

## **RSPCA Farmed Atlantic Salmon Standards Technical Advisory Group**

**20th June 2023**

### **Meeting Summary Notes**

#### **Agenda item 1: Freshwater production (including RAS specific standards)**

The RSPCA would like to update standards on freshwater production due to technological and practical developments. This includes developing specific standards for recirculation systems, which are more widely used now than when the standards were first developed. Stocking densities may also need reviewing, as recent knowledge suggests that the current weight bands may not be appropriate. The RSPCA is to review the current information and resources available.

#### **Agenda item 2: Environmental monitoring (oxygen and water-borne insults)**

Within the seawater environment, the RSPCA would like to improve the current standards on environmental monitoring given the recent impacts on fish welfare. This would largely focus on biological measures, such as plankton and jellyfish, and oxygen monitoring.

#### **Agenda item 3: Non-medicinal treatments**

The floor was opened for any discussions related to non-medicinal treatments as standards are being introduced for the first time in the upcoming standards reprint. Biosecurity between treatments and new potential treatments were discussed.

#### **Agenda item 4: Slaughter / killing**

There will continue to be work on progressing standards relating to slaughter to ensure all fish have a humane death. The main focuses will be: improving current best practice, the role of electrical stunning and cage-side/on-boat harvesting. The lack of specialised training was also discussed.

#### **Agenda item 5: Cleanerfish**

There are plans to develop Welfare Outcome Assessments for lumpfish and wrasse, and other topics will be investigated in the near future.

#### **Additional items:**

Other topics were raised, such as the use of seawater in freshwater facilities, and removal of moribund fish. The RSPCA will look into these issues further.

#### **AOB:**

Topics raised for AOB were mortality reporting, the RSPCA and RSPCA Assured anniversaries and the impact of seal predation on salmon welfare.