4.1 Animal Health and Welfare
### The issue and ASC’s approach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The issue</th>
<th>Our approach</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>o Welfare is the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to</td>
<td>o The farm maintains good animal health and welfare to minimise detrimental</td>
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<td>the conditions in which it lives and dies. It is a key factor in</td>
<td>effects on the environmental, wildlife and cultured animals</td>
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<td>sustainable production</td>
<td>o Requirements include day-to-day practices to monitor and improve health</td>
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<td>o Fish are sentient beings, and current aquaculture practices may</td>
<td>and welfare through a welfare management plan</td>
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<td>impair welfare needs and thus need to be addressed</td>
<td>o Includes staff training, veterinary oversight, mortality measuring and</td>
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<tr>
<td>o There is sufficient scientific research available on fish welfare for</td>
<td>biosecurity measures</td>
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<td>ASC to support expanding its current health and welfare-related indicators for different species</td>
<td>o Introduces a monitoring process for Operations Welfare Indicators (OWIs)</td>
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### What farms need to do

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff training</th>
<th>Veterinary oversight</th>
<th>Monitoring and mortalities</th>
<th>Testing and reporting</th>
<th>Species scopes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All staff to be made aware of, and trained on, animal health and welfare</td>
<td>Farms shall have a vaccination plan in place overseen by a veterinarian as well as regular site visits</td>
<td>Farms shall monitor production daily for mortality, with mortalities removed at least every second day and moribunds removed daily. Identified diseases are also reported</td>
<td>Farms test every batch of animals for diseases of regional concern prior to stocking. Stocking densities and mortalities to be reported annually to ASC</td>
<td>Check specific species requirements. Most indicators apply to cleaner fish. Farms shall only use cleaner fish species native to the farming area</td>
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</table>

### Health and welfare management plans

Farms shall develop a plan which includes:

- **Operational welfare indicators**: water quality; morphological scoring; behavioral scoring; mortalities
- **Disease monitoring and reporting**
- **Biosecurity measures**
- **Predator control**
- **Veterinary oversight**
- **Fish welfare trend analysis mechanism**
- **Mortality reduction**
Criterion 4.1 Animal health and welfare

Operational Welfare Indicators (OWI) - Supporting producers to manage health and welfare

**Monitor**
- Monitoring of set parameters and frequency

**Evaluate**
- Collect data and assess risk level accordingly

**Action**
- Take appropriate action according to the risk level
The Benefits

Benefits go beyond animal welfare

Quality, value and industry leading standard

- Clear and strengthened requirements that support effective farming practices
- Welfare focused processes contribute to a more consistent and higher quality finished product
- Requirements allow producers to demonstrate responsible welfare practices
- The ASC Farm Standard sets out the highest welfare standards in major aquaculture certification schemes
## Improvements on current species standards

The ASC Farm Standard addresses animal welfare more rigorously

### Existing species standards
- Animal welfare is not included in the existing species standards
- The existing standards only covered basic topics such as water quality, biosecurity, disease prevention and responsible use of therapeutants

### New ASC Farm Standard
- The Farm Standard requires a site-specific Health and Welfare Management Plan for all species
- Includes the use of detailed Operational Welfare Indicators covering welfare topics
- Also covers staff training, veterinary oversight reporting requirements

![ASC Farm Standard Logo](https://asc.farmed.org/assets/images/asc-standard-for-seafood-logo.png)

"Setting The Standard for Seafood"
Additional information

Email: consultation@asc-aqua.org

Some materials are also available in Spanish, Vietnamese, French, German, Turkish, Japanese, Korean

In depth topic slides on:
- 2.4 Alien Species
- 2.5 Benthic Impacts
- 2.6 Water Quality
- 2.10 Energy Use & GHG Emissions
- 2.14 Pre-grow Out
- 3.9 Working Hours
- 4.1 Animal Health and Welfare
- 4.3-4.4 Fish and Shrimp Health and Welfare – Slaughter

ASC Farm Standard Slides (link)

Full ASC Draft Farm Standard (link)
Indicators

See Farm Standard Criterion 4.1 indicators, Appendix 3 and Appendix 10
Thank you