

Seedling Certification for Sustainable Aquaculture

Seedling Council for Sustainable Aquaculture

(SCSA Certification)

Principles and Standards Ver. 1.0

Seedling Council for Sustainable Aquaculture

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I Principles and standards for hatchling producers and aquaculture producers

1. Hatchlings

Definition of artificial hatchlings

For the purposes of this certification, artificial hatchlings are defined as hatchlings hatched from fertilized eggs harvested from farmed or natural parent fish (including both naturally spawned eggs and artificially inseminated eggs).

1.1 Provisions related to hatchling producers

1.1.1 Producers shall prove that their hatchlings are artificial hatchlings.

1.1.1.1 To prove that their hatchlings are artificial hatchlings, producers shall record information such as the following: facility where raised, address, egg harvesting and insemination methods, information used to identify parent fish on an individual or group basis, annual production of parent fish, dates of insemination and hatching, feed regime, medication administered, and total weight or provisional count.

1.1.1.2 In the event that hatchling producers purchase fertilized eggs, they shall add the entity from which the purchase was made and the date of purchase. Further, they shall request that the entity provide the information listed above, and keep records of the same.

1.1.1.3 Hatchling producers shall take steps to ensure that they can provide these records to document artificial hatchling production when hatchlings are shipped.

1.1.2 It is recommended that hatchling producers maintain an environment that allows DNA testing using the following method in order to prove that their hatchlings are artificial hatchlings. The certification organization shall perform DNA testing of parent fish and hatchlings as necessary, including to verify the parent/child relationship.

1.1.2.1 In the event that fertilized eggs are obtained by parent fish owned by a hatchling producer, the producer shall freeze and store a tissue sample such as a fin from all parent fish used in hatchling production (sample weight: at least 1 g).

1.1.2.2 In the event that a hatchling producer purchases fertilized eggs or finds it difficult to acquire tissue samples for parent fish, the producer shall freeze and store at least 50 of the hatchlings in their entirety or tissue samples from the same (sample weight: at least 1 g).

1.1.2.3 Hatchling producers shall record identifying information for stored tissue samples or fish.

1.1.2.4 Hatchling producers shall ensure that each tissue sample or fish is associated with the recorded identifying information prior to storing them in the frozen state.

1.1.2.5 Hatchling producers shall store tissue samples or fish for a period of X years from the date the farmed fish are sold as a final product. During this period of time, producers shall submit identifying records and frozen samples to the certification organization upon request.

1.2 Provisions related to aquaculture businesses (including aquaculture businesses involved in intermediate farming)

1.2.1 Aquaculture businesses shall retain production records provided by the entities from which they purchase artificial hatchlings. They shall link those records to groups of fish being farmed, and they shall disclose and provide that information upon request.

1.2.2 Aquaculture businesses shall carry out DNA testing as necessary to prove that farmed fish were farmed from certified artificial hatchlings. In doing so, aquaculture businesses shall be responsible for submitting frozen samples of utilized hatchlings or farmed fish in response to requests from certifying organizations.

2. Management of farming operations

2.1 Identifying and classification

2.1.1 Artificial hatchling producers

2.1.1.1 Artificial hatching producers shall manage hatchlings by production lot while ensuring that lots can be distinguished based on associated management records.

2.1.1.2 Artificial hatching producers shall manage hatchlings such that they can be clearly differentiated from hatchlings produced by other hatchling producers, and they shall ensure that managers can obtain that information at all times. In addition, producers shall not ship shipments of hatchlings mixed with hatchlings produced by other hatchling producers.

2.1.1.3 Artificial hatchling producers shall ensure that the following information has been clearly defined by shipment and sales slips and records: the artificial hatchling producer's name, the artificial hatchling producer's certification number, the shipment date, and the species and quantity of hatchling shipped.

2.1.2 Fish farms

2.1.2.1 Fish farms shall manage the number of farmed fish by production lot, and they shall be able to prove that no other hatchlings are mixed in with their own hatchlings based on those management records.

2.1.2.2 Fish farms shall clearly differentiate each lot from other production lots at the time of shipment, and they shall ensure that managers can obtain that information at all times.

2.1.2.3 Fish farms shall ensure that the following information has been clearly defined by shipment and sales slips and records: the artificial hatchling producer's name, the artificial hatchling producer's certification number, the name of the shipper and seller, the shipment date, and the species and quantity of fish shipped.

2.2 Traceability and quantity management

2.2.1 Artificial hatchling producers

2.2.1.1 Artificial hatchling producers shall keep accurate farming records, movement records, and a provisional count after obtaining fry (fish that have hatched from eggs).

2.2.1.2 Artificial hatchling producers shall clearly differentiate each preserve or tank when farming hatchlings. They shall retain reliable records extending from hatching to hatchling shipment, and they shall ensure the traceability of production records.

2.2.1.3 Artificial hatchling producers shall take steps to ensure that shipped quantities can be clearly stated (in terms of numbers or weight) and to ensure that farming records and movement records can be checked in order to prove that hatchlings were managed properly.

2.2.1.4 Artificial hatchling producers shall continuously inspect the state of health of fish during farming. In addition to collecting diseased or dead fish as appropriate, they shall record information such as the number of fish collected and the cause of death. In addition, producers shall dispose of collected diseased and dead fish in an appropriate manner.

2.2.1.5 When correcting records, artificial hatchling producers shall document the revision process by keeping clear records of the date of each correction, the name of the individual making the correction, and the specific nature of any changes made.

2.2.2 Fish farms

2.2.2.1 Fish farms shall compile and retain farming records for certified artificial hatchlings by preserve and tank, starting with the purchase of hatchlings to shipment, and they shall ensure that records can be traced back to the time of receipt of the artificial hatchlings.

2.2.2.2 Fish farms shall continuously inspect the state of health of fish during farming. In addition to collecting diseased or dead fish as appropriate, they shall record information such as the number of fish collected and the cause of death. In addition, producers shall dispose of collected diseased and dead fish in an appropriate manner.

2.2.2.3 Fish farms shall keep accurate farming records and movement records after their receipt of certified artificial hatchlings to establish that there has been no increase in the recorded number of hatchlings over the shipment quantity indicated by the artificial hatchling verifier. Any discrepancy in terms of actual numbers or estimates based on weight or partial counts shall not exceed an increase of 5% or 10%, respectively.

2.2.2.4 When correcting records, fish farms shall document the revision process by keeping clear records of the date of each correction, the name of the individual making the correction, and the specific nature of any changes made.

2.3 Use of aquaculture drugs

2.3.1 Artificial hatchling producers

2.3.1.1 Artificial hatchling producers shall refer to “Use of Aquaculture Drugs” as published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and ensure that all aquaculture drugs are used appropriately in accordance with the Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products Including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices.

2.3.1.2 In addition to keeping records about the purchase of drugs, artificial hatchling producers shall retain purchase slips and, if available, any records of quality inspection results.

2.3.1.3 Artificial hatchling producers shall manage their use of drugs appropriately and in accordance with any included documents and instructions so as to prevent pollution, deterioration, and harm caused by animals that pose a health risk.

2.3.1.4 Artificial hatchling producers shall use drugs appropriately and in accordance with usage standards, and they shall record and retain information such as the date of use, preserve of use, and quantity of use.

2.3.1.5 Concerning the use of aquaculture vaccines, artificial hatchling producers shall purchase the necessary quantity after providing the aquaculture vaccine usage instructions issued by the fisheries experiment station or other facility to the dealer from which they are

purchasing the vaccine. In addition to keeping records about the purchase of vaccines, they shall retain purchase slips, aquaculture vaccine usage instructions, and, if available, any records of quality inspection results.

2.3.1.6 Artificial hatchling producers shall dispose of any expired drugs in an appropriate manner.

2.3.1.7 Artificial hatchling producers shall avoid unnecessary use of antibiotics, to include preventive use.

2.3.2 Fish farms

2.3.2.1 Fish farms shall refer to “Use of Aquaculture Drugs” as published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and ensure that all aquaculture drugs are used appropriately in accordance with the Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products Including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices.

2.3.2.2 In addition to keeping records about the purchase of drugs, fish farms shall retain purchase slips and, if available, any records of quality inspection results.

2.3.2.3 Fish farms shall manage their use of drugs appropriately and in accordance with any included documents and instructions so as to prevent pollution, deterioration, and harm caused by animals that pose a health risk.

2.3.2.4 Fish farms shall use drugs appropriately and in accordance with usage standards, and they shall record and retain information such as the date of use, preserve of use, quantity of use, and the end date.

2.3.2.5 Concerning the use of aquaculture vaccines, fish farms shall purchase the necessary quantity after providing the aquaculture vaccine usage instructions issued by the fisheries experiment station or other facility to the dealer from which they are purchasing the vaccine. In addition to keeping records about the purchase of vaccines, they shall retain purchase slips, aquaculture vaccine usage instructions, and, if available, any records of quality inspection results.

2.3.2.6 Fish farms shall dispose of any expired drugs in an appropriate manner.

2.3.2.7 Fish farms shall avoid unnecessary use of antibiotics, to include preventive use.

2.4 Management of escape risk

2.4.1 Hatchling producers

2.4.1.1 Hatchling producers shall take such measures as are appropriate to prevent farmed fish from escaping and natural fish from getting into their facilities.

2.4.2 Fish farms

2.4.2.1 Fish farms shall take such measures as are appropriate to prevent farmed fish from escaping and natural fish from getting into their facilities, and they shall ensure that the percentage of managed fish in the same lot of unknown provenance does not exceed 30%. If

the percentage of fish of unknown provenance exceeds 30% three times in a row, the farm shall be denied certification. However, this provision shall not apply in the event the farm's operations are disrupted by a large-scale disaster such as a typhoon.

2.5 Fish welfare

2.5.1 Farmed fish shall be raised under conditions that are appropriate to their respective species.

2.5.2 Workers shall recognize their role and responsibility in maintaining the health and welfare of farmed fish, and they shall actively collect information related to the animals' health and welfare and apply it to farming practices.

3. Environmental considerations

3.1 Compliance with environmental laws and regulations

3.1.1 The locations of hatchling-producing facilities and fish farms shall be legally approved and appropriate for use in fish farming.

3.2 Records of environmental impact

3.2.1 Hatchling-producing facilities and fish farms shall give consideration to the importance of protecting the environment in surrounding waters, and they shall plan and implement environmental protection measures in accordance with domestic law (in Japan, the Act on Securing Sustainable Aquaculture Production), regulatory notices, and international law.

3.2.1.1 Hatchling-producing facilities shall regularly test the water quality of wastewater (four times per year) by measuring and recording data such as water temperature, dissolved oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorus, and organic matter (COD).

3.2.1.2 Fish farms shall regularly monitor and record data such as the number of fish being farmed, feed quantities, and conditions in the fishery (water temperature, dissolved oxygen, transparency, bottom AVS and COD, red tide prevalence, and presence of toxic plankton) (if inspected by a fishermen's cooperative or prefectural government, they shall use that data).

*Records for water quality tests and other measurement shall include a description of the measurement method and equipment used.

3.2.2 Use of aquaculture drugs and fishing net antifouling agents shall be in accordance with applicable laws, ordinances, and regulatory bulletins as described in the provisions of Section 3 of "2. Farm management," and such use shall be recorded. In addition, operators shall endeavor to minimize the impact of such use on the local environment.

3.2.3 Operators shall dispose of aquaculture equipment, dead fish, and other materials appropriately in accordance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulatory bulletins, and guidelines, and they shall retain administrative documentation of the same.

3.3 Implementation of measures to reduce environmental impacts

3.3.1 Hatchling-producing facilities and fish farms shall give sufficient consideration to the surrounding environment, including related facilities, and they shall take steps to minimize the impact of operations on wildlife.

3.3.2 Hatchling-producing facilities and fish farms shall take steps to minimize the impact of escaped farmed fish on the surrounding natural environment, biodiversity, and ecosystems.

4. Feed and live prey

Definitions

1. The term *feed* refers to formula feed consisting primarily of extruded pellets (EP), dry pellets (DP), mash, and other ingredients, and it is used in order to facilitate fish growth. The term *feed additive* refers to additional ingredients that are added to feed in order to prevent deterioration in quality, supply nutrients and other active ingredients, and promote effective use of the nutrients contained in the feed.
2. The term *live prey* refers to small fishes of good-catch that are used as-is as feed for fish after being caught with a round-haul net or other means, or to such fish that have been frozen for later use as feed.
3. The term *live feed organisms* refers to feed organisms that are used primarily during the initial farming stage for fish. In addition to being raised by individual fish farms for their own use, live feed organisms may be sold alive, refrigerated, frozen, or dried.

4.1 Compliance with laws and regulations

4.1.1 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall use feed and live prey that are distributed legitimately in Japan, and they shall comply with applicable domestic laws (Japanese law: Act on Safety Assurance and Quality Improvement of Feeds), ordinances, regulatory bulletins, and guidelines in doing so.

4.2 Feed traceability and transparency

4.2.1 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall retain documents including purchase records, location-of-production certificates, and quality certificates for feed and feed additives.

4.2.2 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall clearly define the species, date of harvest, fishing ground, and storage location for live prey, and they shall retain documents proving the same.

4.2.3 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall obtain proof from suppliers of live feed organisms establishing proper management during the process from location of production to delivery for live prey and additives as well as commercially sold live, refrigerated, frozen, and dried live prey used to grow live feed organisms.

4.3 Use and management of feed and live prey

4.3.1 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall take steps to protect locations where feed, feed additives, live prey, and commercially sold live feed organisms are stored from bird damage, and they shall store and manage the same in an appropriate manner prior to their use.

4.3.2 In growing live feed organisms for their own use, hatchling producers and fish farms shall manage that process appropriately in accordance with the provisions of this section, including for any nutrients and additives utilized. In the event they grow nutrients or other ingredients outdoors, they shall exercise care concerning airborne contaminants, and they shall refrain from using the same in the event that the area in question is subject to a continuous “shelter in place” period of 72 or more hours.

4.3.3 In addition to keeping records detailing product names and quantities of feed, live prey, feed additives, and chemicals and other substances used in each fish preserve or water tank, hatchling producers and fish farms shall ensure that they are able to provide those records at any time.

4.4 Streamlining and optimization of feed and live prey

4.4.1 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall work to improve feed and live prey efficiency and to improve, implement, and manage associated processes, for example by establishing numerical targets.

5. Food safety (catching, shipping, and processing)

5.1 Aquaculture facilities and the water environment

5.1.1 No facility shall engage in fish farming in a water environment that could adversely impact human health.

5.1.2 Aquaculture facilities shall verify that it is possible to manage sources of pollution in their locations.

5.1.3 Operators of aquaculture facilities and equipment shall manage their operations so as to minimize the contamination of aquaculture water with waste products as well as animal or human waste.

5.1.4 Operators of aquaculture facilities shall take steps to minimize contamination of those facilities and work areas by rodents, pests such as birds, and harmful insects.

5.1.5 Operators of aquaculture facilities shall offer regular education and training in hygienic management as it relates to their facilities and products, and they shall keep records of the same.

5.2 Handling of products

5.2.1 Operators of aquaculture facilities shall adopt appropriate management and other techniques to minimize physical injury and stress on fish during product harvesting and transport.

5.2.2 Operators of aquaculture facilities shall take steps to minimize product degradation and contamination.

5.2.3 Operators of aquaculture facilities shall review feed quality certificates to verify the location of production for raw materials as well as compliance with the standards outlined in the Act on Safety Assurance and Quality Improvement of Feeds. In addition, when harvesting fish that have been given pharmaceuticals, operators shall verify that the drug withdrawal period has ended and record that fact accordingly.

6. Safety, hygiene, and labor management

6.1 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall maintain a good labor environment.

6.1.1 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall maintain an appropriate level of safety and sanitation.

6.1.1.1 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall appoint a safety and hygiene administrator and provide a work environment and tools in a manner that takes into consideration worker safety and hygiene.

6.1.1.2 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall offer training in safety and hygiene to workers and keep associated records.

6.1.1.3 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall record information about health and safety conditions and phenomena, and they shall take corrective action to address issues as necessary.

6.1.1.4 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall record information about occupational accidents, and they shall take corrective action as necessary.

6.2 Prohibition of illegal labor

6.2.1 Prohibition of child labor

6.2.1.1 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall not employ child laborers. However, this category shall not include family members who help with a family business.

6.2.2 Prohibition of forced, compulsory, and slave labor

6.2.2.1 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall not withhold wages, property, or convenience from employees upon the completion of their employment.

6.2.2.2 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall not require employees to hand over their passport or license as identification at the start of their employment.

6.2.3 Compliance with domestic laws (Labor Standards Act, Industrial Safety and Health Act) and with the ILO treaty (Core Labor Standards)

6.3 Prohibition of discrimination and harassment in the workplace

6.3.1 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall not under any circumstances engage in differential treatment or grant differential status on the basis of characteristics such as sex, age, race, or ethnicity.

6.3.2 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall put in place a system to deal with harassment.

7. Socioeconomic factors

7.1 Management system

7.1.1 Hatching producers and fish farms shall put in place management system procedures that comply with the standards of this certification program.

7.1.2 Hatching producers and fish farms shall incorporate as a corporation. Otherwise, they shall join public organizations that perform management functions, for example fishery cooperatives and chambers of commerce.

7.1.3 This management system shall clearly define long-term goals, the purpose for which the management system was developed, and legal requirements with which the entity must comply. In addition, the management system shall include procedures for dealing with non-compliance.

7.1.4 Hatching producers and fish farms shall appoint an administrator to be responsible for coordinating with the certification organization, providing documents and information, complying with requirements, and dealing with areas where improvement is required. In addition, hatching producers and fish farms shall clearly define the roles and functions of personnel in each process as well as the location of decision-making authority and responsibility.

7.1.5 Hatching producers and fish farms shall put in place, and orchestrate the operation of, monitoring mechanisms to continuously confirm whether the management system is operating properly.

7.1.6 Hatching producers and fish farms shall confirm whether the system they have put in place is operating properly.

7.1.7 Hatching producers and fish farms shall conduct a periodic internal audit at least once a year to evaluate the efficacy of the established management system.

7.2 Social considerations

7.2.1 Hatching producers and fish farms shall put in place procedures to facilitate transparent deliberations to deal with complaints from the local community and other stakeholders and resolve the underlying issues.

7.2.2 Hatching producers and fish farms shall work to provide economic and social incentives to facilitate the development of sustainable aquaculture.

7.2.3 Hatching producers and fish farms shall respect the practices and legal rights of stakeholders.

7.2.4 Hatching producers and fish farms shall support and cooperate with the collection of information to improve resources and the fishery environment.

7.2.5 Hatching producers and fish farms shall comply with all domestic laws and ordinances.

II CoC certification

1. Management system

1.1 Management and training

1.1.1 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall put in place and document management system procedures that comply with applicable standards. This management system shall define the purpose for which a traceability management system is developed, legal requirements requiring compliance, and procedures for dealing with non-compliance.

1.1.2 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall appoint an administrator to be responsible for coordinating with the certification organization, providing documents and information, complying with requirements, and dealing with areas where improvement is required. In addition, hatchling producers and fish farms shall assign a manager for each process. In the event that there is a change in administrator, hatching producers and fish farms shall notify the certification organization of that change.

1.1.3 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall commit themselves to a traceability system.

1.1.4 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall formulate and implement an education and training plan so that they can reliably comply with these standards. They shall document the plan and retain records of its implementation.

1.1.5 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall put in place standards for evaluating the proficiency of personnel who impact traceability and evaluate them accordingly in order to ensure that the system operates in an appropriate manner. They shall document evaluation standards and retain records of evaluation results, which shall include action taken in the event that the evaluation reveals requirements are not being satisfied.

1.1.6 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall retain records for a period of three years after shipment. They shall clearly define the manner in which records are to be retained as well as the media used to store them. If these records are to be managed using a computer system, procedures shall include a description of the method used to back up associated data and measures to be taken in the event the system goes down.

1.1.7 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall not sell non-compliant products as certified artificial hatchlings, adult fish, processed products, or final products. If they discover that such products are being sold, they shall immediately cease selling them. In addition, they shall notify any customers who purchased certified products of the oversight within 48 hours. They shall also investigate the cause of the oversight immediately and report any measures undertaken to prevent a recurrence to the certification organization. They shall remove all labeling from non-compliant products to avoid erroneous use. They shall retain all records related to the incidence.

1.1.8 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall put in place procedures for dealing with complaints, and they shall deal with all complaints they receive appropriately in accordance with those procedures. They shall document associated procedures and retain records in the

event complaints are received.

1.2 Identification of the scope of certification

1.2.1 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall identify and document the scope of certification. The term *scope of certification* refers to facilities at which certified artificial hatchlings, adult fish, processed products, and final products are handled (including facilities operated by outside contractors), purchases and associated transaction structures, sold items and associated transaction structures, handled fish species, and position and role in the supply chain. They shall also define lots in which certified artificial hatchlings, adult fish, processed products, and final products are sold. Hatchling producers and fish farms shall sell only artificial hatchlings, adult fish, processed products, and final products included in the scope of certification as certified artificial hatchlings, adult fish, processed products, and final products.

1.2.2 In the event of any change in the scope of certification, hatchling producers and fish farms shall notify the certification organization in advance and complete the procedure for changing the scope of certification. Changes in the scope of certification shall be accomplished by means of a procedure that includes a site visit, document screening, and determination of document application confirmation level based on the extent of the impact on operations and associated risks. Hatchling producers and fish farms shall document the procedure for changing the scope of certification and retain records of all approved changes.

1.2.3 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall accede to all site investigations by the certification examination as part of the examination of the scope of certification.

1.3 Monitoring

1.3.1 Hatchling producers and fish farms put in place and implement monitoring mechanisms to continuously confirm whether the traceability system they have developed is functioning in an appropriate manner.

1.3.2 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall put in place indicators and methods to verify the efficacy of the system.

1.4 Reviews

1.4.1 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall verify the proper functioning of the monitoring mechanisms they put in place to confirm whether the traceability system is functioning in an appropriate manner. They shall conduct reviews at a regular interval at least once a year. They shall document and retain records of review procedures.

1.4.2 Reviews shall include confirmation of whether the monitoring system is functioning properly and a test to gauge whether traceability has been assured.

1.5 Internal audits

1.5.1 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall conduct internal audits at a predetermined interval at least once a year in order to evaluate the efficacy of the established traceability system. They shall document and retain records of the internal audit procedure.

2. Procurement management

2.1 Confirmation of the certification validity of suppliers

2.1.1 Hatchling producers and fish farms shall verify the validity of the artificial hatchling certification held by suppliers.

2.2 Fish farms

2.2.1 Fish farms shall document procedures for purchasing certified artificial hatchlings from businesses with hatchling producer certification.

2.2.2 Fish farms shall verify that the following information has been clearly defined by purchase slips and records: the name of the artificial hatchling producer, the artificial hatchling producer's certification number, the location of production of the artificial hatchlings being purchased, the number of hatchlings shipped, and the species and quantity of artificial hatchlings.

2.2.3 In the event that there is inventory of certified artificial hatchlings or adult fish at the time of initial certification, that inventory may be included in the certification and sold under the certification program under the following circumstances:

- The name of the artificial hatchling producer can be identified.
- Compliance of the artificial hatchling producer with the artificial hatchling certification is being managed.
- Associated processes have been managed in accordance with these standards, from the receipt of the artificial hatchlings up to the time of initial certification.
The fish farm shall document procedures to confirm compliance with these conditions and submit reviewed records during the initial investigation.

2.3 Processors, distributors, and retailers

2.3.1 Processors, distributors, and retailers shall document procedures for purchasing certified artificial hatchlings, adult fish, processed products, and final products from certified artificial hatchling producers.

2.3.2 Processors, distributors, and retailers shall verify that the following information has been clearly defined by purchase slips and records: the name of the artificial hatchling producer, the artificial hatchling producer's certification number, the location of production of the artificial hatchlings being purchased, the date of purchase, the species of artificial hatchlings, the type of purchase, and the quantity.

2.3.3 In the event that there is inventory of certified hatchlings, adult fish, or processed products at the time of the initial certification investigation, that inventory may be managed under the following conditions and sold as certified product if the certification organization determines that doing so is appropriate:

- The name of the artificial hatchling producer can be identified.

- Compliance of the hatchling producer with the artificial hatchling traceability certification can be proven.

- Associated processes have been managed in accordance with these standards, from the receipt of the artificial hatchlings, adult fish, processed products, or final products up to the time of initial certification.

Processors, distributors, and retailers shall document procedures to confirm compliance with these conditions and submit reviewed records during the initial investigation.

3. Identification

3.1 Artificial hatchling producers

3.1.1 Artificial hatchling producers shall manage identifying information on a group-by-group basis when raising hatchlings, and management records shall be sufficient in order to make identifications.

3.1.2 Artificial hatchling producers shall manage operations such that hatchlings produced by other hatchling producers are clearly identified at the time of shipment, and managers shall maintain an understanding of that information at all times.

3.1.3 Artificial hatchling producers shall ensure that the following information has been clearly defined by purchase slips and records: the name of the artificial hatchling producer, the artificial hatchling producer's certification number, the shipment date, and the species and quantity of fish shipped.

3.2 Fish farms

3.2.1 Fish farms shall manage identifying information on a group-by-group basis when farming fish, and management records shall be sufficient in order to make identifications.

3.2.2 Fish farms shall manage operations such that fish can be clearly distinguished from other adult fish at the time of shipment, and managers shall maintain an understanding of that information at all times.

3.2.3 Fish farms shall ensure that the following information has been clearly defined by purchase slips and records: the name of the artificial hatchling producer, the artificial hatchling producer's certification number, the name of the shipping and sales company, the species, and quantity of fish shipped. For shipments other than of live fish, this information shall also be provided on the packing or packaging.

3.3 Processors, distributors, and retailers

3.3.1 Processors, distributors, and retailers shall clearly define certified ingredient and product lots at all stages of handling, including purchase, receiving, storage, processing, packaging, labeling, sale, and delivery, so that it is possible to distinguish among lots.

3.3.2 Processors, distributors, and retailers shall put in place and implement mechanisms to ensure that packaging, labeling, and other materials for identifying the contents as certified ingredients or products are used only with certified ingredients and products.

4. Classification

4.1 Artificial hatchling producers

4.1.1 Artificial hatchling producers shall manage identifying information on a group-by-group basis when raising hatchlings and make classifications accordingly.

4.1.2 Artificial hatchling producers shall not mix hatchlings with hatchlings from other producers in the same shipment.

4.2 Fish farms

4.2.1 Fish farms shall manage the number of fish being farmed when using artificial hatchlings from a certified artificial hatchling producer, and they shall ensure that they can prove that they have kept out hatchlings from other hatching producers.

4.2.2 Fish farms shall not mix adult fish raised using hatchlings from other producers in the same shipment.

4.3 Processors, distributors, and retailers

4.3.1 When selling certified artificial hatchlings or adult fish, processed products, or final products produced from them as certified artificial hatchlings, adult fish, ingredients, or processed products, processors, distributors, and retailers shall not replace them with hatchlings, adult fish, processed products, or final products produced from hatchlings from other hatchling producers.

4.3.2 When selling certified artificial hatchlings or adult fish, processed products, or final products produced from them as certified artificial hatchlings, adult fish, ingredients, or processed products, processors, distributors, and retailers shall not mix them with hatchlings, adult fish, processed products, or final products produced from hatchlings from other hatchling producers.

4.3.3 Mixture method standards and management methods for manufacturing products that involve mixing with other ingredients shall require that the contents be reviewed and approved by the artificial hatchling producer, and such mixtures shall only be approved when it is possible to disclose the contents.

5. Sales

5.1 Artificial hatchling producers

5.1.1 Artificial hatchling producers shall document procedures for selling certified artificial hatchlings as certified products.

5.1.2 Artificial hatchling producers shall ensure that the following information has been clearly defined by shipment and sales slips and records: the name of the artificial hatchling producer, the artificial hatchling producer's certification number, the artificial hatchling production history, the location at which the artificial hatchlings were produced, the shipment date, and the species and quantity of hatchlings shipped.

5.2 Fish farms

5.2.1 Fish farms shall ensure that the following information has been clearly defined by shipment and sales slips and records: the name of the artificial hatchling producer, the artificial hatchling producer's certification number, the name of the seller, the seller's certification number, the shipment date, and the quantity. They shall also affix farming history data.

5.3 Processors, distributors, and retailers

5.3.1 Processors, distributors, and retailers shall ensure that the following information has been clearly defined by shipment and sales slips and records: the name of the artificial hatchling producer, the artificial hatchling producer's certification number, the name of the seller, the seller's certification number, the shipment date, the species of fish, the product being sold, and the quantity. They shall also affix farming history data.

6. Labeling

6.1 Processors and distributors

6.1.1 Processors and distributors shall obtain labels from the Hatchling Council for Sustainable Aquaculture.

6.1.2 Processors and distributors shall provide a sufficient quantity of labels to retailers that handle certified products.

6.1.3 Processors and distributors shall confirm records from retailers detailing the number of labels used at least once a month to ascertain whether any unused labels remain.

6.2 Retailers

6.2.1 Retailers shall document procedures for ensuring that labels are used only on adult fish, processed products, and final products that use certified hatchlings. See separate labeling standards for detailed rules about the use of labels.

6.2.2 Retailers shall appoint a label administrator.

6.2.3 Retailers shall compile a record of label use and submit it upon request when processors and distributors review label use.