

2.14 Pre-Grow Out

Stakeholder Consultation April 2024



**Setting The
Standard for
Seafood**



The issue and ASC's approach

The issue

- During their life-cycle, aquaculture products often spend time at different production sites before their final grow out site
- There are various phases of production depending on their life-cycle stage, including pre-grow out hatcheries and intermediate sites, which are sites used after the pre-grow out but before the final grow out site
- These sites can be located on-site or off-site and can be owned or not owned by the grow out site
- As with grow out sites, pre-grow out and intermediate sites may all have environmental and human rights impacts
- Existing ASC species-specific standards do not cover intermediate sites and cover pre-grow out inconsistently

Our approach

- The ASC Farm Standard brings greater accountability by covering the impacts of the pre-grow out and intermediate sites used before the final grow out sites
- The grow out farm must ensure that the pre-grow out supplier meets specified legal, environmental, human rights, health and welfare requirements
- Intermediate sites are now covered by full ASC certification

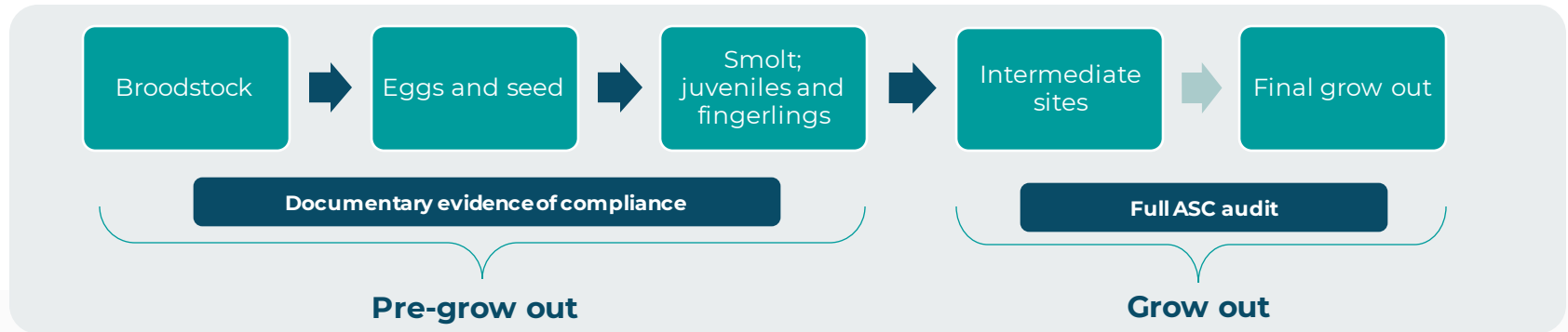


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The requirements

Pre-grow out and intermediate sites

- This criterion will extend the scope of the ASC Farm Standard by developing requirements to assess the performance of sites used prior to the grow-out certified farm (known as **pre-grow out**)
- Intermediate sites in the grow-out phase **now require full ASC certification**
- The Farm Standard distinguishes between the pre-grow out from the grow-out phase:



- If receiving stock from a pre-grow out farm, the grow out producer shall map the pre-grow out farms involved in growing ASC product using the **ASC Pre-Grow Out Supply Chain Mapping Template** provided on the ASC website

Cut-off between grow out and pre-grow out

Species group	Pre-Grow Out Phase	Start Grow Out Phase
Seabass, seabream and meagre; flatfish; seriola and cobia; salmon; tropical marine finfish	Broodstock; egg; larvae; seed; fingerling; smolt	When fish are stocked in cages
Freshwater trout; pangasius; tilapia		When fish are ≥ 10 grams or when fish are stocked in ponds
Shrimp		When shrimp are PL25
Abalone		From transition to grow-out farming systems
Bivalve		Point of translocation

The requirements

Environmental and health and welfare requirements

ASC farms must ensure the pre-grow out suppliers:

- Have all required legal licenses and permits applicable to human rights, animal welfare and the environment
- Have a wildlife plan and do not use wild harvested broodstock of threatened and protected species
- Are not sited in protected areas or other area-based conservation measures
- Rehabilitate and limit conversion of natural wetlands such as mangroves
- Have an escape prevention plan, a fish health and welfare plan, a biosolids plan and a waste plan
- Have procedures for holding effluents for at least 48hrs
- Only use antibiotics under specific conditions and disclose to the grow-out farm the antibiotic treatments on supplied animals,
- Do not use antimicrobials listed as Critically Important Antimicrobials for Human Medicine by the World Health Organisation

The requirements

Human rights and working conditions requirements

ASC farms must ensure the pre-grow out suppliers:

- Have procedures for not engaging in or supporting forced, bonded, compulsory labour, child labour or human trafficking
- Have procedures for the equal treatment of all employees and applicants for employment
- Have site-specific health and safety risk assessments and training
- Have procedures to inform employees that they are free to join workers organisations and to bargain collectively
- Have procedures for the presentation, treatment and resolution of grievances by employees, local communities and Indigenous and tribal peoples

ASC stock status record template

To be completed by farms supplying batches of fish or larvae to pass data down supply chain

- The table must include the aggregate of information relevant to that batch of fish
- Every pre-grow out supplier includes data compiled from both their direct suppliers and from their own production
- A single ASC Stock Status Record covers batches of fish and larvae rather than a separate form for each supplier
- One form can cover a number of batches if the information is consistent

Species:	
Batch identification number(s):	
Broodstock:	
Antiparasiticide treatments:	
Antibiotic treatments:	
Feed:	
ASC status:	
Name of company supplying the batch(es) of pre-grow out:	
Date(s) of delivery:	
Name and signature:	

Improvements on current species standards

The ASC Farm Standard addresses pre-grow out sites more rigorously

Existing species standards

- Existing ASC species-specific standards do not consistently cover the impacts of pre-grow out sites. While some standards include dedicated sections of requirements addressing impacts from pre-grow out, others include only a limited number of requirements, and some do not include requirements for this phase at all
- Existing ASC species-specific standards do not cover the impacts of intermediate sites

New ASC Farm Standard

- Consistently addresses key legal, environmental, human rights and health and welfare impacts for pre-grow out suppliers.
- Pre-grow out activities covered in the ASC audit mechanism
- Expanded scope of the certification to including intermediate sites



The benefits

Why ASC is taking this approach

ASC Farm Standard pre-grow out requirements and the inclusion of intermediate sites within the scope of certification closes an assurance gap within the species standards



The new requirements in the ASC Farm Standard will offer greater visibility into the impacts of pre-grow out sites throughout the supply chain



The ASC Farm Standard focusses on key requirements pre-grow out suppliers must meet, balancing accountability with feasibility



ASC Pre-Grow Out Supply Chain Mapping Template and the ASC Stock Status Record Template supports compliance



The questions: General

Consultation questions

1

ALL

To what extent are the requirements in this criteria clear?

Reasons for finding clarity/lack of clarity

2

ALL

To what extent will there be challenges in implementing these requirements?

What challenges do you foresee?

3

PRODUCERS

What cost will be involved in meeting these requirements?

Scale (reduced costs → similar costs → moderate additional costs
→ significant additional costs)

What are the main sources of additional cost?

4

CABs

To what extent are these requirements auditable?

Please detail any challenges you foresee with auditing this criterion

5

ALL

What suggestions do you have for improving these requirements?

Specific Questions

Consultation questions

The Farm Standard sets out a cut-off between pre-grow out stages and the start of the grow-out phase.

To what extent do you agree with the approach taken here by ASC?	All
<i>Reasons for agreement/disagreement</i>	

Whether the pre-grow out farm supplier meets specified requirements will be determined by the grow out farm through requesting documentary evidence of compliance, rather than through an onsite audit. Evidence of compliance will then be verified during the ASC audit by the ASC-contracted auditor.

To what extent do you agree with the approach taken here by ASC?	All
<i>Reasons for agreement/disagreement</i>	

How to get involved?

Email: consultation@asc-aqua.org



Materials are available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, French, German, Turkish, Japanese, Korean



In depth topic slides on:

[2.4 Alien Species](#)

[2.6 Water Quality](#)

[2.10 Energy Use & GHG Emissions](#)

[2.14 Pre-grow Out](#)

[3.9 Working Hours](#)

[4.3-4.4 Fish and Shrimp Health and Welfare - Slaughter](#)



ASC Farm Standard Slides ([link](#))



Full ASC Draft Farm Standard ([link](#))



Survey ([link](#))



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Criterion 2.14 – Pre-Grow Out

Indicators:

Indicator 2.14.1	If receiving stock from pre-grow out ⁵⁶ , the UoC shall map the farms involved in growing ASC product, using the ASC Pre-Grow Out Supply Chain Mapping Template provided on the ASC website.
Indicator 2.14.2	The UoC shall only stock larvae or fish as ASC if the following is complied with (see also Indicator 1.4.2): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the UoC demonstrates that pre-grow out farms involved in growing the ASC product (Indicator 2.14.1) conform with Appendix 14, and• the batch of larvae or fish is accompanied by the ASC Stock Status Record (Appendix 14, table 2.14.3). Or <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the supplying grow-out farm is ASC certified, and• the batch of larvae or fish is accompanied by the ASC Stock Status Record (Appendix 14, table 2.14.3).
Indicator 2.14.3	Grow out farms shall pass on GHG data to subsequent grow out farms, using the ASC Greenhouse Gases Data Submission Template.

Thank you



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