

Terms of Reference

Cleaner Fish Technical Working Group

TAG Approval Date: January 2023

Contents

- 1. Introduction 2**
- 2. References 2**
- 3. Terms of Reference 2**
- 4. Membership 3**
- 5. Reporting requirements 4**
- 6. Duration and review times 4**
- 7. Resources [INTERNAL ONLY] 5**
- 8. Agreement 6**

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Classification:	EXTERNAL (RESTRICTED)	Page 1 of 6			

1. Introduction

The TAG Terms of Reference make provision for the formation of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to support the technical and scientific work of the TAG. Typically, a TWG will be comprised of technical experts external to ASC’s governance bodies with a member of the TAG acting as sponsor to facilitate communication and understanding between the TAG and the TWG and support the ASC technical lead. ASC’s Secretariat will provide logistical support to the group and a technical coordinator from ASC will be appointed to provide the group with the technical resources. This may include a white paper to initiate discussion and a draft Standard following TWG deliberations. An external facilitator may be appointed for complex topics.

2. References

Current versions of the following documents can be found on the ASC website:

- ASC Programme Development and Revision Procedure
- ASC Metrics Methodology
- ASC Complaints Procedure
- TAG Terms of Reference
- TAG Conflict of Interest Policy

3. Terms of Reference

3.1 Statement of purpose

During the September 2021 Public Consultation on Fish Welfare, cleaner fish were raised as a topic requiring ASC attention. The current TWG on Fish Welfare does not have the necessary expertise to complete this piece of work. Therefore, the need to create a TWG dedicated to cleaner fish.

The purpose of the TWG will be to continue the work started by the TWG on Fish Welfare and develop standard content covering cleaner fish health and welfare aspects as per feedback received during public consultation.

3.2 Terms of Reference

The scope is to come up with a series of indicators that cover all aspects related to the health and welfare of cleaner fish during their rearing in salmon pens.

The aims and tasks of the group will include:

- Identify those topics that are relevant to cleaner fish health and welfare.
- Put together and organise all the required technical information around the identified topics.
- Develop standard content that translates the identified topics into indicators.

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Classification:	EXTERNAL (RESTRICTED)	Page 2 of 6			

- Agree on a group of potential final indicators and endorse them.
- Identify knowledge gaps and potential areas where future research and work are needed.

4. Membership

TWG membership shall aim to balance interests from the standard’s key interest groups and geographical representation. All members should support the aims of the ASC, its Vision and Mission, and commit to engage constructively.

4.1 Technical competencies required:

Members of the TWG are expected to have a sound knowledge of the salmonid industry, as well as the rearing and use of cleaner fish, both wrasse and lumpstickers. Knowledge of the market demands and consumer expectations when it comes to salmon related products are a plus, but not an essential requirement. Members should preferably have a background in biology, veterinary medicine, aquaculture production, or relevant field experience.

4.2 Registered interests

ASC Technical Working Groups need to understand the interests of individual members to manage conflicts. Members are asked to declare these to ensure stakeholders and decision-makers have access to this information.

Interests of all members should be declared in the log included as Annex 1.

Table 1: TWG Members

Name	Role	Organisation	Stakeholder sector	Primary region represented
Claudia Venegas	TAG Sponsor	VESO Chile	TAG Sponsor	South America
Jim Treasurer	Participant	FAI Aquaculture	Academia	UK & Ireland
Chris Hempleman	Participant	Otter Ferry Seafish	Farm (producer) – lumpfish and wrasse hatchery	UK & Ireland
Susanna Lybaek	Participant	Dyrevernalliansen	NGO (environmental)	Norway

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Classification:	EXTERNAL (RESTRICTED)	Page 3 of 6			

Henriette Glosvik	Participant	Mowi ASA	Farm (producer)	Global
Andreas Staven/Nina Iversen	Participant	Namdal Rensefisk	Farm (producer) – lumpfish hatchery	Norway
Christoffer Hovland	Participant	Havlandet Marin Yngel	Farm (producer) – wrasse hatchery	Norway
Tina Maria Weier Oldham	Participant	Institute of Marine Research	Academia	Norway
Marner Nolsoe	Participant	Bakkafrost	Farm (producer)	Faroes
Andrew Davie	Participant	Aquascot	Farm (producer) and Processor	UK
Ralph Bickerdike	Participant	Scottish Sea Farms	Farm (producer)	UK
Antonio Chalaris	Participant	Devenish	Feed	UK
Geir Schriewer	Participant	Salmar	Farm (producer)	Norway

5. Reporting requirements

The TWG will report to TAG on a biannual basis. Materials made available to TAG will include:

- Compilation of meeting minutes.
- Recommendations
- Third party reports (if any are required)

6. Duration and review times

The TWG will meet for approximately a year and a half or until the objectives are delivered.

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Classification:	EXTERNAL (RESTRICTED)	Page 4 of 6			

Table 2: TWG timeline

Date	Activity	Outcome/Deliverable
February 2023 - May 2023	1 or 2 meetings per month as required	Identification of key topics Draft standard indicators
June 2023	1 meeting to discuss final draft indicators	Endorsement of final draft indicators
July 2023	TAG papers including final indicators and public consultation	Public consultation endorsement
September-October 2023	1 st PUBLIC CONSULTATION	
November 2023	Review and integrate public consultation feedback	Final indicators
January 2024	TAG papers including final indicators and public consultation	Public consultation endorsement
March-April 2024	2 nd PUBLIC CONSULTATION	
May 2024	Review and integrate public consultation feedback	Integration of indicators onto the farm standard

7. Resources [INTERNAL ONLY]

Membership of ASC TWGs is voluntary and unpaid. Reasonable expenses will be paid for attendance at in-person meetings to cover travel and associated subsistence costs. Accommodation will be provided.

7.1 The objective is to hold all the TWG meetings online, to both reduce costs and carbon footprint. In-person meetings will only be organised if it is deemed necessary by the project lead in case of inadequate progress being made online. In such case, costs will be discussed and approved by the Director of Standards and Science.

7.2 It is expected that the expertise brought to the table by the different members of the technical working group should suffice to deliver the project objectives. However, in some instances, the need to rely on the input of external consultants might be needed for particular topics. In that case a total precautionary budget of 7,500€ should be allocated to the project.

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Classification:	EXTERNAL (RESTRICTED)	Page 5 of 6			

8. Agreement

I agree to the above terms of reference and that the information provided in Annex 1 is accurate.

Signed _____

Name _____

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Classification:	EXTERNAL (RESTRICTED)	Page 6 of 6			