



ASC Standards Development Advisory Panel

Protected Areas

Operational 2021 - present

Name	Organisation	Role	Stakeholder group	Primary region represented
François Simard	Ecosystem-based Aquaculture Group (E-bAG) of IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management	Co-Chair	IGO	Europe
Anders Lindhe	HVC Network	Technical Manager	NGO	Europe
Nigel Dudley	Equilibrium Research	Principal	Research	Europe
Raphaëla le Gouvello	CEO of Stermor; President of RespectOcean; Co-Chair of the Ecosystem-based Aquaculture Group (E-bAG) of IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management	Expert in marine coastal zone management, fisheries and aquaculture-dependent territories, sustainability, blue growth, IUCN expert	-	Europe
Lauren Wenzel	National Marine Protected Areas Center, NOAA	Director	Government	North America
Dane Klinger	Conservation International	Director of Aquaculture	NGO	North America
Rebecca Flitcroft, PhD	USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Corvallis Forestry Sciences Lab	Research Fish Biologist	Research	North America
Clare Stevens	ASC	Senior Coordinator, Social Standards	-	-
Jill Swasey	ASC	Head of Monitoring and Evaluation	-	-
Lucas Santos	ASC	Programme Assurance Coordinator	-	-
Michiel Fransen	ASC	Director of Standards and Science	-	-
Monroe Abbott	ASC	GIS Coordinator	-	-



Aim

The expert panel is dedicated to refining guidelines for aquaculture activities in protected areas and other protected habitats. The Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) has always included requirements around the allowance of aquaculture farm siting in designated habitat types, and with the growth of our programme and potential misinterpretations of requirements, we are seeking to collaboratively develop clear guidance around this topic – which we hope will cover aquaculture operations in Protected Areas, wetlands, HCVs and other designations as appropriate.

Background

Current guidelines on managing Protected Areas do not provide sufficient guidance for managing aquaculture activities across the variety of Protected Area habitat types. Aquaculture production systems operate in both aquatic (marine, freshwater and brackish) and terrestrial ecosystems and the potential environmental impacts vary by activity and habitat. These compatibilities and conflicts have been addressed through ASC's Standards to varying degrees; and ASC has made effort to align to best management and guidance externally.

ASC is currently developing an aligned Farm Standard that brings together requirements across our standards into a single consistent set that will apply across production systems. As a result, there are bound to be some changes that will alter the requirements currently captured. We intend to maintain the same rigour across requirements, but also establishing a consistent approach.

An ideal outcome from this work will be the refinement of our draft indicators for our aligned Farm Standard that can be supported by a set of external guidelines that define the compatibilities of aquaculture activities with Protected Areas and other ecologically important habitats.

WG Process

The work will be steered by this expert panel and facilitated by Nigel Dudley (Equilibrium Research). We will meet virtually at least twice between August and November 2021: once to help outline the scope of work and again to review the results. Materials will be drafted and shared in advance of meetings to facilitate discussion.