

**Pangasius standard Operational Review - Summary of Proposed Changes Nov16**  
**ASC – Public Consultation**

Change 1: Add indicator limiting number of treatments of antibiotics

During the Operational Review commentary period a stakeholder proposed the inclusion of a limit on the number of treatments of antibiotics that can be delivered. This requirement is included in the ASC Salmon Standard, with the exact wording and allowance now proposed for the Pangasius and Tilapia standards.

The rationale within the ASC Salmon Standard is also applicable for Pangasius farming: ‘With regards to the use of antibiotics, there is a global effort led by the WHO to ensure that antibiotics important for human medicine are used in a way that doesn’t jeopardize their effectiveness in treating human diseases. These requirements seek to be in line with that effort. The requirements set a cap on a maximum allowable number of treatments of antibiotics on certified farms that is intended to set a reasonable limit on what may be needed on a well-managed farm and excludes any farms that fail to follow industry guidelines for prudent use of antibiotics.’

By including this indicator in the Pangasius standard, the ASC aims to continue in their aim of promoting best practice in the industry and limiting the impacts of aquaculture production.

Standard	Indicator	Allowance
Pangasius	6.2.8 Number of treatments <sup>58</sup> of antibiotics over the most recent production cycle	≤ 3
<sup>58</sup> A treatment is a single course medication given to address a specific disease issue and that may last a number of days		

Change 2: Update ‘What the ASC does’ section

Changed to match the updated text on the ASC website

<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Working with partners, the ASC runs a programme to transform the world's aquaculture markets by promoting the best environmental and social aquaculture performance. The ASC seeks to increase the availability of aquaculture products certified as sustainable and responsibly produced. The ASC’s credible consumer label provides third party assurance of conformity with production and chain of custody standards and makes it easy for everyone to choose ASC certified products.	The ASC programme promotes industry best practice to minimise the environmental and social footprint of commercial aquaculture. Through its consumer label the ASC promotes certified responsibly farmed products in the marketplace.

Change 4: Update ‘What the ASC will achieve’ section

Changed to match the updated text on the ASC website

<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
The ASC is transforming aquaculture practices globally through:	To achieve this, the ASC programme is:

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<p><b>Credibility:</b> Standards developed according to ISEAL guidelines, multi-stakeholder, open and transparent, science-based performance metrics.</p> <p><b>Effectiveness:</b> Minimising the environmental and social footprint of commercial aquaculture by addressing key impacts.</p> <p><b>Added value:</b> Connecting the farm to the marketplace by promoting responsible practices through a consumer label.</p>	<p><b>Credible</b>          ASC standards are developed and implemented according to ISEAL guidelines being therefore multi-stakeholder, transparent, incorporating science-based performance metrics.</p> <p><b>Meaningful</b>          By including science-based performance metrics, the requirements in the standards are realistic, measurable and auditable.</p> <p><b>Effective</b>          A globally recognised, market-oriented programme that aims to promote meaningful improvements in aquaculture production in a credible and cost efficient way that adds real value to producers and buyers of certified products.</p>
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Change 5: Change ‘criteria’ to ‘criterion’ in section headings

Corrected throughout document as incorrect word used.

Change 6: Change ‘ecolabel’ to ‘eco-label’

Corrected throughout document

Change 7: Update external references

Below link updated. Email addresses to be confirmed to ensure accurate.

<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
www.ascworldwide.org	www.asc-aqua.org’

Change 8: Indicators: 2.1.1, 2.2.1

Review phrasing to ensure that they reflect that Pangasius is not only farmed in Vietnam. Based on stakeholder feedback and review by the ASC TAG.

Clarification is provided in the standard that in countries that operate without a zoning system or requirement to approve an "aquaculture development area" that the farm cannot be located in an area where aquaculture is specifically prohibited.

Change 9: Indicator: 2.2.3 and 2.2.4

Proposal: Comment on indicator of no negative impact and no discharging of earth, difficulty in providing evidence for an absence of something. Consider revising language. Based on stakeholder feedback

The indicators have been clarified and reference to evidence of no impact removed from the standard document. The audit manual is to be used to explain the evidence expected to demonstrate compliance with these indicators.

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Change 10: Improve consistency of feed requirements and remove ambiguity for indicators 5.1.5 and 5.1.6.

<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
5.1.5 ISEAL-certified fishmeal and fish oil products must be used in feed. Requirement: Within 3 years of becoming available in a region	

<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
5.1.6 ISEAL certified fishmeal and fish oil products must be used in feed.	5.1.5 Fishmeal and fish oil used in feed (excluding trimmings) to come from fisheries certified under a scheme that is an ISEAL member and has guidelines that specifically promote responsible environmental management of small pelagic fisheries  Requirement: Yes

*Note: In December 2016 ASC is expected to publish an Interim Solution for ASC Marine Feed Ingredients, which will replace indicators 5.1.5 and 5.1.6 of this standard. This solution applies to all (8) ASC's standards, which have indicators for marine raw materials, including these proposed changes to the ASC Pangasius Standard. This interim solution will apply until the ASC Feed Standard will be available or until further official and public notice by ASC.*

Change 11: Remove ambiguity around prohibition to site or expand farms in natural wetland or areas of ecological importance.

Current:

2.2.1 For ponds, evidence that only land that has been allocated to agriculture or aquaculture for 10 years prior is used for new pond development or for farm expansion	Yes
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Proposed:

2.2.1 For ponds, evidence farm has not been sited or expanded in natural wetland (as defined by Ramsar)	After May 1999
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Change 12: Change in species scope definition: clarify that the ASC Pangasius Standard is applicable to the family Pangasiidae

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<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
<p>The ASC Pangasius Standard applies to the production of two pangasius species: Pangasianodon hypophthalmus and Pangasius bocourti .</p> <p>The ASC Pangasius Standard applies globally to all locations and any scale of pangasius aquaculture production system.</p>	<p>The ASC Pangasius Standard is applicable to species belonging to the family Pangasiidae, and can be applied to all locations and scales of pangasius aquaculture production systems.</p>

*In progress – Change 13. Indicator: 3.2.1*

*Proposal: Review standards around diurnal oxygen demand. Reassess to ensure that sufficient evidence exists to support that the indicator and performance metric are effective means of achieving the desired objective of limiting eutrophication.*

*Based on stakeholder feedback*

*Next actions: More research is needed to collect the data necessary to determine the impact.*

*In progress – Change 14. Indicator: 3.6.1*

*Proposal: Review requirements around energy consumption. Assess energy consumption data collected from audited farms to determine if there is sufficient data to set energy use performance requirements.*

*Based on stakeholder feedback*

*Next actions: More research is needed to collect the data necessary to determine the impact.*

*In progress – Change 15. Indicator: 4.1.3*

*Proposal: Review the requirement around necessary evidence for species establishment in the river basin. This is based on a stakeholder comment that it is difficult, if not impossible, to provide conclusive evidence that a species cannot become established.*

*Based on stakeholder feedback*

*Next actions: This needs more research and to reword this requirement accordingly so that it can be credibly assessed.*

*In progress – Change 16. Criterion: 4.5*

*Proposal: Consider adding a limit on the number of escapes to help reduce the risk of catastrophic escapes and to provide consistency with other standards.*

*Based on stakeholder feedback*

*Next actions: There are limits to escapes in some ASC standards such as Salmon. This issue could be addressed during harmonisation but research is needed to understand at what level the limit should be set and if it is possible to have accurate data for escape numbers. There should also be a review of the issue of escapes in Pangasius and the evidence that this is the cause of an ecosystem impact.*

*In progress – Change 17. Criterion: 6.5*

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*Proposal: Is 6.5.1 necessary given Criterion 6.1.1 (maximum average real percentage mortality) or do they constitute “double accounting”? Assess whether these indicators are appropriate.  
Based on stakeholder feedback*

*Next actions: To be reviewed in the operational review and standard updated as appropriate*

*In progress - Change 18.                      Audit Manual*

*Proposal: While auditors state whether requirements are met, often they do not provide the underlying data. Such data can be used to help assess the appropriateness of the performance metrics. Consider adding requirements for the collection and inclusion of performance data in the audit reports or some other accessible database.*

*Based on stakeholder feedback*

*Next actions: To be included in the operational review. The new CAR v2.0 supports this. In addition also rewording Audit Manuals is a good suggestion and should be done as well. Audit Manuals should make clear what type of information is needed as a minimum to show compliance in a transparent manner.*

*In progress – Change 19.                      Hatchery Practices*

*Proposal: Add requirements related to effective hatchery practices (i.e., escapes, chemical use, broodstock collection and management).*

*Based on stakeholder feedback*

*Next actions: Given the fact that hatcheries are dealt with differently across the ASC's species' standards, this should be harmonised to the extent possible and included as part of the harmonisation project.*

[end]