

Press release

Second organic Pangasius producer worldwide has been successfully certified

German consulting company Aquatic Blue supportively involved in the process from the beginning

Bremen, Ho Chi Minh City, 15.01.2013. In December 2012, the Vietnamese Pangasius producer Golden Quality Seafood has been successfully certified according to the guidelines of the EU Organic Regulation. Thus the company from Can Tho is the world's second producer of organic Pangasius who produces and processes Pangasius according to the strict organic guidelines. During the entire certification process, the Vietnamese company was supported and advised by the German aquaculture consulting company "Aquatic Blue" from Bremen.

Since the beginning of 2012, the company "Golden Quality Seafood" is producing the Mekong catfish



Figure 2: Recently constructed earthen ponds for the production of organic Pangasius.

Pangasianodon hypophthalmus, which has become very popular in Europe and is sold under the name "Pangasius", in earthen pond specially constructed for the organic Pangasius production. With its organic certification, Golden Quality Seafood is now one of only two producers of organic pangasius worldwide.

With the organic certification Golden Quality Seafoods wants to encounter the growing criticism of European consumers towards the production conditions of Vietnamese Pangasius. The popularity of Pangasius and

thus the high demand in recent years are the cause of significant problems regarding the

conventional production of this fish species in Vietnam. In particular, high stocking densities – up to 80 kg per cubic meter water are not uncommon – lead to high mortalities during the rearing process. By using drugs and antibiotics the producers try to compensate for these losses. Furthermore, high stocking densities lead to a pollution of the local waters, because the effluents from the fish ponds are routed



Figure 1: Harvest of the organic Pangasius. The animals are vital and healthy.



back into the rivers untreated.

In contrast, in organic *Pangasius* production the fish are reared in a gentle and environmentally friendly manner. Stocking densities of 10 kg per 1000 l water are never exceeded. That is why the animals stay healthy even without the use of antibiotics or other drugs. This is reflected during the harvest of the fish, which reveals vital animals with little or no external injuries. The high quality of the fish is also caused by the high-quality organic fish feed that contains, apart from fish meal, only components from organic agriculture. The use of fish meal – another criticism in conventional aquaculture – could thereby be reduced to a minimum. Also, sediments obtained during the production of the fish are not routed back into local rivers but are used instead as a valuable organic fertiliser on adjacent fruit and vegetable farms.

Golden Quality Seafood has been accompanied and advised from the beginning by the German aquaculture consultant company Aquatic Blue from Bremen, which has extensive and practical experience in the certification of organic- and sustainable aquaculture. Thus, the organisation and the successful certification of the organic production could be realised in less than one year.

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