods provided to each aquaculture unit should be traceably recorded and controlled.

Criterion 3.4

The landing of cultured bivalves should be implemented under healthy working conditions and throughout all stages from introduction of seeds to snipping of products, procedures are provided to assure traceability and verifiable record should be maintained. (Note: This criterion is applied to aquaculture of bivalves.)

Indicator 3.4.1

Bivalves are farmed in the sea area where outbreak of microscopic organism and poisonous organism/biotoxin is observed supervised and controlled.

Indicator 3.4.2

Bivalves are purified as necessary and purifying facilities are properly maintained.

Indicator 3.4.3

In the shipping shipment of cultured product, production sea area, date of landing, species of bivalve, quantity, ways and means of transportation and the name of farmer should be confirmed and recorded. And the measures to identify the product should be provided and the measures how to communicate identification number properly to destination of shipment should be assured.

Indicator 3.4.4

Equipment, machines and packing materials for the shipment work should be kept and supervised under a clean and sanitary condition.

Indicator 3.4.5

Procedures how to conduct shipment work cleanly and sanitarily in consideration of deterioration of product quality should be provided and implemented accordingly.

Criterion 3.5

The landing work of aquaculture products should be conducted under sanitary working conditions and throughout all stages from introduction of seeds to shipment of products, procedures are provided to assure traceability and verifiable record should be maintained. (Note: This criterion is applied to aquaculture of aquatic animals other than bivalves.)

Indicator 3.5.1

Throughout duration of aquaculture, farming of fish should be managed according to rearing unit and the state of aquaculture should be recorded in the aquaculture log.

Indicator 3.5.2

For each rearing unit, date of landing, landed number of pieces, weight and destination of shipment should be recorded. And the measure to identify the product should be provided and the measure how to communicate identification number properly to destination of shipment should be assured.

Indicator 3.5.3

Equipment, machines and packing materials for the use of shipment should be kept and supervised under a clean and sanitary condition.

Indicator 3.5.4

Procedures how to conduct shipment work cleanly and sanitarily in consideration of deterioration of product quality should be provided and implemented accordingly.

Principle 4 Consideration for conservation of environment

Aquaculture operation is properly managed in consideration for of minimizing adverse impact on environment.

Criterion 4.1

Aquaculture should be conducted so as to prevent the environment from contaminationenvironmental pollution caused by equipment and materials for

aquaculture, excretion of farmed creatures and residuals of food and feed. And that proper procedures to verify and supervise whether or not the management is established and implemented to minimize any adverse effect on aquaculture environment caused by farming production.

Indicator 4.1.1

In order to prevent diffusion of contaminated substance in the aquaculture site and in the surrounding area, paints containing heavy metals and hazardous chemical substance should not be used for aquaculture facilities, equipment and materials and work boats. The equipment and materials used for aquaculture should be properly supervised and repaired.

Indicator 4.1.2

The water resources in aquaculture site should be utilized in compliance with related laws and regulations. The quality of water including aquaculture site is maintained at the same level as that of sea area including aquaculture site and waste water treatment is properly implemented. Furthermore, countermeasures of fresh water salinization are taken.

Indicator 4.1.3

The aquaculture is conducted in adequate density. And deterioration of bottom composition (increase in sediment of organic substance and occurrence of oxygen-depleted water mass caused by decomposition of organic substance) and increase in pollution by organic substance are regularly monitored.

Indicator 4.1.4

In the aquaculture in closed area, waste disposal should be properly managed so as not to cause any important adverse impact on bottom composition environment.

Criterion 4.2

The feeding ingredients for the use of aquaculture should be treated taking it into consideration to minimize adverse impact on the natural resources so as not to prevent healthy growth of fish and shellfish in aquaculture.

(This criterion is applied to feeding aquaculture.)

Indicator 4.2.1

Feed, feed additives and their ingredients should be used in compliance with Act on the Assurance of Safety and Improvement of Quality of Feed (Act No. 35 of 1953) and other related laws and regulations. And they are utilized at each production unit and supervising management activities of their use utilization is properly recorded.

Indicator 4.2.2

Fish species should be identified with regard to the raw materials of fish meal and fish oil, and at least their country of origin should be traceable and marine products made originated from endangered species and from I.U.U. fisheries (Illegal, unregulated and unreported) are should not be not utilizedcontained.

Indicator 4.2.3

With regard to the raw materials of feed for aquaculture, it should be assured that live baits are not used directly, except in the case of necessity for healthy growth of fish species for aquaculture. And the protein resources contained in the feed should not be made originated from the same species and genus as aquatic organisms under aquaculture.

Indicator 4.2.4

With regard to the compound feed used at nursing stage of aquaculture, the compound feed that the use of fish meal and fish oil is reducedwith reduced fish meal and fish oil should be utilized so far as not to hinder healthy growth of aquaculture species.

Criterion 4.3

The seeds for the use of aquaculture should be taken care of to minimize adverse impact on the natural resources. (Note: This is applied to aquaculture of for aquatic animals.)

Indicator 4.3.1

With regard to species for aquaculture where technology of artificial seed production is established, such artificial seeds are preferentially utilizedintroduced.

Indicator 4.3.2

In the case of using introducing natural seeds, it should be assured that such seeds are captured in the manner legally and free from environmental load and that such capturing activity does not cause any adverse effect on stock status of surrounding ecosystem.

Indicator 4.3.3

The use of genetically engineered feed on which proper environmental assessment is not implemented should not be utilized as aquaculture seeds.

Criterion 4.4

Aquaculture should be conducted so as taking it into consideration to minimize adverse effect on the aquaculture site itself, habitat in the surrounding area environment and wildlife. (Note: This is applied to all the aquaculture species)

Indicator 4.4.1

Aquaculture should be conducted in compliance with the related laws and regulations regarding habitat and biodiversity, and the result of environmental assessment. And in the case where the area of vulnerability of habitat environment is identified, the stock in such area should be recovered.

Indicator 4.4.2

Hazardous organisms belonging to endangered species should be eliminated in non-lethal measures, except when the security of aquaculture workers and euthanasia of organisms concerned are prioritized.