

Animal Welfare and Product Quality in Organic Aquaculture

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Abstract

During the past century, in the 1990s, following what happened in other agriculture and stockbreeding sectors, the organic aquaculture sector began to develop in different countries across Europe and America.

In Spain, the work on this sector began in 1996 with the training of a large multidisciplinary team, with the involvement of experts from all disciplines, representing eight different research groups. In 2001, the first organic products went on sale, certified by CAAE (Comité Andaluz de Agricultura Ecológica, Andalusian Committee in Organic Aquaculture). Currently, there are four standards in organic aquaculture that are being followed (in chronological order): the CAAE (Andalusian Government standard), which affects continental aquaculture; an AENOR standard, with a national extension that only affects trout; the Andalusian government standard for organic aquaculture in sea fish; and the standard of the Navarra Government (CPAEN), for organic aquaculture cultivation of sturgeon and trout.

In other countries, there are other standards operating at different levels: private, regional, and/or national, which affect different groups of species. Every standard has its own concrete characteristics and pays more attention to one parameters than others pay.

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