



THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

February 2015

Review of the Canadian Organic Standards The ballot will be launched soon

The CGSB and the [conveners of the Working Groups](#) are actively preparing the draft of the Canadian Organic Standards that includes all modifications adopted by the Technical Committee since the launch of the review. This is the draft that will be submitted to the 1st ballot of the review process, in order to validate the proposed modifications. The OFC will publish the balloted draft, for informational purposes only.

In parallel to these preparations, the Organic Agri-Aqua Working Group continues to meet regularly to prepare the merged organic agricultural and aquacultural standards, with their objective being the presentation of a first merged draft at the May meeting of the Technical Committee.

The Organic Agri-Aqua Working Group

Rochelle Eisen - Organic Farming Institute of British Columbia – co-convenor
Tim Rundle – Pacific Organic Seafood Association – co-convenor

Amy Kremen – Independent consultant
Benoit Dubé - Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Brad Hicks - Pacific Organic Seafood Association
Darrell Green – [Naia.ca](#)
Hugh Martin – Chair of the Technical Committee
Jane Barnett – Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Janine Gibson – [Organic Food Council of Manitoba](#)
Jennifer Hillard - [Consumer Interest Alliance](#)
Joyce Kelly – [PEI Certified Organic Producers Co-op](#)
Justin Henry – [Target Marine](#)
Mark Schuessler – Canadian General Standards Board
Mike Meeker - [Meeker's Aquaculture](#)
Shawna Mackinnon - Canadian Organic Trade Association
Susan Smith – BC Ministry of Agriculture
Ted Zettel - [Organic Council of Ontario](#)



Justin Henry, Target marine

Merging organic aquaculture and agriculture

Interview with Rochelle Eisen

co-convenor of the Agri-Aqua WG

You are the convenor of the Agri-Aqua Organic Working Group responsible for the merge of the organic aquaculture and agriculture standards. What is your work plan? How do you proceed?

I am one of two convenors for Agri-Aqua Organic Working Group working on this merge. Tim Rundle, representing the Pacific Organic Seafood Association is the Aqua convenor and I am the Agri convenor. The work sounds daunting, but in reality, it isn't as hard as it could have been. Fortunately, the Organic Aquaculture

Technical Committee had incredible foresight and mimicked the agriculture standards in layout and structure. So we are not trying to put square pegs in round holes.



Tim Rundle

Jane Barnett, from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, has compared the documents and carefully identified in the agriculture text any differences. Tim and I have made suggestions where changes were needed and slowly, but surely, we are working thru the text with the entire WG reviewing each marked item. In many cases, especially in the Introduction, Scope and Organic Plan sections all that was needed was some general phrasing adjustments to include aqua products. Amazingly the Definition section was a little more challenging as sometimes common jargon has a slightly different meaning in agriculture vs aquaculture, but that work is done already too. The aquatic animal and aquatic plant sections have been slipped into place and have also been reviewed to make sure the use of language is consistent. Next we have to review the Permitted Substances Lists with the same level of diligence.



Rochelle Eisen

Are there major variances between the aquaculture and the agriculture organic approach?

No. The commitment to organic principles is the same. Of course, one system is terrestrial based while the other aquatic, so there are differences in production requirements, but the end goal is the same.

The USA do not have integrated aquaculture inside their organic production system. Do you feel that it can create a trade barrier to Canadian aquaculture products if they are integrated in the Canadian organic production system?

I don't think so. The facts are certified Canadian organic aquaculture products are already being sold throughout the USA, except for California where state laws restrict access. This is also true for certified European organic aquaculture products.

What is the simplest organic farming system: an aquacultural one or a terrestrial one?

Wow... that is a tough question. I think wild harvesting either on land or water is probably the simplest.

INVITATION!

The Organic Federation of Canada

will hold its Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, March 10th 2015, from 1:00 to 3:00, EST

by teleconference

You are all welcome to participate!

The OFC will present updates about the review and interpretation of the Canadian Organic Standards, the Organic Science Cluster II

Agenda will be circulated soon!



From left to right : Sebastian Wong & Robert Assaf, CHFA Board of Directors, Ted Zettel, OFC President, Matthew James, Chair CHFA Board of Directors, and Helen Long, CHFA President

chfa contributes \$15,000 to OFC Fundraising Campaign

Ted Zettel, President of OFC, received the generous contribution of \$15,000 donated by the [Canadian Health Food Association](#) to fund the [COS Review](#), at the CHFA Quebec Tradeshow, February 6th, in Montreal.

Canadian Standards Interpretation Committee New Comment Period - February 13 to April 13 2015

- Can wild seaweed meal be certified?
- Can bean sprout grown hydroponically be certified organic?
- Can citric acid be used as a pH adjuster during the extraction of Fulvic Acid?

The Organic Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) provides interpretive guidance to the Canada Organic Office on issues related to the National Standards for Organic Agriculture (CAN/CGSB 32.310 and CAN/CGSB 32.311). [Click here](#) to see the proposed answers to various questions raised by organic stakeholders, regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture. **The proposed responses are subject to a 60-day comment period from February 13 to April 13 2015.**

All comments regarding these answers should be sent to OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca

Report from last Comment Period

The Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) has analyzed comments issued under the last public consultation held from October 27th to December 23rd 2014. [Click here](#) to consult SIC final answers.

All these final questions have been transferred to the SIC Final Q&As posted on [OFC website](#).

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