



Aquaculture Certification Council (ACC)



The **Aquaculture Certification Council (ACC)** is a non-governmental organization that works with aquaculture facilities that produce farm raised seafood. They certify only those that apply best management practices to ensure social and environmental responsibility, food safety and traceability throughout the production chain.

Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) certification standards address environmental and social responsibility, animal welfare, food safety and traceability for hatcheries, shrimp farms, and processing plants. BAP standards define the most important elements of responsible aquaculture: the community and environment, food safety and traceability.

Community

- Compliance with government regulations regarding worker compensation, living conditions, worker safety, land and water use, construction and operation of hatcheries, farms and processing plants.

Environment

- Ecosystem conservation, waste and water discharge management
- Sustainability of natural resources

Food Safety and Quality Assurance

- HACCP plan for quality and process control
- Sanitation and contamination management programs

Traceability

- Detailed record keeping throughout the production process documenting antibiotic or drug use, type of feed used, shrimp species, source of the broodstock, harvest/processing dates, harvest/processing quantity, product form and product purchaser.

Benefits of ACC certification:

- Ensures food processed is pure and wholesome, safe to consume and produced under food safety laws and social and environmental standards of the European Union, United States and Canada.
- Protects workers to ensure a safe work environment, proper living conditions, and compliance with local labor laws.
- Requires processors to control and monitor the environmental impacts of hatcheries, farms and processing facilities on the natural ecosystem.

Participation in the ACC certification process is voluntary. Those seafood processors that take part in the program are committed to food safety and social and environmental responsibility.

For more information on the Aquaculture Certification Council (ACC) visit their website at
www.aquaculturecertification.org