

FAQ Shrimp Health & Welfare

Last update: 31/08/2023

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

Following input from the Technical Working Group (TWG) and subsequent Technical Advisory Group (TAG) endorsement, ASC is now running stakeholder consultation to gain feedback on the proposed standard indicators.

2. What is the rationale for developing and including indicators on Shrimp Health and Welfare in the ASC Farm Standard?

Shrimp is the most important commodity, by value, in the international seafood trade. To ensure the success of the shrimp industry, it's important to prioritise sustainable and ethical shrimp farming practices that promote the overall health and welfare of the shrimp throughout their life cycle. Shrimp health and welfare was highlighted as a topic needing further development during the September - October stakeholder consultation in 2022. Hence, shrimp content was revised and expanded by a shrimp specific Technical Working Group. The final content was endorsed both by the Shrimp TWG and ASC's Technical Advisory Group. The approach taken was to revise the health and welfare indicators outlined in the

ASC Farm Standard (criteria 2.14 and 2.16) and the Shrimp Standard v1.2. Whenever possible, the scope of existing indicators was expanded to cover shrimp, but new indicators have been developed for practices or situations that are specific to shrimp and have not yet been addressed.

3. Will these indicators be part of the first version of the ASC Farm Standard?

We hope that these Indicators will be finalised in time to be included as part of the first version of the ASC Farm Standard.

4. Why are the indicators for shrimp being developed after finfish?

The finfish Health and Welfare indicators were developed first because of the availability of information and the need for dedicated experts for different types of animals. This phased approach allowed the finfish content to then be compared to the needs of shrimp by a separate expert Technical Working Group.

5. What are the limits on antibiotic use? If antibiotics are used on shrimp, would that still meet the ASC standard?

The use of antibiotic in shrimp is not tolerated. If shrimp are treated with antibiotics, they cannot be sold as ASC certified.

The reasoning for providing this alternative simplified option is that, in most cases, pre grow-out accounts for a very small portion of total GHG emissions.

6. Why is eyestalk ablation not included in this round of consultation?

Eyestalk ablation refers to the practice of removing or cutting off the eyestalks of crustaceans. Eyestalk ablation is a widespread practice to induce rapid maturation and spawning through hormonal manipulation in female shrimp.

It is a form of practice that leads to suffering and stress. A proposed indicator for shrimp requiring farms to source all nauplii (the crustacean's first stage of larvae), larvae or post-larvae from "ablation-free" female broodstock within certain timelines has already been subject to stakeholder consultation between 1 March-30 April 2023.

7. Where can I find more information?

If you want to find more information related to Shrimp Health and Welfare, please visit the [dedicated page](#) on ASC's website.

8. 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

9. What are the next steps for the inclusion of 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

10. 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.

10. 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.