



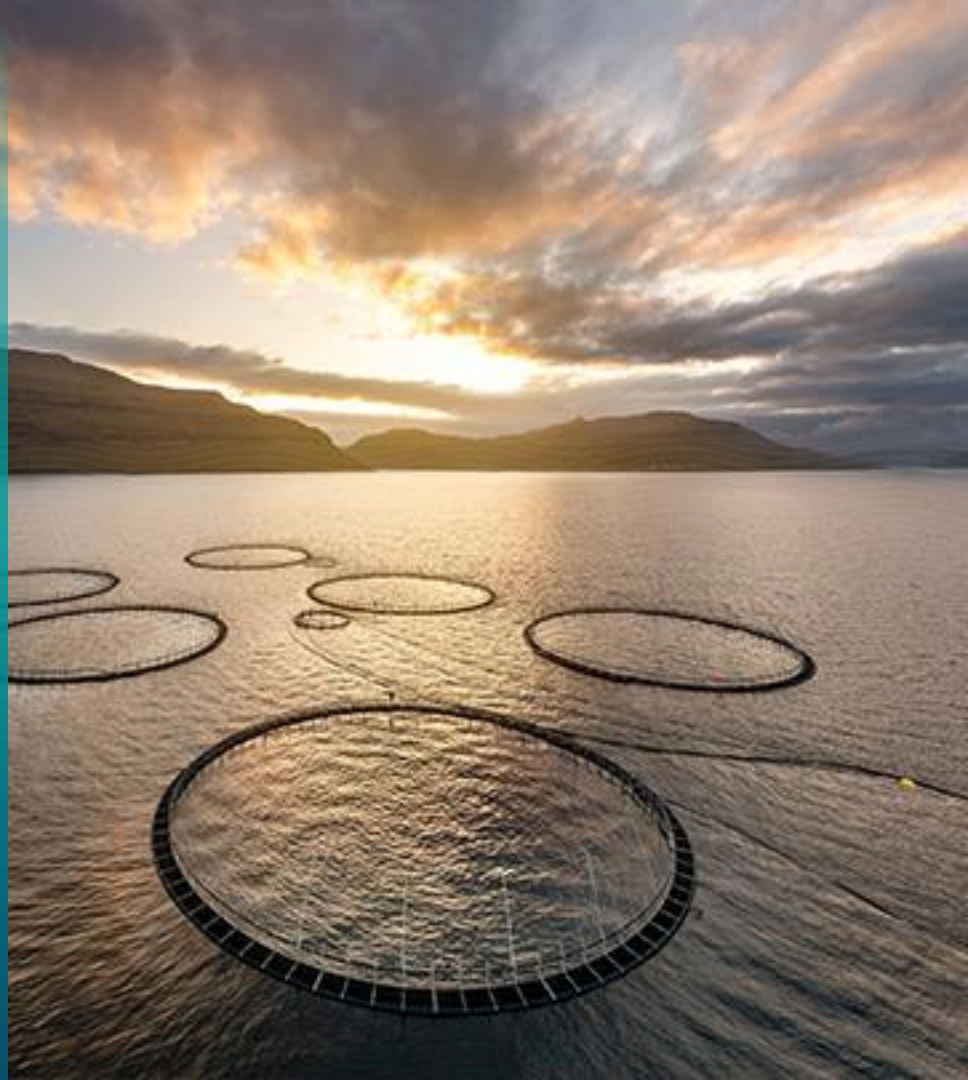
IN DEPTH

4.1 Animal Health and Welfare

Stakeholder Consultation April 2024



**Setting The
Standard for
Seafood**



The issue and ASC's approach

The issue

- Welfare is the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies. It is a key factor in sustainable production
- Fish are sentient beings, and current aquaculture practices may impair welfare needs and thus need to be addressed
- There is sufficient scientific research available on fish welfare for ASC to support expanding its current health and welfare-related indicators for different species

Our approach

- The farm maintains good animal health and welfare to minimise detrimental effects on the environmental, wildlife and cultured animals
- Requirements include day-to-day practices to monitor and improve health and welfare through a welfare management plan
- Includes staff training, veterinary oversight, mortality measuring and biosecurity measures
- Introduces a monitoring process for Operations Welfare Indicators (OWIs)

What farms need to do



Staff training

All staff to be made aware of, and trained on, animal health and welfare



Veterinary oversight

Farms shall have a vaccination plan in place overseen by a veterinarian as well as regular site visits



Monitoring and mortalities

Farms shall monitor production daily for mortality, with mortalities removed at least every second day and moribunds removed daily. Identified diseases are also reported



Testing and reporting

Farms test every batch of animals for diseases of regional concern prior to stocking. Stocking densities and mortalities to be reported annually to ASC



Species scopes

Check specific species requirements. Most indicators apply to cleaner fish. Farms shall only use cleaner fish species native to the farming area

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



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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**

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 \(link\)](#)



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Indicators

See Farm Standard **Criterion 4.1 indicators, Appendix 3** and **Appendix 10**

Thank you



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