

RECONCILIATION AGREEMENT ON ORGANIC LABELLING FOR AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS

Whereas the Governments of Canada, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador, the Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut resolve to:

PROMOTE an open, efficient, and stable domestic market for long-term job creation, economic growth, and stability;

REDUCE AND ELIMINATE, to the extent possible, barriers to the free movement of persons, goods, services, and investments within Canada;

Recognizing that under the *Canadian Agricultural Products Act*, aquaculture products are not considered agricultural products;

Also recognizing that under the *Organic Products Regulations, 2009*, only agricultural products may be certified as organic, and that only certified organic products may apply the Canada Organic Logo to their labels;

Acknowledging that the inability to apply the Canada Organic Logo to their products may impede market access opportunities for organic products for Canadian aquaculture producers, and represents a barrier to the trade aquaculture products that may otherwise be considered organic;

Noting that Canadian General Standards Board finalized the *Organic production systems: Aquaculture – General principles, management standards and permitted substances lists (CAN/CGSB32.312-2018)* in February 2018;

Acknowledging that the proposed *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* modernize Canada's food safety regulatory regime;

The Government of Canada *commits* to reconciling organic labelling requirements for aquaculture products with those for agricultural products as follows.

1. Regulatory measures being reconciled:

Organic Products Regulations, 2009

2. The obligations to achieve reconciliation (harmonization, mutual recognition, equivalency or such other method as the Parties may agree)

The *Organic Products Regulations, 2009* shall be repealed once the *Safe Food for Canadians Act* comes into force.

The *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* shall broaden the scope of products which may be labelled as organic, and shall incorporate by reference the *Organic production systems:*

Aquaculture – General principles, management standards and permitted substances lists (CAN/CGSB32.312-2018) standard so that aquaculture products conforming to this standard may apply the Canada Organic product legend to their product labels.

3. The extent to which the reconciliation agreement addressed the barrier identified.

Actions outlined in item 2 above will fully resolve existing market access barriers related to the current inability for Canadian aquaculture products to apply the Canada Organic product legend to their product labels.

4. Timeline for implementation

Actions outlined in item 2 above shall be implemented with the coming into force of the *Safe Food for Canadians Act*.

5. Process to address changes in circumstances

If a change in circumstance occurs whereby the Government of Canada wishes to introduce new or modified requirements that may impact this reconciliation agreement, the Government of Canada shall provide notice to the RCT including: (a) a description of the circumstance, (b) the impact on this reconciliation agreement, and (c) the measure(s) being considered to address the impact.

6. Signature and Date



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