

Canadian Organic Aquatic Producers Association

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François Guimont
President
Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
59 Camelot Drive
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December 23, 2005
via fax (613) 228-6608

Dear Sir

I am writing you as the chair of the Pacific Organic Seafood Association and as a director of the recently formed Canadian Organic Aquatic Producers Association.

In January of 2005, the Organic Task Force (OTF) met with BC organic seafood producers and informed the meeting that the federal government was in the process of developing organic regulations for Canada and that products produced by aquatic producers would not be included until such time as an agreed-upon national aquaculture standard is developed.

At the January meeting the OTF informed us that if we planned to be involved the National regulation that we would have to bring the Canadian producers together and present a united front to the CFIA.

During the period from January 2005 to December 2005, we were in contact with provincial representatives from both industry and government. This consultation process culminated in a national meeting held in Vancouver on December 6 and 7, 2005. At this meeting there was broad representation from across the country, including all of the major producers in Canada currently employing organic standards for aquatic production, representation from both of the current bodies in Canada which have organic standards for aquatic producers and interested parties from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia. This broad based coalition, representing most of the current organic aquatic producers in Canada, agreed to join together under the umbrella of Canadian Organic Aquatic Producers Association (COAP). Further, the COAP agreed to adopt a set of standards (attached), which incorporated the key elements of the Quebec organic standards and the Pacific Organic Seafood Association standards.

Our group has followed the wishes of the OTF – to bring Canadian producers together with a uniform set of standards. This has now been done and we would like aquaculture to be included in the new Canadian regulation.

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Directors

Pierre Dube
Quebec City PQ

Spencer Evans
Tofino, BC

Peter Darnell
Mahone Bay, NS

Michael Szemerda
St. George, NB

Brad Hicks
Langley, BC

The members of the COAP currently produce approximately \$13,000,000 worth of organic product and most of this product is exported. It is our understanding that without inclusion in the National regulation that trade of organic products of aquatic origin may not be allowed into our key markets. Therefore we are making a formal request to be included in the regulation

Please let me know what additional information you will need so that aquatic production can be included in the National regulation.

Most Sincerely,
Canadian Organic Aquatic Producers Association

Brad Hicks
Director
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cc COAP directors

Attachments

- 1) List of Invitees and Attendees to the National Workshop
- 2) COAP - Organic Aquatic Production Standards