



Aquaculture Certification Council

Website: <http://www.aquaculturecertification.org/>

Based in: United States **Type:** Standard Setting Body; NGO/Nonprofit

Certification process: Those who wish to be certified fill out an application and are inspected by independent evaluators. The inspection report is returned to ACC, and if the applicants comply with ACC standards, they are granted certification.

From the Aquaculture Certification Council website: “Aquaculture Certification Council, Inc. is a nongovernmental body established to certify social, environmental and food safety standards at aquaculture facilities throughout the world. This nonprofit, nonmember public benefit corporation applies the Global Aquaculture Alliance Best Aquaculture Practices standards in a certification system that combines site inspections and effluent sampling with sanitary controls, therapeutic controls and traceability.”

What they certify:

- Shrimp Farms Tilapia Farms Processing Facilities for
- Shrimp Hatcheries Channel Catfish Farms Species Mentioned

Certifying aquaculture products since: 2003

Note: *This section is based on “Shrimp Farm Standards” only*

Water quality and effluent standards are impressive, but feed and energy efficiency standards are sparse and nonexistent, respectively. Nearby communities are well protected by these standards, but the same protections for animal welfare are not apparent. Lastly, **ACC’s disease** management standards are somewhat low, as are their standards for protecting surrounding ecosystems.

Therapeutants: banned substances shall not be used; allowed therapeutants shall only be used according to instructions (never prophylactically)

- **Water Quality:** specified thresholds for effluent quality variables; calculations for determining quality provided
- **Feed:** FCRs should be minimized with a goal of 1.5 in mind
- **Hormones & Growth Stimulants:** banned substances shall not be used

- **Stocking Density:** no information provided

Miscellaneous information: ACC has separate standards for each species and type of operation it certifies. ACC does not currently certify more popular species like salmon.