

## ASC Countdown!



### The wait is nearly over!

Control body accreditation for the ASC Chain of custody (COC) standard is on track to open in late January. IMO is aiming to achieve accreditation as soon as possible, and is already planning the first ASC audits. The first ASC certified Tilapia and Pangasius products are expected to reach the market during the second quarter of 2012. Bivalves and Abalone products will follow in late 2012.

### COC certification

The ASC Chain of Custody certification (COC) standard has now been finalized and approved by the ASC Supervisory Board and will be available soon from the MSC website. Contact IMO for the latest information, or to request a copy of the final documents when available.

### ASC Shrimp Standard

The final draft of the global Shrimp Aquaculture Dialogue standard version 3.0 was published just before Christmas. The standard is now undergoing field testing and is expected to be handed over the ASC in April at the European Seafood Exposition in Brussels. The draft standard can be downloaded from WWF's Aquaculture Dialogues website or requested from IMO.



### Group certification

ASC has prepared a first draft document for group certification, based on best practices derived from existing certification systems. The draft will now be reviewed by ASC's expert group and will then be made available for public consultation. It is hoped that group certification will be up and running in 2012.

### ASC Ecolabel

The ASC ecolabel logo design has been approved and will be launched by the end of January. The ecolabel will be able to be used on all ASC certified products to let your customers know that the products come from certified aquaculture production. There will be a range of different ecolabel formats and languages available. A short text, the ASC claim, will also appear on product packaging to explain the meaning of the ecolabel. An ecolabel license will be required to use the label and labeling fees will apply. More information about licensing and use of the ecolabel will be available once the ecolabel is released.

### Meet the IMO Aquaculture department

IMO aquaculture experts will be present at the following events in the first half of 2012:

- **2012/02/15.-18. BioFach in Nuremberg (Germany)**
- **2012/03/11.-13. International Boston Seafood Show in Boston (USA)**
- **2012/04/24.-26. European Seafood Exposition (ESE) in Brussels (Belgium)**

We would be happy to meet you and answer your questions about ASC certification. Please contact us if you would like to make an appointment in advance.

For more information please contact us at [kib@imo.ch](mailto:kib@imo.ch).

