



December 20, 2023

**Fisheries General Memorandum Order No. 004**  
**Series of 2023**

**Subject : Guidelines for Issuing Health Certificates for Aquaculture-Produced Species**

For the purpose of implementing Section 61(a) of Republic Act 8550, as amended by Republic Act 10654, and to clearly define the regulations for the exportation of live fish hatched or propagated in accredited hatcheries and ponds, the Bureau establishes the following definitions of terms, coverage and requirements:

**1. Definitions:**

- a. **Aquaculture** refers to fishery operations involving all forms of raising and culturing fish and other fishery species in fresh, brackish and marine areas.
- b. **Accredited hatcheries** refer to facilities that have been inspected and approved by the Bureau to meet certain standards for the production of eggs, fish, or other aquatic animals.
- c. **Accredited ponds** refer to those that have been certified by the Bureau to meet certain standards for fish, shellfish, and other aquatic animals production.
- d. **Broodstock** refers to a group of mature individuals used in aquaculture for breeding purposes.
- e. **Broodstock development** refers to the process of selecting, conditioning, and managing broodstock to ensure their optimum reproductive performance.
- f. **Hatchery** is a facility where fish or group of shellfish egg are hatched and reared to the fry or fingerling stage.
- g. **Nursery** is a facility where fish, group of shellfish fry or fingerlings are reared to a larger size before stocking in grow-out ponds or net pens under controlled conditions to improve their survival and growth.
- h. **Acclimatization** is the process of gradually adjusting an organism to a new environment.
- i. **Fattening** is the process of increasing the weight or condition of an organism, such as a fish or shrimp, by providing it with a high-quality diet and good water quality.
- j. **Fish and fishery aquatic species** include not only finfish but also mollusks, crustaceans, echinoderms, marine mammals, and all other species of aquatic flora and fauna.
- k. **Propagation** refers to the process of increasing the abundance of fish populations. This can be achieved through natural or thru artificial propagation.
- l. **Seedstock** refers to the live organisms, such as eggs, larvae, fry, fingerlings, juveniles, or broodstock, that are used to stock aquaculture production systems. Seedstock is an essential input for aquaculture, and its quality has a significant impact on the success and sustainability of aquaculture operations.

**2. Coverage:**

2.1 Aquaculture Practices that are **eligible** as Aquaculture-Produced Species:

- a. Broodstock that are produced/developed through aquaculture (through broodstock development) whether naturally bred, hybrid or improved species, and others related thereto;
- b. Hatchery produced seedstock that are product of aquaculture;
- c. Nursery produced seedstock that are caught from the wild or produced from aquaculture facilities intended for aquaculture purposes. Wild caught seedstock should be subjected to the provisions of the existing guidelines;



- d. Fish and fishery aquatic species that are cultured from seedstock to harvestable size (marketable/legal size as maybe required by law); and
- e. Fattening of fish and other fishery species for a period of at least one month subject to the existing guidelines on size regulations and Good Aquaculture Practices.
- f. Including fish and other aquatic species propagated in accredited hatcheries and ponds

2.2 Aquaculture Practices that are **not eligible** as Aquaculture Produced Species:

- a. Acclimatization of seedstock, juvenile and immature fish, and others related thereto; and
- b. Juvenile fish and fishery aquatic species such as but not limited to endemic, threatened, endangered, and vulnerable species that are caught from the wild and reared for broodstock, research and educational purposes.

**3. Declaration form as an additional requirement for the issuance of a Health Certificate.**

A declaration form, indicating the summary of production, shall be an additional requirement for the issuance of a Health Certificate. The contents of a declaration form are shown in Annex A.

The declaration form shall be attested by MAO and with the conformed signature by the Chief of the BFAR-Regional Fisheries Production and Support Services Division (FPSSD).

**4. Repealing and Effectivity Clause**

Any orders or issuance inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

This order shall take effect thirty (30) days from the date of issue and shall remain in force until revoked in writing.

  
**ATTY. DEMOSTHENES R. ESCOTO**  
*Director, BFAR*



Made ANNEX A



BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES  
 FISHERIES INSPECTION AND QUARANTINE DIVISION  
 Fisheries Bldg. Complex, BPI Compound, Brgy. Vasra, Visayas Ave., Quezon City

Document Type: **Supporting Document**

Document No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. No.: **00**

Effectivity Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

Issue No.: **01**

Document Title: **Declaration Form Indicating the Summary of Aquaculture Production**

**AQUACULTURE FARM DETAILS**

Company Name: _____		Years of Operation: _____
Facility Address: _____		
Branches: _____		
Contact Information: _____		
Tel. No./CP No. _____		Email Address: _____
Owner's Name: _____		Species Culture: _____
		Major Species: _____
		Other Species: _____

**A. Aqua Farm Data and Estimated Production**

Fish Cage/ Pond no.	Date of Stocking (in pieces)	Stocking Density (per cu.m.)	Culture Duration (no. of months)	Tentative Harvest Schedule	Estimated Volume of Harvest (in kg)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
			<b>TOTAL</b>		

**B. Harvest Data**

Fish Cage/ Pond No.	Date of Harvest	Type of Harvest (please check)		Volume (in kilos)
		Partial	Full	
(g)	(h)	(i)		(j)
<b>TOTAL</b>				

Conforme:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Over Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Over Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

