

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE
Bureau of Regulatory Services
Consumer Protection Division

**Regulations to Support Section 79-22-35 of the Mississippi Aquaculture Act
of 1988 - Tilapia Labeling**

1. DEFINITIONS:

- (a) Farm-raised – The term farm-raised includes fillets, steaks, nuggets and any other flesh from a fish produced under conditions comparable to those required under the Mississippi Aquaculture Act.
- (b) Retailer-means any partnership, person, business or corporation who sells tilapia to the ultimate consumer.
- (c) Distributor-means any person, partnership, business or corporation who supplies tilapia to the retailer.
- (d) Processor-means any person, partnership, business or corporation who produces tilapia for sale.

2. LABELING INFORMATION:

- (a) In general. All persons who sell tilapia products in all forms including individual sales, packaged product and bulk product, must label the tilapia in English with information identifying it as from the United States of America or as Imported. Additional labels in other languages are permissible as long as the requirements of these regulations are met.
- (b) Mississippi or United States of America tilapia products. Labels on tilapia products must say "Farm-Raised, Mississippi Tilapia" or "Farm-Raised, USA tilapia." However, the appropriate State or "American" may be inserted in lieu of USA. Mississippi or USA must be printed in the same size, color and type lettering as tilapia.
- (c) Imported tilapia products. Labels on tilapia products from countries outside of the United States of America must say "Imported Tilapia" or list the appropriate country in addition to the method of production that is required by the United States Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. Imported or the appropriate country must directly precede the word tilapia in all labeling and marketing information and must be printed in the same size, color and type lettering as tilapia. Examples would be "Farm-Raised, Imported Tilapia" or "Wild-caught, Imported Tilapia," or "Farm-Raised, (Name of Country) Tilapia," or "Wild-caught, (Name of Country) Tilapia."

3. LOCATION OF LABELING INFORMATION:

- (a) In general. The information required by section 2 may be provided to consumers by means of a label, stamp, mark, placard, or other clear and visible sign on the tilapia product or on the package, display, holding unit, or bin containing the tilapia product at the final point of sale.
- (b) Labeled Tilapia. If the tilapia product is already individually labeled for retail sale regarding country of origin in a manner that complies with section 2 by the processor or distributor, the person selling the tilapia product shall not be required to provide any additional information.

4. APPLICATION. These regulations shall apply to all persons who sell tilapia products.

(Adopted 2005.)