

# Terms of Reference (ToR) for the BIM Certified Quality Aquaculture (CQA) Oversight Committee

August 2017

## To achieve and maintain GSSI Recognition

This revision and review of the BIM Certified Quality Aquaculture (CQA) Standards is restricted in its scope to address some improvement of grammar, removal of repetition and improve specificity of some clauses to address and to better facilitate the ability to meet benchmarking standards such as the Global Seafood Sustainability Initiative (GSSI). It is expected that the Standard will be made more explicit in areas relating to biosecurity and Chain of Custody. The revision period will span between August 2017 and May 2018.

The new 1.1 Versions (Farm and Processing Standards) will be in consultation phase until April 2018. The current CQA V1 Standards remain relevant until formal notification and transition periods have been announced.

The scope of the proposed V1.1 CQA Standards will remain unchanged and the geographic application (Ireland) will remain unchanged.

## **CQA OC Terms of Reference**

1. Oversee the Standard Development processes underlying the Certified Quality Aquaculture Scheme to Achieve *Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI)* Recognition.
2. Oversee the drafting of all standards by the CQA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) based on BIM's larger view and strategy.
3. Recommend adjustments in the standards development process and oversee overarching goals for consideration by the TAC.
4. Review, Vote and Approve for draft standards from the TAC.
5. Advise on the recruitment or replacement of new TAC members.
6. Maintain communications with and brief the BIM CEO and Board of Directors regarding key CQA Standard and Scheme updates.

## **Standard Development Process and CQA OC Key Tasks**

- a. The CQA Oversight Committee oversees standard changes from the TAC.
- b. The CQA Programme Lead coordinates with the Oversight Committee Chairperson to call upon the TAC for setting, reviewing, revising and assessing standards.
- c. The TAC meets and carries out standard development work prior to returning a revised committee draft to the Oversight Committee for initial review.

- d. Following this initial review, the CQA Programme Lead formalises the draft Standard/s and releases the document for a 60 day Public Comment and Review period.
- e. The comments and input received are considered and addressed by the TAC based on their Terms of Reference and applicability to wider standard development objectives and remit.
- f. The TAC revises the standard/s draft and completes final draft.
- g. The final Standard draft is forwarded to the Oversight Committee for review, comment, voting and acceptance. At least 75% of the Oversight Committee must vote to confirm acceptance.
- h. If changes or revisions are needed the Oversight Committee can revert back to the TAC for another round of revision and step (g) is repeated again.
- i. Standard is approved by the Oversight Committee and the changes are communicated to the BIM CEO and BIM Board.
- j. The CQA Oversight Committee forwards the Standard/s to CQA Program Lead for implementation.
- k. The Standard is submitted to the Accreditation Boards and Certification Bodies for adaptation and implementation.
- l. The Certification body notifies all the certified parties of the changes in standard's requirements and that they are given 1 year to become compliant with the most current standard requirements.