

FAQ Cleaner Fish Health & Welfare

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1. Why is ASC running a stakeholder consultation on Cleaner Fish Health and Welfare indicators?

ASC is running a stakeholder consultation to gain feedback on new proposals to add Cleaner Fish Health and Welfare requirements to the ASC Farm Standard. ASC set up a Technical Working Group (TWG) of experts in January 2023 to assist with this development.

2. What is the rationale for developing Farm Standard indicators on Cleaner Fish Health and Welfare?

During the September – October stakeholder consultation in 2022, cleaner fish health and welfare was raised as a topic needing ASC's attention. The main concerns from stakeholders was that more transparency was needed around the use of cleaner fish at salmon farms, as well as clear guidelines for how to maintain good cleaner fish health and welfare.

3. Will the requirements being developed be part of the first version of the ASC Farm Standard?

It is hoped that the development will be completed in time to include the requirements in the first version of the ASC Farm Standard.

4. Why are the indicators for cleaner fish introduced only now?

When the ASC's Welfare Project started back in 2019, cleaner fish welfare was not part of the project's Term of Reference. Cleaner fish health and welfare was highlighted as a topic requiring attention during the September - October 2022 stakeholder consultation, and that point the scope of the project was broadened. The initial ASC Welfare Technical Working Group did not have the relevant expertise to develop the cleaner fish standard content. ASC therefore set up a specific TWG for cleaner fish.

5. Where can I find more information?

If you want to read more about Cleaner Fish Health and Welfare, please visit [the dedicated page](#) on ASC's website.

6. How can I participate and provide feedback?

ASC welcomes and encourages all interested stakeholders to take part in our consultation survey or our workshops.

Please click here for the [survey](#) and [here](#) for all other information on ways to engage in the consultation

7. What are the next steps for including these indicators in the Farm Standard?

A second and final round of stakeholder consultation will be held in March 2024, where these indicators will be included within the full draft of the ASC Farm Standard.

8. When will the ASC Farm Standard be finalised?

The alignment of our 11 ASC species-specific Standards into one ASC Farm Standard is a big step forward for the seafood industry. We are currently refining the content based on stakeholder feedback and further research and will present the full Farm Standard for a final consultation in March 2024.

Release is now planned for Autumn 2024, becoming effective in 2025.

9. Will the Risk Management Framework be ready to use as part of the first version of the ASC Farm Standard?

Development of the site-specific Risk Management Framework (RMF) continues. In the first version of the Farm Standard, all impact areas will be covered within Farm Standard Criteria requirements until the new RMF system is operational.