#### PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARD

PNS/BAFS 4XX:202X

## Shrimp and Crabs — Code of Practice — Good Aquaculture Practices

Working Draft As of April 25, 2025

1 Scope

This Code of Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) for shrimp and mangrove crabs covers practices that aim to prevent or minimize the risk associated with aquaculture production in brackish waters (i.e. ponds and tanks). This Code applies to aquaculture facilities, intended for shrimp and crab culture. This Code addresses food safety, animal health and welfare, environmental integrity, and socio-economic welfare and consists of compliance with legal requirements.

#### 2 Normative References

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all their contents constitute the requirements of this document. The latest edition of the referenced documents (including any amendments) applies.

Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS)-Department of Agriculture (DA). (2022). Veterinary Drug Residues in Food — Maximum Residue Limits (PNS/BAFS 48:2022).

DENR. (2019). DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-09: Updated national list of threatened Philippine fauna and their categories. <a href="https://bmb.gov.ph/downloads/WRD/WC/WC2020/stat\_and\_lists\_of\_wildlife/fauna/dao-2019-09.pdf">https://bmb.gov.ph/downloads/WRD/WC/WC2020/stat\_and\_lists\_of\_wildlife/fauna/dao-2019-09.pdf</a>

#### 3 Terms and Definitions

### 3.1 aquaculture facilities

include permanent or semi-permanent systems or structures for breeding, treatment and raising of organisms. Aquaculture facilities may exist both in marine waters, inland water environments, and as terrestrial production systems (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, n.d.; DA-BAFS, 2024)

For the purposes of this Standard, the following terms and definitions apply:

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#### biosecurity

set of management and physical measures designed to reduce the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of animal diseases, infections or infestations to, from and within an animal population (World Organization for Animal Health [WOAH], 2018). It is also defined as an overall program that uses a combination of physical barriers and directed actions in a specific way

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that should prevent the introduction of, or limit the spread of infectious disease (ASEAN Sectoral Working Group for Livestock; DA-BAFS, 2024)

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#### chemicals

any substance either natural or synthetic that can affect the live aquatic organism, its pathogens, and the water, equipment used for production or the land within the aquaculture establishment (CAC, 2020, *modified*)

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#### 3.4

#### competent authority

official government agency having jurisdiction (Codex Alimentarius Commission [CAC], 2006). Also refers to the bureau or agency mandated by law with responsibility and competence for ensuring and supervising the implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, regulations, or standards (DA-BAFS, 2024)

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#### 3.5

#### diseased shrimp and crab

a crustaceans on or in which pathological changes or other morphological changes or abnormalities that affect safety and quality are apparent (CAC, 2020, *modified*)

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#### 3.6

#### feed additive

chemicals other than nutrients for shrimp and crab that are approved for addition to their feed (CAC, 2020, *modified*)

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#### 3.7

#### grow-out

stage in aquaculture where aquatic organisms are raised form juvenile stages to market size

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#### nursery

facility where post larvae fish, group of shellfish fry of 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 (BFAR-DA, 2023)

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#### 3.9

#### veterinary drug

any substance applied or administered to any food producing animal, such as meat or milk producing animals, poultry, fish, or bees, whether used for therapeutic, prophylactic, or diagnostic purposes or for modification of physiological functions or behavior (CAC, 2020)

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integrated framing

#### 4 Use

This Standard adheres to the principles outlined in PNS/BAFS 135:2024 (Good Aquaculture Practices — Code of Practice). It specifically establishes requirements for shrimp and crab farming. This document shall be used independently and serves as the basis for inspecting-shrimp and crab farms for GAqP certification under relevant regulations of the competent authority.

Other farmed species shall be assessed against existing species-specific GAqP standards. In the absence of such standards, the general provisions of PNS/BAFS 135:2024 shall apply.

#### 5 Site Selection

#### 5.1 Location

**5.1.1** Certificate of Non-Coverage (CNC) or Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) shall be made available prior to the establishment of the aquaculture facility.

**5.1.2** Aquaculture facilities should be located in environmentally suitable and sustainable areas where the risk of contamination is minimized or where sources of pollution can be controlled or mitigated according to national law and regulations.

**5.1.3** Proof of legal rights, privileges, or ownership of the farm area License To Operate [LTO] or business permit from the Local Government Unit [LGU]) and its location map shall be available.

5.2 Lay-out and design

**5.2.1** Aquaculture facilities should be used primarily for aquaculture purposes only.

**5.2.2** Wild and domesticated animals should not be allowed in the production area or its vicinity to prevent fecal and other hazardous contaminations. However, they may be permitted under strict conditions, provided that measures are in place to prevent contamination.

**5.2.3** Farm design and layout should prevent cross contamination and damage to existing aquatic habitats.

5.2.4 Drainage system of septic tanks and toilet facilities should be well installed and constructed to prevent contamination of farm facilities.

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149 **5.2.7** Reservoir ponds and tanks for incoming water should be available. However, a reservoir ponds and tanks may not be necessary if the aquaculture facilities have adequate measures in place to ensure sufficient water supply and proper water management.

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154 **5.2.8** Settling ponds for effluent shall be available.

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**5.2.9** Buffer zone should be observed in accordance with existing regulation.

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159 160 **5.2.10** Aquaculture facilities should be designed, operated, and maintained in ways that prevent contamination from workers, sewage/toilets, domestic animals, machinery oil/fuel, and other possible sources in order to maintain hygienic conditions

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**5.2.11** Integrated farming may be allowed provided measures are in place to avoid contamination.

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**6** Facilities, Sanitation, and Waste Management

**Facilities** 

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Disposal facilities for solid and liquid wastes should be in suitable and confined area, and waste disposal shall be in compliance with existing regulations.

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Fuel and chemical substances (sanitizer, fertilizer and reagents), veterinary drugs should be stored in a dedicated storage facility and separated according to manufacturer's instructions and as specified on the label.

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Regular repair and maintenance should be undertaken to preserve the good physical condition of the facility.

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Diseased or dead shrimp and crabs should be collected immediately and disposed of properly through the establishment of a mortality pit.

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185 **6.1.5** Machines used in the facility shall be in good condition and used lubricants shall be placed in an appropriate container and discarded properly.

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fit to work.

Workers shall undergo an annual medical examination to ensure they are

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271 272 273 which is safe for human consumption.

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Basic water quality parameters should conform with the existing standards set by the competent authority and be regularly monitored to ensure suitability and safety. The optimum water quality parameters/requirements for shrimp and crab are presented in Annex B.

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#### 8.3 **Stock Management**

#### PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARD PNS/BAFS 4XX:202X Shrimp and Crabs — Code of Practice — **Good Aquaculture Practices** Working Draft As of April 25, 2025 Stocking density should be optimum to the species and to the culture system as specified in Annex C (Recommended range stocking density for crab and shrimp grow-out farms). 8.4 Feeds and Feeding 8.4.1 If commercial feed is used, aquaculture operations should include procedures for avoiding feed contamination. 8.4.2 Commercial feeds, feed ingredients, additives, premixes and compound feeding stuff should be obtained from a company registered and monitored by the competent authorities. 8.4.3 Samples of commercial feeds should be inspected, monitored, and tested for aflatoxin and chloramphenicol by the competent authority. 8.4.4 Imported formulated feeds shall be obtained from a company registered by the competent authority in compliance with existing regulations and in conformity with the existing standards. 8.4.5 Feeds should be stored properly in a separate facility, which is cool and dry to prevent spoilage, mold growth and contamination. It should be organized to facilitate a first-in, first-out (FIFO) release and use. 8.4.6 Medicated and non-medicated feeds should be stored separately to minimize the risk of feeding to non-target animals. The content of additives and veterinary drugs should comply with the 8.4.7 existing regulations and conforms with the existing standards. Feeding practices should minimize the risk for biological, chemical, and 8.4.8 physical contaminations of feeds and animals. 8.4.9 Feeding practices should prioritize the maintenance of water and sediment quality to prevent nutrient overloading and minimize waste.

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8.4.10 Non-commercial feeds such as but not limited to live, fresh, and frozen, 317 318 farm-formulated feeds, and natural food should be of good quality and 319 suitable for the species.

8.4.14 If non-pelleted feeds or fresh feeds (trash fish, molluscs, chicken entrails, mussel meat etc.) are used, the protocol on the preparation and 322 323 administration of such shall be provided.

8.4.11 Probiotics and other biological inputs shall be registered with, and approved 325 326 by, the relevant competent authorities.

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365 366 **8.5.2 Postharvest** 

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**8.5.2.1** Postharvest operations should be carried out quickly, hygienically and without damage to the product.

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**8.5.2.2** Feed additives and chemicals, which are used in contact with products, shall be in compliance with prevailing legal requirements

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**8.5.2.3** Postharvest wastes should be collected in designated areas and disposed of properly to minimize risk of cross contamination.

**8.5.2.4** Clean and uncontaminated water should be available and used in sufficient amount for handling and cleaning operations.

- **8.5.2.5** Ice shall be made from potable water and sourced from approved establishment by the competent authority.
- **8.5.2.6** Ice should be received, handled and stored under good sanitary conditions, which minimize risks of contamination.
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- Prior transport, harvested shrimp should be properly chilled and maintained at a temperature range of 0°C to 4°C to preserve freshness, quality, and safety. For live crabs, they should be maintained in a cool (24-28 C) and moist condition.
- **8.5.8** Shrimp and crabs placed on the market for further processing before human consumption should be disease-free.
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  - 8.5.3 Transport

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  396 **8.5.3.1** Shrimp and crabs should be transported in clean, sanitized, and well-maintained materials, with protocols to prevent contamination from environmental sources such as air, soil, water, oil, and chemicals.
- Live shrimp and crabs should be transported under conditions which recognize their welfare and do not adversely affect their viability. For live shrimp, aerated seawater tanks should be used during transport. For live crabs, well-ventilated containers should be used. The crabs should be transported in moist condition preferably with the addition of a small chunk of ice to maintain 24-28°C. Crabs should be packed as close to each other to prevent them from moving and getting damaged.
- Shrimp and crabs s intended to be sold chilled for human consumption should be transported in compliance with the existing PNS on shrimp and crab.
- **8.5.3.4** Containers used for transporting shrimp and crabs with ice should be designed to allow melted water to drain away from the product, ensuring optimal quality and hygiene.
- **8.5.3.5** All prohibited additives and chemicals shall not be used in contact with live, chilled, or frozen shrimp and crabs.

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A quarantine protocol should be established and implemented to aquaculture facilities with suspected outbreaks for the treatment and containment of diseased shrimp and crabs.

be carried out only on the basis of a proper diagnosis.

Treatment and control of diseases with authorized veterinary drugs shall

Withdrawal periods and residues should be verified by adequate testing.

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Proper handling and disposal procedures for diseased shrimp and crabs shall be implemented to ensure effective disease control and prevent the spread of pathogens. A designated quarantine facility should be maintained for treatment of ill diseased shrimp and crab. Handling and disposal of diseased shrimp and crabs for disease control purposes should follow the existing protocol of competent authority.

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For farms administering chemicals, withdrawal period shall be followed. Veterinary drug residues shall be within the limits set in the PNS/BAFS 48:2022 (Veterinary Drug Residues in Food — Maximum Residue Limits).

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9.14 Movement of shrimp and crabs should take place in accordance with
 480 existing national regulations to prevent introduction or transfer of diseases
 481 and infectious agents pathogenic to shrimp and crabs while
 482 avoiding unwarranted sanitary measures.

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Farm operators should formulate and implement biosecurity measures, in adherence to the recommended protocol of the competent authority, to prevent introduction of disease into the farm and/or control its spread within the farm.

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Farm operators should maintain a suitable culture environment throughout the production cycle of the species being raised to promote aquatic animal welfare.

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493 **9.17** Farm operators should develop and implement handling protocols during
 494 sampling, harvesting, quarantine, and disease treatment to promote
 495 aquatic animal welfare.

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9.18 Use of species in polyculture or integrated multitrophic aquaculture system should be carefully considered in order to reduce potential risk of disease transmission.

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10 Environmental Integrity and Sustainability

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The site of aquaculture facilities shall be evaluated and permitted based on its proximity to ecologically sensitive or protected areas such as mangrove forests, coral reefs, and other biodiversity hotspots. The farm shall also adhere to zoning laws set by local government units (LGUs). Secure SAPA from EMB (verify with DENR-EMB)

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**10.1** Screens and barriers should be available to limit the incidence of escape to the natural environment of cultured species.

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Farm workers and managers should be trained in environmental management and mitigation of impact to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities in protecting the environments.

done to address possible risks on a case-by-case basis.

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a) preparation and water quality controls;

# PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARD PNS/BAFS 4XX:202X Shrimp and Crabs — Code of Practice — **Good Aquaculture Practices** Working Draft As of April 25, 2025 b) origin, species, and the age or size of shrimp post larvae and crablets; c) date, type, origin and use of feeds, feed ingredients, and other farm inputs (e.g. fertilizer) d) animal health and movement of shrimp and crab e) production and harvest data f) buyers of final products (one-step- forward traceability)

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#### Annex A (Normative)

#### List of banned antimicrobials in food-producing animals

Regulations		
BFAR Administrative Circular No. 256, series of 2015	Declaring malachite green and gentian violet as health hazards and prohibiting their use in food fish production and trade	
DA Administrative Order (AO) No. 14, series of 2003	Ban on the use in food animals of beta-agonist drugs used in humans as bronchodilator and tocolytic agents	
Department of Health (DOH) and DA Joint AO No. 2, series of 2000	Declaring ban/phase out of the use of nitrofurans in food-producing animals	
DOH AO No. 4-A and DA AO No. 1, series of 2000	Banning and withdrawal of olaquindox and carbadox from the market	
DOH AO No. 91 and DA AO No. 60, series of 2000	Declaring ban on the use of chloramphenicol in food-producing animals	

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680 Annex C 681 (Informative)

Recommended range stocking density for crab and shrimp grow-out farms

Species	Culture System Stocking	Density <sup>a</sup>
1. Mangrove Crab		
a. Scylla serrata;	Extensive <sup>b</sup>	500-1000 pcs/ha
b. S. olivacea;		
c. S. tranquebarica; and		
d. S. paramamosain		
2. Shrimp		
a. Penaeus monodon	Extensive	1–5 PL/m <sup>2</sup>
	Semi-intensive	6-15 PL/m <sup>2</sup>
	Intensive	16-30 PL/m <sup>2</sup>
b. Penaeus vannamei	Extensive <sup>c</sup>	5–10 PL/ m <sup>2</sup>
	Semi-intensive d	11–30 PL/ m <sup>2</sup>
	Intensive <sup>e</sup>	31–60 PL/ m <sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> depending on the culture practices and other parameters for aquaculture

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> aquasilviculture and polyculture with fish

c polyculture with 5,000 pcs/ha of tilapia

d greenwater technology with 650-1000 pcs @50g of Tilapia in a middle pen

e reservoir with greenwater technology

#### PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARD PNS/BAFS 4XX:202X Shrimp and Crabs — Code of Practice — **Good Aquaculture Practices** Working Draft As of April 25, 2025 **Bibliography** Association of Southeast Asian Nations. (2022). ASEAN standard on ASEAN good aquaculture practices for food fish. https://asean.org/wpcontent/uploads/2022/11/10.-ASEAN-Standard-on-ASEAN-Good-Aquaculture-Practices-for-Food-Fish-Adopted.pdf Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS)-Department of Agriculture (DA), (2022), Veterinary Drug Residues in Food — Maximum Residue Limits (PNS/BAFS 48:2022). Codex Alimentarius Commission. (2006). Principles for traceability/product tracing as a tool within a food inspection and certification system (CXG 60-

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