



# Recommendations for revised ASC indicators on Fish Welfare Consultation Summary September 2021



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# Recommendations for revised ASC indicators on Fish Welfare

## Consultation Summary

Public Consultation: September 01 - October 31, 2021

### Project Objective

The ASC Fish Welfare project aims to define, through standard indicators, key impacts of aquaculture on farmed aquatic animal welfare and associated best practices required to meet ASC's Farm Standard. ASC's position on Fish Welfare can be viewed [here](#).

### Purpose of consultation

This event follows an initial consultation on the [Terms of Reference](#) for this work in 2019. We now seek input to inform the further development of the Fish Welfare content for the forthcoming [ASC Farm Standard](#), specifically:

1. Collect feedback on the practical impact of proposals on producers, primary processors, and auditors.
2. Collect feedback from other key stakeholder groups on the conceptual approach developed by the [Technical Working Group](#) (TWG).

In addition, we aim to enhance the balance of stakeholder representation and engagement, and obtain early insights into auditability of proposals.

### Proposals

The proposals are considering applicability of requirements to the species covered by the ASC certification schemes (excluding seaweed) and a phased approach to introduction of issues addressed and specific practices required of producers to demonstrate best practice.

The table below shows the framework of issues within scope of ASC's Fish Welfare project with **green** showing the topics covered in this consultation.

Good Management practices				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Staff training</b></li> <li>- <b>Risk assessment and mitigation</b></li> <li>- <b>Records and administration</b></li> <li>- <b>Contingency plans</b></li> </ul>				
Feeding	Housing	Health	Behaviour	Other
Feed related: -Feed quality -Feeding system -Withdrawal periods	<b>-Water quality</b> -Tank/pen design <b>-Stocking density</b> <b>-Environmental enrichment</b> -Lighting/sound	<i>Other TWG</i> Current content to be reviewed for potential overlap/conflicts. -Scoring body condition/lesions	Specific behaviours related to welfare => potential behavioural indicators	-Handling <b>-Slaughter and related processes</b> -Cleaner fish -Shrimp issues: eyestalk ablation

## How to contribute

- Detailed proposals are documented [here](#) and a video is available explaining the proposals [here](#).
- Consultation surveys are available for producers, processors, auditors and other stakeholders.
- Stakeholders are also invited to sign up for [live Q and A sessions](#) on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September

## Next Steps

Following the public consultation, ASC will collate all the feedback and prepare a synopsis of feedback received for publication on the ASC website.

The Technical Working Group will consider feedback and proposed modifications, in addition to continuing work on the other elements of the Fish Welfare project. All outcomes of this process will be endorsed by the Technical Advisory Board before full proposals are presented for consultation in September 2022.

Pilot testing will also be completed in 2022 before a final version of ASC Farm Standard content is submitted for Board approval.