

For immediate release

Tilapia farm in Honduras first to be compliant with Aquaculture Dialogue Standards

Weinfelden (CH) – October 22, 2010. [Regal Springs Tilapia farm Aquafinca](#) in Honduras was the first aquaculture operation to be audited by the Institute for Marketecology (IMO) for compliance with the International Standards for Responsible Tilapia Aquaculture (ISRTA), which were completed last December by the Tilapia Aquaculture Dialogue.

This was the first of a number of ‘pilot’ audits scheduled under an agreement between WWF and GLOBALG.A.P. The audit was performed in the week of September 20, 2010, by auditors from the [Institute for Marketecology \(IMO\)](#), a world-wide operating certification organisation based in Switzerland that has been accredited for auditing against the GLOBALG.A.P aquaculture standards, as well as complying with the requirements for Certification Bodies (CBs) that want to audit against the ISRTA.

Letter of compliance

The positive outcome of this first audit results in an interim letter of compliance with the ISRTA standards, which is issued today to Regal Springs by IMO.

“IMO has a very strong department of experts in the field of aquaculture and it was a logical and important step to proceed with these new environmental and social standards. We are pleased to announce that the audits carried out at Aquafinca, Regal Springs Tilapia, Honduras were successful and the letter of compliance could be issued by IMO” says Dr Peter Schaumberger, the new Chief Executive of IMO.

Mike Picchiatti, President/Director of Sales of Regal Springs adds: “As a member of the Global Steering Committee of the Tilapia Aquaculture Dialogue, I am very pleased that we have completed this first pilot audit with a positive result. We are planning for additional audits at other locations in the coming months.”

Jose Villalon, Aquaculture Programme Director of World Wildlife Fund which initiated and coordinated the [Aquaculture Dialogues](#): “We are delighted that after many years of hard work by so many people involved in the process, the first tilapia farm has now been audited and was found compliant with the Aquaculture Dialogue standards, and congratulate Regal Springs, who have been highly involved in the Tilapia Aquaculture Dialogue, with this great result.”

Pre-ASC assessment – GLOBALG.A.P/WWF agreement

This is the first audit that took place under the agreement between WWF and GLOBALG.A.P in order to allow aquaculture operations to be audited against the standards developed by the Aquaculture Dialogues in the period before the [Aquaculture Stewardship Council \(ASC\)](#) has fully set up their verification scheme. The Aquaculture Dialogue standards are added on, in their entirety, to the GLOBALG.A.P standards. In the past months, WWF and GLOBALG.A.P organised several training sessions for GLOBALG.A.P accredited CBs

interested in also auditing farms against the ISRTA standards. Under the WWF/GLOBALG.A.P agreement, auditors from CBs accredited by GLOBALG.A.P who have followed this training as well as SA8000 training can perform the combined audits.

The ASC verification scheme

On September 15, the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) announced their appointment of Accreditation Services International (ASI) as their international, independent accreditation body. Only ASI accredited CBs will be allowed to issue ASC certificates to operations that are in compliance with the standards, and the certificate will allow them to use the ASC consumer-facing label which is expected to be launched by mid-2011. Successful audits of producers compliant with the ISRTA standards carried out under this interim WWF/GLOBALG.A.P agreement will not result in a consumer-facing label – it is a B2B initiative.

Philip Smith, CEO of the ASC: “The ASC congratulates Regal Springs as the first tilapia farmer complying with the International Standards for Responsible Tilapia Aquaculture. This is a good opportunity for the ASC to use the experience gathered in this and future audits of tilapia farms to be done by GLOBALG.A.P accredited CBs in the further development of the ASC accreditation and verification scheme. Once the ASC accreditation and certification scheme is in place, consideration will be given to ASC certification of this Regal Springs farm.”

Institute for Marketecology (IMO)

The Institute for Marketecology (IMO), Switzerland is one of the first and most experienced international bodies for the inspection, certification and quality assurance of sustainably produced products. IMO has been active in the field of organic and sustainable certification world-wide for more than 20 years. The lead office of the IMOgroup AG is set in Weinfelden and has 9 full fledged international companies and more than 20 smaller offices, mainly in the developing countries. The IMOgroup AG employs more than 350 experts worldwide for the certification of operations in more than 90 countries. IMO is a pioneer in the certification of aquaculture and fisheries operations: Since many years it offers inspection and certification according to important standards for the entire supply chain world-wide and has developed specific control systems.

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General information on

- Regal Springs Tilapia: www.regalsprings.com
- ASC: www.ascworldwide.org
- GLOBALG.A.P: www.globalgap.org
- IMO: www.imo.ch