

Please sign and return by e-mail as pdf file
or by post to

Aquaculture Welfare Standards Initiative
Seefischmarkt Geb. 1 OG 1
Stefan Johnigk
Wischhofstr. 1-3
24148 Kiel
Germany

Aquaculture Welfare Standards Initiative

The "Aquaculture Welfare Standards Initiative" (ITA-AWSI) is an initiative within the framework of the project "Setting welfare standards in aquaculture" that is independent of any company. It is managed and implemented by Dipl.-Biol. Stefan Johnigk on behalf of the Albert Schweitzer Foundation.

Letter of intend

The aim of the initiative is to inspire and lead a consultation process within the industry in order to draft and enforce international animal welfare standards in aquaculture.

Initially, through a number of appropriate steps, ITA is working on transferring current legal provisions for animal welfare-compliant aquaculture from Germany and other countries that are advanced in this field to the production of fish and other aquatic organisms in other producer countries.

Aspects serving to improve animal welfare in aquaculture organisms based on scientific knowledge, which have not yet been taken into account by the legislator, as well as the communication of methods suitable for improving animal welfare in the production process ("best practice") shall also be incorporated into ITA's activities.

It is expressly NOT the ITA's task to develop a new certification or a new umbrella brand; rather, it is responsible for drafting a non-exclusive, industry-wide, scientifically sound, socially relevant and economically feasible "meta-standard" that is valid across the board as guidance and as a benchmark for the further development of systems already existing on the market.

The ITA is essentially open to all stakeholders who make their own contributions to the field of "animal welfare and sustainable aquaculture" or want to implement them in their field of work. The ITA operates internationally from Germany with

the aim of including initiatives from other countries and achieving the broadest possible international impact.

The ITA particularly encourages and actively seeks participation by experts with a focus on aquaculture and sustainable fishery, animal welfare or animal health in the following areas:

- Food retail
- Fishing industry and aquaculture enterprises
- Science and administration
- Representatives from recognised specialist NGOs
- Certification associations and companies

Rules of communication

The ITA's discussions are conducted in German, unless otherwise agreed in meeting invitations, for example, if partners from non-German-speaking countries are invited to participate in the discussion.

Prior to each meeting, ITA's participants must ensure that, to the best of their knowledge, they are authorised to discuss the subjects listed on the agenda on behalf of their companies and organisations.

They undertake to treat each other with respect and to communicate in a spirit of mutual appreciation. It is in the common interest of all members to reach consensus on all issues to be decided, as far as this is possible, so that the greatest possible progress is made towards achieving ITA's objectives.

No costs or fees shall be incurred through participation in ITA for the duration of the project "Setting welfare standards in aquaculture". For invited external experts and for representatives of non-profit organisations, travel expenses may be reimbursed by the project coordinator upon request. The plan is to organise a maximum of four joint meetings per year for ITA members. All other exchanges of information are to be conducted by e-mail, if possible, or by telephone conference, if necessary.

How to become a member

ITA membership is awarded at the invitation of the project coordinator and after signing a non-disclosure agreement and an antitrust declaration (see attachments).

Project coordinator and contact:

Diplom-Biologe Stefan-Andreas Johnigk
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Germany
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With the signing of this letter of intent, I undertake to comply with and observe the agreements formulated here.

It is in my interest to contribute to the success of the ITA's work.

Name, organisation:

Place, date:

Signature:

Attachments: Non-disclosure Agreement, Antitrust Declaration

Non-disclosure Agreement

Participants of the “Aquaculture Welfare Standards Initiative” (ITA) agree that they will treat all content and outcomes of discussions and correspondence within the framework of the initiative strictly confidentially. This Non-disclosure Agreement (NDA) applies both to informal exchanges of ideas in preparation for or as a follow-up to consultation rounds as well as to interested parties wishing to join the ITA at a later date.

Information from ITA may only be forwarded within the participants’ organisations to third parties involved in internal decision-making processes on the content of the consultations. These third parties shall also be required to maintain confidentiality, whether that is through contractual regulations within the organisation or other agreements.

Information from ITA shall only be released for publication, in particular, for the purpose of press and other campaigns, if all members agree to this unanimously.

In the interests of transparency for possible prospective ITA members and the public, the following information is not to be kept confidential:

- ITA’s aims;
- the names of participating organisations and stakeholders;
- all ITA data expressly intended for publication;
- and the times and places of ITA’s next agreed meetings.

This NDA continues to apply beyond the bounds of participation in ITA, for example, after a member leaves the initiative.

With the signing of this NDA, I undertake to comply with and observe the agreements formulated here.

It is in my interest to contribute to the success of the ITA’s work.

Name, organisation:

Place, date:

Signature:

Antitrust Declaration

I participate in the exchange of information and consultations of the “Aquaculture Welfare Standards Initiative” (ITA). In this context, I am aware that employees of competitors are not permitted to hold formal or informal discussions, exchange information or conclude agreements concerning the following:

- PRICES, in particular,
 - pricing, price differences, pricing strategies;
 - individual terms and conditions of sale and payment;
 - individual discounts, credit notes and loan conditions;

- PRODUCTION, in particular,
 - individual production or distribution costs, cost accounting formulas, cost accounting methods, purchasing cost figures relating to products or product groups, production, inventories, sales, etc.;
 - production changes, for example, due to maintenance work or limitation of the market supply of a product;

- FUTURE MARKET BEHAVIOUR, in particular,
 - division of markets or sources of supply, irrespective of whether by location or customer;
 - relations with individual suppliers or purchasers, in particular, if these could be forced out of the market as a result;
 - “blacklists” or boycotts by customers, competitors or suppliers;
 - planned projects of individual companies concerning technology, investments, design, production and sales or marketing for certain products.

Name, organisation:

Place, date:

Signature: