

ASC Pike-perch module

Stakeholder Consultation

FAQ

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1. Why is ASC running a stakeholder consultation on the Pike-perch module?

The ASC Pike-perch Module is part of ASC's Species Extension Project. The stakeholder consultation aims to get feedback from stakeholders on the content of the module, collect additional data and literature on pike-perch aquaculture practices, address literature gaps and raise awareness on the upcoming launch of the ASC Pike-perch Module in 2023. The module will be effective in in 2024.

2. What is the ASC Species Extension Project?

The ASC Species Extension Project aims at regularly updating the ASC portfolio.

New species may be added to the ASC programme based on consumer demand, market development opportunity, or producer interest. New species added to the programme can be largely based on current standard requirements because the impacts of the main culture systems are already covered by the existing standards.

However, not all impacts may be covered and therefore, species specific metrics will need to be tailored through the [ASC Metrics Methodology](#). This approach enables the organisation to deliver an efficient response to market demand or producer interest, whilst adhering to the ASC Standard Setting Procedure.

3. Why should pike-perch be considered for inclusion into the ASC Farm Standard?

The European species of pike-perch (*Sander lucioperca*) was selected as a pilot species for the Species Extension Project to determine a verifiable and quotable step-wise approach for the addition of new species to the ASC portfolio. Other species will follow gradually.

Looking at global demand and production, pike-perch farming and demand in the seafood market is expected to grow. The global production of pike-perch through aquaculture went from 653 tonnes of live weight in 2009 and reached more than 3,000 tonnes of live weight in 2020 and this trend is growing. With the growth in aquaculture production, decrease in wild-caught species and demand from European producers increasing, pike-perch has been selected as a species of interest.

4. In which type of aquaculture system will the ASC Pike-perch module be applicable to?

The ASC Pike-perch Module will be applicable exclusively to Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) and pond systems.

5. Why was the Freshwater Trout Standard used as a basis for pike-perch?

The proposed module is primarily created from existing indicators from the [ASC Freshwater Trout Standard V.1.2](#). This standard was selected since both species are fresh water species with similar predatory and feeding behaviours. Commercial feeds used in experiments with pike-perch are often formulated for trout. Moreover, these two species share similar farming methods.

Additionally, a whitepaper was prepared containing all the background research before a decision to use the Freshwater Trout Standard was made.

Where some environmental and social indicators are lacking from the Freshwater Trout Standard, some indicators from the Pangasius Standard and Tropical Marine Finfish Standard (TMFF) were selected to be added to the Pike-perch Module. Additional health and feed management requirements that have been revised more recently are added to the Module from the Seabass, Seabream and Meagre Standard and the Shrimp Standard.

6. What is the missing information for the Freshwater Trout Standard in which the ASC Pike-perch Module can improve on?

There are some social indicators missing in the Freshwater Trout Standard, as well as pond effluent indicators, predator control and requirements on greenhouse gas emissions (GHGe) and the sourcing and traceability of fingerlings.

7. Which indicators were used from the ASC Pangasius Standard which were used in the Pike-perch module?

The ASC Pangasius Standard provides specific pond effluent indicators as well as measures to avoid escapees from ponds. It provides additional health management requirements in terms of veterinary treatments and fish stress records.

8. Which indicators were used from the ASC Tropical Marine Finfish Standard which were used in the Pike-perch Module?

The [ASC Tropical Marine Finfish Standard](#) covers specific pond effluent indicators, predator control measures, greenhouse gas records and reduction strategies that are relevant to pike-perch but missing from the ASC Freshwater Trout Standard. Additional useful requirements focus on the sourcing and traceability of fingerlings and social indicators about the protection of workers that reside or live on the farm property and conflict resolution policies.

9. Which indicators were used from the ASC Seabass, Seabream and Meagre Standard which were used in the Pike-perch Module?

The [ASC Seabass, Seabream and Meagre Standard](#) provides essential requirements covering health management indicators such as the classification of mortalities and the need for a mortality reduction programme.

10. Which indicators were used from the ASC Shrimp Standard which were used in the Pike-perch Module?

The [ASC Shrimp Standard](#) contains indicators on feed sourcing that have been revised more recently and are therefore more suitable for the ASC Pike-perch Module to allow a better transition to the ASC Farm Standard in the future.

11. How should the data on pike-perch be submitted to ASC?

The data provided and collected as feedback from the stakeholder consultation will be integrated with the data submission surrounding the ASC Farm Standard.

12. Where can I find more information?

If you want to read more about the ASC Farm Standard and its development process, please click [here](#).

13. How can I participate and provide feedback?

ASC welcomes and encourages all interested stakeholders to take part in our survey or our workshops, please click [here](#) for the survey and [here](#) for all other information on ways to engage in the consultation.

14. What is the timeline for the Pike-perch module implementation?

The Pike-perch module will be launched in October 2023 and will be effective in 2024.

15. Will the Pike-perch module later be integrated in the ASC Farm Standard?

Yes, the Pike-perch module will be integrated in the ASC Farm Standard once it becomes effective.