

6th BioFish Forum

Organic Aquaculture defined in Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007

- ❖ ***Critical issues and options for future revision***
 - ❖ ***Possible impact on the industry***
- ❖ ***Sector involvement in the implementation
on national level***

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Critical issues and options for future revision (1)

- **Fishmeal as feedstuff** („are EU-quota sustainable enough?“ ...)
- **Feedstuff for different species** („North versus South“)
- **Aeration/oxygenation** („daily exceptions“)
- **Organic hatcheries** („looking for solutions“)
- **Mangrove protection** („how about the fathers' sins?“)

Critical issues and options for future revision (2)

- **Shrimp densities** („area-based versus feed-based“)
- **Finfish densities** („economy versus animal welfare“)
- **Recirculation units** („a future option?“)

To what extent do organic aquaculture standards reflect the state of discussion about sustainable aquaculture models, instead of being just another seafood label?

Possible impact on the industry (1)

- It has been assumed that a common regulation would **improve marketing conditions** for organic aquaculture products.
- It is not known, however, **if major seafood retailers have committed themselves** to develop the organic lines more intensively, as soon as the new EU Regulation is published.
- At the moment, the limiting factor for organic aquaculture is – at least for big players – **a supply**.

Possible impact on the industry (2)

- Main cost factors and bottlenecks (organic vegetable feed component, certification duties) for converting aquaculture enterprises to organic **are maintained**, compared to private/national standards.
- This indicates that a dramatic increase is unlikely **because of** the new EU Regulation.
- Organic aquaculture management and certification remains a technically **complex task**, particularly in Southern countries.

Sector involvement in the implementation on national level (1)

- **Industry/Market:** trying to understand and cope with formal requirements of EU Regulation
- **Organic associations and national/private certification programs:**
 - benchmarking their own standards
 - some (French AB) are not operating their own standards, but in parts, serving the transition period until 2013

Sector involvement in the implementation on national level (2)

- **EU-accredited certification/inspection bodies:**
 - already operating in most national/private standard contexts
 - if new bodies enter this area of activity, it will depend on capacities and „critical masses“ (high training and skill requirements for inspectors and certifiers)
- **Governmental institutions:**
 - establishing structures and procedures
 - making R&D funds available

Sector involvement in the implementation on national level (3)

- **Environmental NGOs and Scientific Bodies:**
 - consumer seafood guides addressing organic aquaculture (e.g. WWF and Greenpeace)
 - Seafood Conferences etc. with organic aquaculture on the agenda
 - e.g. in Germany different studies on economical aspects of organic aquaculture, organic seafood market, development of organic feed for novel species