

Criteria: Farm Group Approval

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Replaces Version from: —

Applicability: Farm Group Approval

The Selva Shrimp program encompasses aquaculture of native Penaeid shrimp (*Penaeus* spp) in natural, zero-input silvofishery farming systems in mangrove areas of Southeast Asia. The program and its criteria are subject to an independent, third-party verification and approval process.

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Naturally Grown in Mangrove Forests!



G.1. Scope of Farm Group Approval Indicator

G.1.1	Shrimp farms eligible for group approval must follow the production practices and use the systems defined in the Selva Shrimp Farm Criteria
G.1.2	Group members must be in the same geographic proximity and shall have identical production systems (zero-input silvofishery systems)
G.1.3	Group members and/or their affiliated organization must have adequate capacities and capabilities to support an effective internal control system that ensures compliance of individual members with the Selva Shrimp Farm Criteria in an objective and transparent manner

G.2. Requirements for Farm Group Approval Criteria

G.2.1	The unit of approval shall be the farm group as a whole
G.2.2	The farm group defines the management body for group approval, which acts as the client for approval by the external verification body
G.2.3	An effective internal control system (ICS) must be in place
G.2.4	The ICS must include a documented management structure for all relevant processes of internal control
G.2.5	The ICS must include documented biennial internal inspections of all group members for compliance with the Selva Shrimp Farm Criteria
G.2.6	A risk assessment has been carried out, the aim of which is to identify possible threats with regards to any part of the Selva Shrimp Criteria. There are procedures in place that address the identified risks and measures to mitigate them.
G.2.7	The management body of the group must obtain signed commitments and confirmation of compliance from all group members to comply with the Selva Shrimp Farm Criteria and to allow for inspections as defined by the ICS
G.2.8	The management body of the group must ensure that all group members have access to the relevant criteria for approval – these shall be adapted to the local language and understandable to the farmers
G.2.9.	New group members are included in the group only after having gone through the procedures defined by the ICS and after having passed both an internal and an external inspection
G.2.10	There is a mechanism in place to exclude non-compliant members from the group and there is a database that identifies members as either compliant or non-compliant

G.2. Requirements for Farm Group Approval Criteria

G.2.11	<p>The management body of the farm group must establish and implement the following requirements for farmer group approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The ICS must be implemented and managed by competent personnel — There must be a complete set of documentation for group approval, including at least the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of the ICS • Organizational chart including the background and responsibilities of each member of the management body • Maps describing the facilities of each member's farm and indicating the position of the farm within the group area • Complete list of all group members • Signed member agreements • Farming records (at least stocking, harvest and any other relevant action if applicable) • Harvest and trade records including yield estimates • Inspection reports
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G.3. External Verification and Approval Process Criteria

G.3.1	The external approval body shall require the management body of the group to sign a written contract specifying the responsibilities of the farm group and the ICS
G.3.2	An external inspection of the ICS and individual group members shall be carried out biennially
G.3.3	The external inspection shall be carried out in the presence of at least one member of the management group and one ICS inspector
G.3.4	<p>During the verification process, the external approval body shall determine whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All internal control procedures are in place, well documented and effective • Internal inspections of all group members have been carried out properly and have taken place at every second year • Adequate records of inspections have been maintained by the internal control system • New members have passed accordant procedures before having been included in the group • Instances of non-compliance have been dealt with appropriately and according to a documented penalty system • All group members understand the criteria
G.3.5	The external verification process includes an adequate number of re-inspections of group members in order to evaluate correct application and effectiveness of the internal inspection and control system

G.4. Responsibilities and Penalties

G.4.1	The group as a whole (as the approval holding body) is responsible for compliance with all relevant Selva Shrimp Program criteria, including an effective penalty system
	For cases in which non-compliance and penalties are not properly addressed by the ICS, the group shall be penalized as a whole and approval for Selva Shrimp shall be revoked.

