



**AQUACULTURE CERTIFICATION COUNCIL, INC.**

Certifying Best Practices for Responsible Aquaculture

[aquaculturecertification.org](http://aquaculturecertification.org)

# The Old(?) Purchasing Paradigm

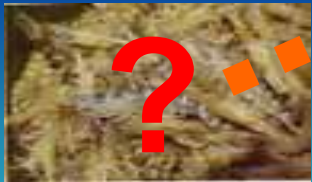
Bacterial Contamination ?

Verification?

Environmental Issues?

Antibiotic Residues?

Social Issues?



Inspections at Plant Level or QC testing at the Buyer's Facilities



# Issues Affecting Seafood Commerce

- Environmental
- Social
- Food Safety
- Traceability
- **And...**anti dumping, low prices, over supply, recessional economies, the chaos of zero tolerance...



# Uniform and Transparent Standards

- Developed by GAA
- Practical
- Widely reviewed
- Publicly available



# The ACC Program...

Certifies a Process

**Not the Product!!**

**First Phase, reassure the Buyer...**

**Second Phase, retail level awareness...**



# THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

- The vehicle
- Aquaculture Certification Council Inc.
  - Not for profit
  - Non-member Public Benefit Corporation...NGO
  - Tax deductible status
- ACC separate from GAA...



# Components of the Certification Program

- Uniform and Transparent Quantitative Standards
- Third Party Facility Inspections
- Ongoing Lab Verification
- On line Traceability



# ACC Addresses environmental issues

Mangrove Conservation

Effluent Management

Proper Sedimentation

Conservation of Agricultural lands

Fuel Storage Requirements

Mangrove Reforestation

Using only Post larva from Laboratories





# Facility Inspection

- Third party ACC accredited INDEPENDENT inspectors
- ACC Program will encompass the whole Chain of Production
  - Begin with
    - Farms
    - Processing plants
  - Later add:
    - Feed mills
    - Hatcheries



# ACC Accredited Certifiers



The first class of Certifiers  
Guayaquil, Ecuador



The Certifiers graduation in  
Bangladesh

**36 Highly Qualified ACC Accredited  
Third Party inspectors**

**Classes scheduled for Brazil, Mexico and Malaysia in 2004**



**Several different  
logo formats.**

**Blue star  
indicates plant.**



**Farm, hatchery, feed mill is checked in red.**



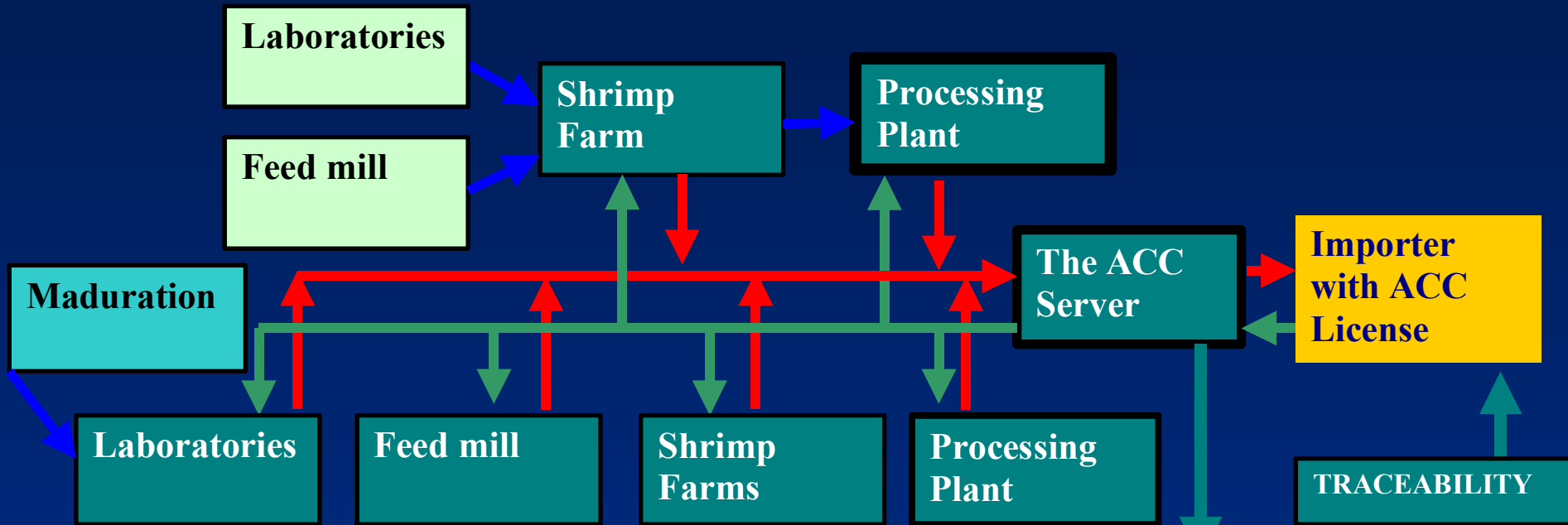
# On-Line Traceability

- Internet based database
- Records on all certified facilities
- Every lot traceable
  - Beginning with processing plant and farm
  - Later add feed and hatchery
- Historical record of product analysis
- Authorization levels for data access



# ACC Traceability...Flow of Information

First phase will record data from the farm and processing plant



Second phase: includes the feed mill and laboratory

ACC Web site records the status of ACC Certified facilities

Verification

The Buyer

# Traceability Data

## FIRST PHASE

Name of Farm  
Species  
Identification of Pond Lots  
Date of Harvest  
Name of the Processing Plant  
Identification of the lots in Planta  
Date Shipped  
Name of the Buyer

## SECOND PHASE

Name of the Laboratory  
Source of Nauplii  
Antibiotics or Chemicals utilize  
Name of the Feed Source  
Feed Lote number of Feed used  
Name of the Shipping Company



# Ongoing Lab Verification

- **Sample collection by third party**
- **Analysis by local analytical lab**
  - Antibiotic residues
  - Salmonella
- **Direct reporting into traceability database**
- **Declining frequency of sampling if no positives**
- **Backup by international reference labs**





# ACC working with Government Quality Control Programs.

ACC working with  
Bangladesh's Shrimp Seal  
of Quality Program.

ACC has been approached  
to work on similar  
programs in Brazil,  
Ecuador and S.E. Asia

Packing Plants will be  
ACC Certified





# What is the Cost of the ACC Program?

**Registration Fee:** \$500

**Buyers License Fee:** \$.025 per kilo of processed shrimp.

**Processing Plants:** A one time Fee and a Yearly Recertification Fee.

\$2/MT of processed product with a minimum of \$2000 and a Maximum of \$12,000. For Example, 3 million pounds of finished product would generate a one time fee of \$2,724.

Recertification fee every year ...\$1,000.

**Shrimp Farms:** A one time Fee and a Recertification Fee every 2 yrs.

\$1/MT of harvested shrimp in a year with a minimum of \$500 and a Maximum of \$6,000. For example, 2 million pounds of shrimp would generate a one time fee of \$908.

Recertification would be every two years and cost \$500.

**Feed mills:** A one time Fee and a Yearly Recertification Fee.

\$1000 for the first 2000 MT and \$ 0.50 per MT thereafter for a Maximum of \$12,000

Recertification fee every year \$500.

**Hatcheries:** a Yearly Fee of \$500.



# Conclusions

- **Practical Quantitative Standards that meet Social and Environmental expectations of the Consumer.**
- **Satisfies FDA Food safety and bioterrorism requirements .**
- **Offers traceability and on going analytical verification**
- **Economically viable for large and small facilities.**
- **Third Party Independent Inspections**
- **On-going Analytical Verification**
- **Public Relations and Marketing Advantages**
- **May help reduce container detentions in the US market**
- **Broad support from the Buyers**

