

Scope: Applicable to Groupers (species in the genera *Epinephelus*, *Cromileptus*, *Plectropomus* and *Cephalophis*), Snappers (species in the genera *Lutjanus* and *Ocyurus*), Pompano (species in the genus *Trachinotus*), Barramundi (species in the genus *Lates*) and Croaker (species in the genus *Larimichthys*)

Please refer to the ASC Tropical Marine Finfish Standard v1.0 document for additional clarification, guidance, and rationales  
This document is a non normative document and shall be used as a guidance document only.

**PRINCIPLE 1: COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

**Implementation guidance:**

In order to ensure compliance with these standards, auditors will need to review a range of documentation and relevant correspondence related to farm siting and operation. It is probable that some of the information will need to be generated by the headquarters of the company owning the operation, while other information will relate specifically to the site.

*Criterion 1.1 Compliance with all applicable local, national and international legal and regulatory requirements*

		<b>Compliance Criteria (Required Client Actions):</b>
1.1.1	<p><b>Indicator:</b> Documents demonstrating compliance with all relevant local and national laws and regulations.</p> <p><b>Requirement:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Applicability:</b> All.</p>	<p>a. Maintain digital or hard copies of applicable land and water use laws. Provide the audit team with a summary of applicable laws and permit requirements along with contact details for relevant staff.</p> <p>b. Maintain original (or certified copies of) lease agreements, land titles and concession permit(s) on file as applicable.</p> <p>c. Keep records of inspections for compliance with national and local laws and regulations (where such inspections are legally required in the country of operation).</p>
1.1.2	<p><b>Indicator:</b> Documents demonstrating compliance with all tax laws.</p> <p><b>Requirement:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Applicability:</b> All.</p>	<p>a. Provide a certificate of tax clearance or tax law conformity from local Revenue authority;</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Maintain records of tax payments to appropriate authorities (e.g. land use tax, water use tax, revenue tax). Note that CABs will not disclose confidential tax information unless client is required to or chooses to make it public.</p> <p>b. Demonstrate that the farm ensures compliance with tax laws appropriate to its size and scale. Large-scale producers should for instance use the services of a qualified and knowledgeable tax professional such as a chartered Public Accountant to manage overall compliance with taxation law. Small-scale producers should show tax receipts.</p> <p>c. If tax is paid by a parent company legally then the farm should present information to this effect.</p>
1.1.3	<p><b>Indicator:</b> Documents demonstrating compliance with all labor laws and regulations.</p> <p><b>Requirement:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Applicability:</b> All.</p>	<p>a. Demonstrate how the farm conforms with the requirements of national and regional/local labor codes and employment law</p> <p>b. Keep records of farm inspections for compliance with national labor laws and codes (only if such inspections are legally required in the country of operation).</p>
1.1.4	<p><b>Indicator:</b> Documents demonstrating compliance with regulations and permits concerning water quality impacts.</p> <p><b>Requirement:</b> Yes</p>	<p>a. Obtain permits for discharge water where applicable.</p> <p>b. Maintain records of monitoring and compliance with discharge laws and/or regulations as required.</p>

<p>Applicability: All.</p>	<p>c. Maintain records of monitoring and compliance with waste and pollution laws/regulations.</p>
<b>PRINCIPLE 2: CONSERVE NATURAL HABITAT, LOCAL BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION</b>	
<b>Criterion 2.1 Benthic biodiversity and benthic effects</b>	<b>Compliance Criteria (Required Client Actions):</b>
<p><b>Guidance to Clients and CABs on Criterion 2.1 – Benthic Impact assessment and monitoring</b>  A minimum of three benthic samples shall be taken at the edge of the AZE downstream from the predominant current and if control sites are needed, three samples shall be collected 100-1000m from the edge of the cage array with similar water depth and substratum as found on the farm (see ISO 12878:2012 for benthic sampling methodology). Samples should be taken during peak biomass. All collected samples must be analyzed by an accredited laboratory (e.g. ISO 17025) and the sampling methodology must be approved by the laboratory conducting the analysis. Allowable Zone of Effect (AZE) is defined under this standard as 25 meters. For farm sites where a site-specific AZE has been defined using a robust and credible modeling system such as the SEPA AUTODEPOMOD and verified through monitoring, the site-specific AZE shall be used. Significance is measured at 95% confidence interval.</p>	
<p>2.1.1</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> Redox potential or total 'free' sulphide levels in sediment immediately outside of the Allowable Zone of Effect (AZE)<sup>[1]</sup> attributed to farm operations</p> <p><b>Requirement:</b> Redox potential &gt; 0 millivolts (mV)  OR Sulphide ≤ 1,500 microMoles/l OR No significant difference<sup>[2]</sup> in redox potential or total 'free' sulphide levels in sediment at the edge of the AZE in comparison to control sites</p> <p><b>Applicability:</b> All farms</p>	<p><b>Note:</b> Under Indicator 2.1.1, farms can choose to measure redox potential (Option #1) or sulphide concentration (Option #2). Farms do not have to demonstrate that they meet both threshold values.</p> <p>a. Prepare a map of the farm showing boundary of AZE and GPS locations of all sediment-sampling stations. If the farm uses a site-specific AZE, provide justification for its selection to the CAB.</p> <p>b. If benthos throughout the full AZE is hard bottom, provide evidence to the CAB and request an exemption from 2.1.1c-f, 2.1.2, 2.1.3 and 2.1.4.</p> <p>c. Inform the CAB of which indicator the farm has selected for evaluating and monitoring benthic impact.</p> <p>d. Collect sediment samples using an appropriate methodology and sampling regime, following the guidance in the Tropical Marine Finfish Standard (i.e. using appropriate AZE, sampling stations and methodology).</p> <p>e. For option #1, measure and record redox potential (mV) in surficial sediment samples taken from immediately outside the AZE as well as at an un-impacted control site using an appropriate, nationally or internationally recognized testing method.</p> <p>f. For option #2, measure and record sulphide concentration (uM) in surficial sediment samples taken from immediately outside the AZE as well as at an un-impacted control site using an appropriate, nationally or internationally recognized testing method.</p>