



ASC | Protected Areas Consultation

# Aquaculture in Protected Areas

Preliminary consultation

9 March – 9 April 2026



Setting The  
Standard for  
Seafood



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## **ASC Consultations | Aquaculture in Protected Areas**

**Hello**

**Welcome to the survey on the preliminary consultation on aquaculture in protected areas. This survey is open until the end of 9 April.**

**Key background information on the consultation topics can be found on the dedicated consultation page.**

**If you have any questions, please contact us at [consultation@asc-aqua.org](mailto:consultation@asc-aqua.org).**



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### **Confidentiality policy**

\* 1. As part of ASC's commitment to transparency, consultation feedback on standards is made public and accessible on ASC's website.

ASC will publish only the name and affiliation of those who submitted feedback, but it will not attribute individual comments in any way.

Select Yes if you accept these conditions and wish to proceed with the survey.

Yes

No



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### About you

\* 2. Name

\* 3. Email

**Email address**

\* 4. Organisation name

\* 5. Stakeholder type

\* 6. In what country are you based?



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### About you: species produced

7. Please identify the main species you produce [Select all that apply]

- Abalone - all abalone species
- Bivalve
- Cod
- Catfish
- Flatfish
- Freshwater Trout
- Pangasius
- Pike-perch - Sander lucioperca Salmonids - marine water
- Salmonids - freshwater
- Salmonids - marine water
- Seabass, Seabream, Meagre
- Seriola and Cobia Shrimp
- Shrimp
- Tilapia
- Tropical Marine Finfish
- If, Other (please enter species name)



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### Consultation questions

8. Do you have any comments or suggestions on the project terms of reference?

9. The project aims to develop a practical, audit-ready framework clarifying compatibility between aquaculture and PA objectives. What challenges will there be in meeting this objective?

10. Which of the expected outcomes are the most important? (Tick all that apply)

- Improved clarity on siting within/near PAs
- Alignment with IUCN PA categories and global biodiversity commitments
- Revised indicator language and guidance
- Risk-based compatibility assessment methods
- Improved audit consistency and transparency
- Clearer farm-level evidence expectations
- Support for nature-positive or restorative aquaculture
- Other (please specify)

11. Are there any further outcomes that you think should be included?

12. Are there any further PA governance frameworks or national/regional systems that we should consider in developing the project?

13. What are the top three risks ASC should prioritise in mitigating?

- Scientific robustness/evidence sufficiency
- Alignment with PA governance and legal frameworks
- Social/community impacts and equity
- Operational feasibility across systems/geographies
- Auditability/assurance consistency
- Timeline/resourcing constraints
- Other (please specify)



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### Questions for CABs and auditors

14. What are the main audit challenges you foresee when assessing compatibility of farms with different Protected Area categories (e.g., IUCN I-VI, Natura 2000, Ramsar)? (Select all that apply)

- Confirmation of PA type or category
- Year of designation
- Evaluation of conservation objectives compatibility
- Local legal requirements
- Implementation and verification of conservation activities
- Other (please specify)

15. What audit tools are used currently to evaluate compliance with PA requirements in ASC standards?

16. What types of audit tools or decision-support materials can ASC provide (e.g., decision trees, standardised templates, PA typology checklists) that would be useful for ensuring consistent assessments in PA contexts?

17. Which auditability risk is the most major?

- Inconsistent requirements and/or interpretation guidance
- Lack of availability of evidence at the farm level
- Lack of clarity on the roles and/or responsibilities of the farm and PA authority
- Other (please specify)



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**End of survey**

18. Is there is any other feedback or anything else you wish to share with us in regard to this consultation please do so here:

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