



ASC SHRIMP STANDARD REVISION

Freshwater Crustacean Species
Environmental Impact Indicators
Consultation Summary

March 2020



Freshwater Crustacean Species – Environmental impact indicators

Consultation Summary

Project Objective

The ASC regularly reviews its standards in compliance with the ISEAL Code of Good Practice. The ASC Shrimp Standard v.1.1 currently covers saltwater shrimp species of the genus *Litopenaeus* and *Penaeus*, focussing on *P. vannamei*¹ and *P. monodon*. A gap analysis was conducted by the ASC to evaluate the possibility to add freshwater crustaceans to the standard. As a result, it was decided to add *Cherax spp*, *Procambarus spp.*, *Astacus spp.*, and *Macrobrachium spp.* to the standard.

The following elements were identified in the gap analysis², where Criteria/Indicators would be needed to ensure the potential environmental impacts of the farming of these novel freshwater species be assessed and addressed:

1. Freshwater abstraction
2. Freshwater discharge
3. Escape management
4. Non-native species
5. Wetland conservation
6. Metrics & data collection/analysis.

Of these elements, escape management is currently covered in the ASC Shrimp Standard v1.1 (6.1.2 and 6.1.3).

The objective of this work is to address these gaps.

Purpose of consultation

The present consultation on the indicators proposed to address the identified gaps in the current standard aims to gather additional information and views from stakeholders. ASC wants to ensure that best practices/performances are included and that stakeholder inputs are considered in this Review. This is in compliance with both ASC's standard-setting process and with ISEAL Standard Setting Code.

¹ The ASC's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) supported in November 2019 the proposal that based on [recent research](#) re. phylogenetic analyses of several shrimp within the family Penaidae, the *Penaeus* genus should be used to define all potential new saltwater shrimp species. This also means that from the Shrimp Standard Review's public consultation of March 2020, references to the 'Litopenaeus' genus will be removed and replaced by 'Penaeus', and/or used interchangeably. Notably, the Whiteleg shrimp *may* be referred to by ASC as 'Penaeus (Litopenaeus) vannamei' – or 'P. vannamei' – and if so: this latter species refers to the same as the one listed in the scope of the Shrimp Standard v1.1 as 'Litopenaeus vannamei' or 'L. vannamei'.

² See Document #9 in the March 2020 Shrimp Review Public Consultation publications.



Proposal

In order to address the identified freshwater environmental impact areas whilst maximising alignment across ASC's various standards, ASC has reviewed its current freshwater species standards for relevant existing content. Criteria and Indicators relevant to the elements listed above have been identified. These were taken from the current ASC freshwater species standards applicable for the freshwater crustacean species and production system assessed in the initial gap analysis. Indicators covering issues subject to specific projects (e.g. antibiotics, mangroves/wetlands) which are already part of the development of the aligned ASC Farm Standard are being excluded from this work. ASC is working to finalise this work as soon as possible – details can be found on the ASC website.

Consultation Questions

The public consultation will be used to acquire more information from stakeholders regarding these proposed indicators.

Beyond the public at large and anybody whom may want to contribute opinions, relevant farmers and producer organisations (crawfish/crayfish and freshwater prawn) -- as well as NGOs with specific expertise of freshwater aquaculture systems' impacts -- will be invited to participate in this consultation. They will be asked the questions below:

- a. *Are the indicators presented in Table 1 adequate to assess all/the main specific impacts of freshwater crustacean farming on the environment?*
- b. *Are there other environmental impact indicators which ASC should add, in addition those mentioned above?*
- c. *Are you a farmer of one of these aforementioned species; and are you interested in participating in our first pilots? If so, please contact us: marcelo.hidalgo@asc-aqua.org*

Next steps

After receiving stakeholders' comments, the latter will be assessed and initial responses will be provided to all parties involved. Feedback and any revised proposals will be presented to the ASC Technical Advisory Group (TAG). Consideration will then be given as to whether a second consultation is needed or not. This will be communicated to all stakeholders in due time.