



ASC Pike-perch Module FAQs

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Table of Contents

- 1. What is the ASC Species Extension Project?.....3
- 2. What will change in the ASC Scope Extension Project after the release of the Farm Standard?3
- 3. What is the Species Scope Extension Process?3
- 4. Where can stakeholders submit request for further species?.....4
- 5. What is the data submission portal and where can I find it?4
- 6. Which species are currently included in the data submission portal?.....5
- 7. Which species’ inclusion are currently on hold?5
- 8. Why was pike-perch considered for inclusion into the ASC scope?.....6
- 9. What is the scope of the ASC Pike-perch Module?6
- 10. How about other Percidae species?6
- 11. Where can I find more information about the Public Consultation on the ASC Pike-perch Module?6
- 12. Where can I find additional information about the metrics selected?7
- 13. Why was the Freshwater Trout Standard used as a basis for the pike-perch Module?7
- 14. Which indicators in the Pike-perch Module were adopted from the ASC Pangasius Standard?.....7
- 15. Which indicators in the Pike-perch Module were adopted from the ASC Tropical Marine Finfish Standard?.....7
- 16. Which indicators in the Pike-perch Module were adopted from the ASC Seabass, Seabream and Meagre Standard?.....8
- 17. Which indicators in the Pike-perch Module were adopted from the ASC Shrimp Standard?.....8
- 18. Where can I find more information on the ASC Pike-perch Module?8
- 19. Where can I find more information on the ASC Farm Standard?8
- 20. What is the timeline for the ASC Pike-perch Module release?8
- 21. Will the Pike-perch module later be integrated in the ASC Farm Standard?9
- 22. Who is the contact person for this project?9

Document Name:	ASC Pike-perch Module FAQs	Document ID:	ASC-PKP-003	Date issued:	15/01/2024
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Classification:	EXTERNAL (RESTRICTED)	Page 2 of 9			

General questions on the Species Scope Extension Project

1. What is the ASC Species Extension Project?

ASC introduced the Scope Extension Project in 2021 to regularly update the ASC portfolio and promote species diversification within the ASC programme. In the Scope Extension Project, species are added to the programme based on consumer demand, market development opportunity and/or producer interest. The Scope Extension Project runs in parallel to the development of the ASC Farm Standard. After its release, the new species will be integrated into the ASC Farm Standard. This project is based on the ASC Standard Setting Procedure and the ASC Metric Methodology.

The [ASC Standards Setting Procedure](#) sets out the general requirements for transparent and accountable preparation, adoption and revision of the ASC standards.

The [ASC Metrics Methodology](#) is a process that provides consistency in metric-setting. Both processes ensure that the Scope Extension Project is in line with ISEAL requirements.

1. What will change in the ASC Scope Extension Project after the release of the Farm Standard?

The ASC Pike-perch Module represents the sole *transitional* component that is planned for eventual incorporation into the ASC Farm Standard. The ASC Pike-perch Module is based on requirements coming from existing species-specific standards. All forthcoming species introduced will still be part of the Scope Extension Project, yet they will be directly integrated into the Farm Standard without relying on pre-existing species-specific standards and without the use of interim components.

2. What is the Species Scope Extension Process?

All requests for the adoption of new species submitted to the ASC will go through an initial evaluation. This includes scoring the species against general ASC requirements (i.e., production system, environmental, social and feed) and a check for data availability. ASC also performs a market analysis to provide additional information on the market opportunities and relevance.

Document Name:	ASC Pike-perch Module FAQs	Document ID:	ASC-PKP-003	Date issued:	15/01/2024
Document Owner:	Research Coordinator	Version:	1.0	Last reviewed:	15/01/2024
Classification:	EXTERNAL (RESTRICTED)	Page 3 of 9			

After approval by the ASC Board, ASC will develop Terms of Reference (TOR) for the adoption of a new species/ species group. This TOR will be released during the subsequent round of stakeholder consultation, during which stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on the TOR, see the timeline and understand the plan. Finally, ASC will develop a white paper for each species. This will reflect feedback from the stakeholder consultation and will contain key points relating to the production sector, challenges and opportunities.

The species will then be integrated into the ASC Farm Standard. General criteria common in multiple species will be maintained as the indicators within these principles are not species-specific. Depending on the production system in use, each stakeholder applying for certification will have to conform to system-specific requirements. If species-specific metrics are deemed to be required, these will be developed through the Metrics Methodology, and the new metrics will be included in the annexes of the ASC Farm Standard. When the production system is not included in the ASC Farm Standard, or when important issues are not covered within the principles of the ASC Farm Standard, new indicators may be added by following the Standard Setting Procedure.

When adding new species to the ASC Farm Standard, ASC focuses on the key social and environmental issues that are identified as part of its multi-stakeholder approach. The requirements aim to strike the right balance between mitigating key impacts while not impeding the development of sustainable and responsible aquaculture operations. The standards should not create obstacles to trade or exclude small-scale farms from market access. ASC strives to address all barriers to engagement in the standard-setting process, which is also applicable to the addition of new species.

3. Where can stakeholders submit request for further species?

For submitting a request for new species, please access our [“New Species Request Form”](#).

4. What is the data submission portal and where can I find it?

The data submission portal is a platform that allows producers, academia and other interested stakeholders to submit information on new species that are part of the Species Extension Projects (i.e. species requested to be included in the ASC programme). In fact, processes to add new species to the ASC Farm Standard may be put temporarily on hold due to limited scientific literature and data availability. Even though the project would be momentarily paused, the data submission portal is available for stakeholders to submit data and information on

Document Name:	ASC Pike-perch Module FAQs	Document ID:	ASC-PKP-003	Date issued:	15/01/2024
Document Owner:	Research Coordinator	Version:	1.0	Last reviewed:	15/01/2024
Classification:	EXTERNAL (RESTRICTED)	Page 4 of 9			

the species of interest to support with the continuation of the process. Once sufficient information has been collected, ASC will continue with the evaluation process.

The data submission portal will also be available between the start of the Stakeholder Consultation on the TOR of a new proposed species and during the Stakeholder Consultation on the first version of the species-specific indicators.

The link to the data submission portal can be found [here](#).

5. Which species are currently included in the data submission portal?

Currently, the following species are included in the data submission portal:

- Jade perch (*Scortum barcoo*)
- African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*)
- Claresse (Hybrid of *Heterobranchus longifilis* X *Clarias Gariepinus*)
- Vundu (*Heterobranchus longifilis*)
- Channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*)
- European/Wels catfish (*Silurus glanis*)
- Any other catfish species
- Percoidea spp.

To check the most up to date list, click [here](#).

6. Which species' inclusion are currently on hold?

Due to limited scientific literature, data availability and stakeholder involvement, the process to include jade perch (*Scortum barcoo*) is temporarily on hold.

Document Name:	ASC Pike-perch Module FAQs	Document ID:	ASC-PKP-003	Date issued:	15/01/2024
Document Owner:	Research Coordinator	Version:	1.0	Last reviewed:	15/01/2024
Classification:	EXTERNAL (RESTRICTED)	Page 5 of 9			

Questions on the ASC Pike-perch Module V.1.0.

7. Why was pike-perch considered for inclusion into the ASC scope?

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 grew from 653 tonnes of live weight in 2009 to more than 3,000 tonnes of live weight in 2020 and the trend is growing. Additionally, there has been an interest from the market side for responsible pike-perch farming and transparent certification. With the growth in aquaculture production and increasing demand from European producers, pike-perch has been selected as a species of interest.

8. What is the scope of the ASC Pike-perch Module?

The current ASC Pike-perch Module is applicable to *Sander lucioperca*. The ASC Pike-perch Module applies to all locations and scales of pike-perch farm-based aquaculture production systems in the world.

9. How about other Percidae species?

Currently the module is applicable only to pike-perch (*Sander lucioperca*). Some other Percidae species such as Walleye, European perch and Mandarin perch have received an initial approval to be included in the ASC Scope by the ASC Board. However, the selection of the specific new species to enter the process for inclusion in the ASC Farm Standard is based on a prioritisation process. The next species in line to enter the process are catfish species. Future priority species will be selected after Spring 2024.

10. Where can I find more information about the Public Consultation on the ASC Pike-perch Module?

The ASC Pike-perch Module underwent a round of Public Consultation in March-April 2023. The results of the consultation can be found [here](#).

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For additional information on the consultation, check our [website](#), under the section "Public Consultation I".

11. Where can I find additional information about the metrics selected?

Information on the metrics can be found [here](#).

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

The proposed module is primarily created from existing indicators from the [ASC Freshwater Trout Standard V.1.2](#). This standard was selected as a basis since both the freshwater trout and the pike-perch 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.

As part of the process, background research has been conducted and released in a whitepaper 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 were selected to be added to the Pike-perch Module. Additional health and feed management requirements that have been revised more recently in the Seabass, Seabream and Meagre Standard and the Shrimp Standard have also been added to the Module.

13. Which indicators in the Pike-perch Module were adopted from the ASC Pangasius Standard?

The Pike-perch Module includes also indicators taken from the ASC Pangasius Standard, for instance specific pond effluent indicators as well as measures to avoid escapees from ponds. The Pangasius Standard also provides additional health management requirements in terms of veterinary treatments and fish stress records. These indicators are relevant to pike-perch farming but missing from the ASC Freshwater Trout Standard.

14. Which indicators in the Pike-perch Module were adopted from the ASC Tropical Marine Finfish Standard?

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 farming but missing from the ASC Freshwater Trout

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Classification:	EXTERNAL (RESTRICTED)	Page 7 of 9			

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.

15. Which indicators in the Pike-perch Module were adopted from the ASC Seabass, Seabream and Meagre Standard?

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. These indicators are relevant to pike-perch farming but missing from the ASC Freshwater Trout Standard.

16. Which indicators in the Pike-perch Module were adopted from the ASC Shrimp Standard?

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.

17. Where can I find more information on the ASC Pike-perch Module?

To read more about the ASC Pike-perch Module and its development process and relevant documents, please click [here](#).

18. Where can I find more information on the ASC Farm Standard?

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

19. What is the timeline for the ASC Pike-perch Module release?

The Pike-perch module was launched on the 15th of January 2024. Auditing materials are under development, and Compliance Assessment Bodies (CABs) will undergo training to ensure a seamless implementation process. The certification process can begin approximately 6-8 weeks after the launch.

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20. 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 the ASC Farm Standard becomes effective.

21. Who is the contact person for this project?

For any questions on the Scope Extension Project and/or the ASC Pike-perch Module, please contact fabiola.mustafaj@asc-aqua.org

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Classification:	EXTERNAL (RESTRICTED)	Page 9 of 9			