STANDARDS YEAR OF PUBLICATION MANAGEMENT	RSPCA ASSURED 2024	SOIL ASSOCIATION 2024	ASC SALMON STANDARD (ISSUED 2024) 2024	GLOBALGAP – VERSION 6	SALMON SCOTLAND CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR SCOTTISH FINFISH AQUACULTURE (2015 VERSION) 2015
MORTALITY REMOVAL MORTALITY CLASSIFICATION MORTALITY	Fish must be inspected at regular intervals, at least twice daily, weather permitting Removal of dead fish must occur as frequently as is necessary and without undue delay and, in any case: a) at least twice a week, but preferably daily b) at least daily for land-based systems. The cause of death of all fish must be classified using the categories developed in the VHWP Where the level of fish mortality exceeds the threshold figures shown below, this must be recorded and reported to RSPCA Assured within 72 hours: Freshwater: • Egg to 1st feed: 6% weekly • 1st feed to 5g: 3% weekly • 5g to smolting: 1.5% weekly	Sustainable management plan to include how mortalities are managed, but no mention of frequency Not mentioned Not mentioned	All dead fish removed and disposed of in a responsible manner All fish mortalities recorded, classified and receive a post-mortem analysis Max viral disease related mortality – <10% Max unexplained mortality from each of the previous two production cycles, for farms with total mortality >6% – <40%	Mortality inspection and removal from the production units are carried out according to the aquaculture health plan (AHP) Mortalities, cause of death, and mortality trend analysis are recorded at production unit level Not mentioned	Weather permitting, and having regard to health and safety conditions, daily visual inspection of the holding units should be carried out to ensure containment of the stock. Dead fish should be removed from the fish holding enclosure as soon as possible. At all stages, the number of dead fish should be recorded, along with, where possible, a record of the cause of death. FW – Same as RSPCA SW – Same as RSPCA
PLANNING	Site average weight (g) Under 750 A site specific Veterinary Health and Welfare Plan (VHWP) must be drawn up, reviewed and updated: a) at the start of every production cycle or on an annual basis b) by those with responsibility for the health and welfare of the fish, which may include the vet, health manager, stockpersons, nutritionist and other relevant personnel c) and details of the review must be made available on request	You must keep an animal health management plan. It must detail the biosecurity and disease prevention practices you have put in place and include a written agreement for health counselling, proportionate to the production unit, with qualified animal health services. They must visit the farm not less than once per year	Evidence of a fish health management plan for the identification and monitoring of fish diseases, parasites and environmental conditions relevant for good fish health, including implementing corrective action when required	An aquaculture health plan (AHP) is available, updated during the last 12 months, for the last production cycle, or whenever new medicines or treatments not previously used have been added	 Companies should have a Veterinary Health Plan (VHP) and Biosecurity Plan (BP) covering relevant aspects set out in Annex 2. VHPs and BPs should be reviewed at the end of each production cycle.
SURROUNDINGS ENRICHMENT	There must be no recurring physical damage occuring on fish attributable to features of their environment, husbandry procedures or unrecognised disease challenge Some forms of environmental enrichment have been shown to improve the health and welfare of captive fish. As this area of knowledge is still relatively new and developing, particularly in commercial farming systems, the RSPCA strongly encourages further trial work to determine appropriate forms of enrichment in all salmon farming enclosures. We will be looking to update the standards in future publications, as knowledge develops in this important area. • Prophylactic use of veterinary medicinal products, where no known disease problems exist, is prohibited (except vaccines as agreed with the veterinary surgeon). • The use of antibiotics on-farm must be reviewed annually or at the end of a production cycle.	The design and construction of the installations for containing farmed species must provide flow rates and physiochemical parameters that protect the animals health and welfare and provide for their behavioural needs Not mentioned	Not mentioned Not mentioned • Allowance for prophylactic use of antimicrobial treatments – None • On-farm documentation that includes, at a minimum, detailed information on all chemicals and therapeutants used during	Equipment shall be designed and fit for purpose of avoiding physical damage and ensuring minimal stress to the farmed aquatic species The producer considers enhancing the rearing conditions to improve performance and animal welfare of the farmed aquatic species Antibiotic agents are only applied following the diagnosis of an infectious bacterial agent	Equipment should be designed in such a way as to avoid creating welfare problems for the fish and be capable of being cleaned and disinfected. Not mentioned Veterinary medicines should be used prudently under the conditions set out in the data sheet and/or as advised by the veterinary surgeon
CULLING OF SICK/INJURED FISH	 Tanks/enclosures must be inspected daily for the presence of moribund (dying) fish. If found at the time of inspection, moribund (dying) fish must be: a) removed promptly b) humanely culled according to: i. standard H 2.2 in freshwater or ii. standard H 2.3 in seawater. Any seriously sick or injured fish, or fish found not to be recovering, 	Not mentioned	the most recent production cycle, the amounts used (including grams per ton of fish produced), the dates used, which group of fish were treated and against which diseases, proof of proper dosing, and all disease and pathogens detected on the site • If more than one antibiotic treatment is used in the most recent production cycle, demonstration that the antibiotic load is at least 15% less that of the average of the two previous production cycles Not mentioned	Culling of farmed aquatic species is done according to prescribed methods respecting animal welfare and the aquaculture health plan (AHP)	Farmers should remove and cull any moribund or damaged fish.
ASSESSMENTS	must be humanely killed without delay. Records of this must be made available on request. • During the freshwater stage, only the following methods are permitted for the emergency killing of fish: a) being put into an anaesthetic overdose under veterinary prescription b) electrical stun-to-kill c) for fish over 5g, a priest of appropriate size. • During the seawater stage, in addition to anaesthetic overdose, the following are permitted for the emergency killing of fish: a) a priest of appropriate size for the fish b) a mechanical percussive device. Full set of standards relating to collection of WOA data (5 standards) High standards of biosecurity must be maintained to avoid the spread of diseases between different populations of fish, as specified in a written	Not mentioned The Animal health management plan must detail biosecurity and disease prevention	Not mentioned Evidence of compliance with the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code	The hatchery/farm has in place a system to monitor and register farmed aquatic species health and welfare indicators and all disease occurrences • Sites have a documented biosecurity plan • The producer demonstrates both	Not mentioned Companies should have a Veterinary Health Plan (VHP) and Biosecurity Plan (BP) covering relevant aspects set out
SEA LICE N-SITU DAMAGE RECORDING THRESHOLDS	policy, contained within the Veterinary Health and Welfare Plan (VHWP) (see standard H 1.1). Sea lice damage to fish must be recorded during lice counts. This must include: a) condition of fish b) site of lesions c) skin condition d) fish behaviour Farms must take all reasonable steps to minimise the gravid lice population, as per the requirements of the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007, as amended 2013 and the Fish Farming Business (Record Keeping) (Scotland) Order 2008.	plans (same standard as health planning above) Not mentioned Not mentioned	Not mentioned Scotland - In areas of wild salmonids, max on-farm lice levels during sensitive periods for wild fish - 0.5 mature female lice per farmed fish	understanding of hygiene practices regarding farmed aquatic species health and welfare, and implemented hygiene procedures which are suitable to the farm Feedback relating to animal welfare from the preceding production stage is in place and recorded Not mentioned	In general, treatments should be guided by the build-up of pre-adults as indicated by weekly counts, the objective being to prevent the development of gravid females. Suggested criteria for the treatment of sea lice on individual farm sites are:
CLEANERFISH	Whole set of standards	You must give preference to the use of cleaner fish for biological control of ectoparasites or freshwater, marine water and sodium chloride solutions.	There's a note in 3.2 - The use of alternatives to chemical treatments for farm management, such as the use of cleaner fish for sea lice control, is permitted and	A management plan for cohabitant species not intended for human consumption is in place, and this plan applies the same welfare, feed management, biosecurity, and	 An average of 0.5 adult female L. salmonis per fish during the period 1st February to 30th June inclusive. An average of 1.0 adult female L. salmonis per fish during the period 1st July to 31st January inclusive Set of 12 standards outlining use and care
TIMES	Fish must not be crowded for more than 2 hours Lighting must be maintained at a level suitable for each stage of development	Not mentioned You may only prolong natural day-length to levels that respect the ethological needs, geographical location and general health	encouraged under ASC Salmon standard, but must be a native species Not mentioned Not mentioned	the environmental enrichment principles as for the commercially grown species Periods of crowding, time out of the water, grading, transport and fasting are recorded and justified by the certified veterinarian/aquatic health professional A risk assessment for animal welfare is conducted (notes have a reference to light-intensity and changes in artificial/sun	The frequency and duration of crowding should be kept to the minimum. Levels of light to which fish are exposed should be appropriate to the species and stage of development.
	Removal from water and handling must only be carried out when absolutely necessary. If fish must be handled: a) adequate support must be given to the body b) live fish must never be held by the tail only or thrown on solid objects. Time out of water must: a) be kept to the minimum possible	of the aquaculture species. You may only prolong natural day-length to beyond 16 hours per day for reproductive purposes. You must avoid abrupt changes in light intensity at changeover time by using dimmable lights or background lighting. Handling of aquaculture livestock must be kept to a minimum. When handling is necessary, great care, proper equipment and protocols must be used to avoid stress and physical damage. You must handle broodstock in ways that minimise physical damage and you must use anaesthesia where appropriate	Not mentioned	Farmed aquatic species are treated and handled at all times in such a way as to protect them from pain, stress, injury, and disease	 Live fish should only be removed from water and handled when absolutely necessary If fish are handled, adequate support should be given to the body - live fish should never be held by the gills or tail only. Different species have different tolerance to being out of water, but the time out of water should never be so long as to produce signs of distress.
FEED QUALITY FEED WITHDRAWAL	b) never exceed 15 seconds for a live fish (unless anaesthetised). Feeding must be such that the quality, quantity and frequency are optimal for the fish's stage of development. For harvest fish, fasting time must: a) not exceed 72 hours (unless directed by the designated veterinary surgeon for fish welfare reasons) b) be recorded in the VHWP	Not mentioned	Has feed standard which addresses contents Not mentioned	Farmed aquatic species receive a compound feed diet which is suitable for the species farmed Periods of crowding, time out of the water, grading, transport and fasting are recorded and justified by the certified veterinarian/aquatic health professional	Farmers should ensure, through labelling information or documentary assurance, that they use feeds that have been formulated for the species and life stage of fish being grown • Before transport or harvest, feed should be withheld to reduce metabolic rate and the excretion of waste products, and to eliminate the presence of food and/or faecal material in the gut at harvest, thus minimising the risk of microbiological contamination during processing. • The period during which fish are deprived of food to achieve gut clearance prior to certain procedures or harvesting should be appropriate to the species and temperature.
	Prior to grading, any period of feed withdrawal must be as short as possible so as not to compromise fish welfare and, in any case, not exceed 48 hours. Prior to treatment, the fasting period must be as short as possible and, in any case, not exceed the following: a) 48 hours for physical delousing b) 72 hours for freshwater bathing Pre-transport fasting must: a) never exceed 48 hours, unless specified by a veterinary surgeon/senior production manager b) be recorded in the Veterinary Health and Welfare Plan (VHWP) where it exceeds 48 hours Food must be dispensed and distributed in such a way that fish can	You must design your feeding regimes	Not mentioned	The farm has in place a system to ensure	Fish should be fasted for the minimum period necessary to clear the gut of feed and faeces Farmers should have a written feed management plan,
METHOD ESCAPEES	eat without undue competition.	to prioritise: a) animal health b) the production of high quality aquaculture products including nutritional composition c) low environmental impact.		appropriate feeding levels and feed usage records	 which includes the following points: Feeding the correct feed size Feeding the correct amount of feed to any population of fish, in the proper manner and over the correct period(s) of the day Regular monitoring of feed conversion efficiency (following sample weighing), and assessment of whether feeding protocols and guidelines to assist farm personnel are effective
	Fish farms must have a site specific containment plan in place with the aim of preventing fish escaping and which includes plans for fish recapture	Installations for containing farmed species must be designed, located and operated to minimise the risk of escapes. If fish or crustaceans escape, you must take appropriate action to reduce the impact on the local ecosystem, including recapture where appropriate	Evidence of escape prevention planning and related employee training, including: net strength testing; appropriate net mesh size; net traceability; system robustness; predator management; record keeping and reporting of risk events (e.g. holes, infrastructure issues, handling errors, reporting and follow up of escape events); and worker training on escape prevention and counting technologies max number of escapees in the most recent production cycle - 300	The EMP includes a contingency plan and an SOP to avoid escape of farmed aquatic species into the sea or local freshwater course.	 4.34 Farmers should have site-specific contingency plans that describe actions to be taken in the event of any escapes. 4.35 All farm staff should be aware of factors affecting the potential breaches of containment and trained in actions to take in the event of an escape. 4.36 Weather permitting, and having regard to health and safety conditions, daily visual inspection of the holding units should be carried out to ensure containment of the stock. 4.37 Any escape, or suspected escape, of live fish should be reported immediately to all relevant stakeholders, including the trade body, local District Salmon Fisheries Board and Fisheries Trust (or at the latest, within 48 hours of discovery). 4.38 A decision to attempt to recapture fish and the method to be employed should be agreed with the local District Salmon Fisheries Board and Fisheries Trust and permission sought from Marine Scotland.
	Enclosures must be fallowed as detailed in the Environmental Impact Plan to allow recovery of the benthos and help to reduce sea lice populations	Your control body will determine whether fallowing is necessary and the appropriate duration if so. In open water containment systems at sea, fallowing must take place after each production cycle. Fallowing is also recommended for production systems using tanks, fishponds and cages	Coordination of fallowing between each production cycle to help break disease cycles, with a clear period of time when there are no farmed salmon in the area in the water (included within Area-Based Management (ABM) scheme)	PONDS ONLY - Fallow periods are defined, and where there is no fallowing, this has been defined in the aquaculture health plan (AHP)	The minimum fallow period should be 4 week
DENSTITES	The following maximum stocking densities must not be exceeded: Hatchery – 15,000 per California basket/tray Multi-level – 20,000 eggs per tray First feeding tank – 10,000/m² Freshwater production tank: Liveweight (mean) Stocking density (kg/m³) Up to 1gm 10 >1–5gm 20 >5–30 30 >30 30 >30 50 Tyselo The following water quality parameters must be complied with: Parameter Ova Alevins Fry Parr/Smolt Min Oxygen (O2) mg/l Oxygen (O2) saturation % in >90.0 >70.0 >70.0 >70.0 exit water Free Ammonia	Maximum stocking density in FW is 20kg/m³ The developmental, physiological and behavioural needs of your aquaculture animals must be met through: e) water quality	Water quality monitoring matrix completed and submitted to ASC (see Appendix VIII-2)	A risk assessment is conducted to demonstrate that water quality does not compromise food safety or farmed aquatic species health and welfare	 Stocking density should be monitored in relation to health, fish behaviour and water quality to ensure that fish welfare is not compromised. The siting of farms should be such that there is an adequate supply of water of suitable quality at all times. Monitoring should be carried out to ensure that water quality parameters are maintained within the known acceptable limits for the species. The parameters measured and the monitoring intervals will depend on the system, species, stage of development and time of year
ALL 1 1113	Carbon dioxide	Not mentioned	Not mentioned Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned Not mentioned
PARR FW LOCHS SMOLTIFICATION	3 specific standards for parr, including production plans for reducing the need for culls The stocking density in freshwater enclosures must not exceed 8kg/m³ The use of hypertonic water for smolt survival testing is prohibited Producers must be able to demonstrate that they have done everything possible to ensure maximum survival when smolts are transferred to sea. Feed withdrawal prior to transfer to sea must be no greater than 48 hours Full set of standards (48 total) for vaccination process	Not mentioned Not mentioned Not mentioned Not mentioned	Not mentioned Must be certified to ASC Freshwater Trout standard Not mentioned Not mentioned	Not mentioned Not mentioned Not mentioned Not mentioned Protocols are mentioned (in no detail) in	Stocking density should be monitored in relation to fish health, fish behaviour and water quality to ensure that fish welfare is not compromised Fish should not be exposed to salt concentrations above 35ppt but salt water tolerance test is allowed Prior to the transfer of juvenile Atlantic salmon to sea, the degree of smoltification in the population should be monitored for several weeks before the expected transfer date, so that the optimal time for transfer can be identified. No time outlined Set of 24 standards within FW
PROCESS VACCINE USE SEAWATER	The VHWP (see standard H 1.1) must incorporate a vaccination programme to protect fish from diseases for which an effective vaccine is available and which may represent a risk to the fish.	The use of immunological veterinary medicines is allowed.	All fish should be vaccinated for selected diseases that are known to present a significant risk in the region and for which an effective vaccine exists	notes for what to be included in AHP If effective vaccines are available for a recurring disease, vaccination is preferred over therapeutic treatments	Where appropriate, VHPs and BPs should include a vaccination regime to protect fish from diseases which may present a risk to their health
WATER QUALITY (RELATING TO FISH WELFARE) WATER-BORNE NSULT MONITORING	Seawater enclosure max stocking density – 17kg³. Site max – 15kg/m³ If water quality departs from the acceptable range, steps must be taken immediately to identify the source of the problems and rectify the situation as quickly as possible. Water quality composition must be monitored sufficiently frequently, if necessary daily, depending on the system, time of year and lifecycle stage of stock (as specified in the VHWP – see standard H 1.1).	Max stocking density per pen is 10kg/m³ Details of environmental monitoring to be included in sustainable management plan.	Evidence of a fish health management plan for the identification and monitoring of fish diseases, parasites and environmental conditions relevant for good fish health, including implementing corrective action when required Not mentioned	The farm/hatchery/transport operates according to set densities The farm/hatchery/transport and holding facilities have a routine water quality monitoring and control program based on a risk assessment and taking into account potential contamination, farmed aquatic species health and welfare, and the production system Not mentioned	Stocking density should be monitored in relation to fish health, fish behaviour and water quality to ensure that fish welfare is not compromised. Farmers should have written contingency plans covering actions to be taken in the event of a serious incident, such as storm damage or water quality problems. These plans should consider both the welfare of the fish and environmental protection. Not mentioned
DENSITIES	Max stocking density in a helicopter bucket for FW is 400kg/m³ Max stocking density in wellboats must: a) be within 4-50kg/m³ (depending on water quality and size of smolts) b) be set so that water quality can be maintained over the length of the journey The maximum stocking density in the well must be based on the liveweight of the fish, as shown below. Liveweight (kg) Maximum stocking density (kg/m³) 5.0 125 4.0 110	Not mentioned Not mentioned Not mentioned	Not mentioned Not mentioned Not mentioned	The farm/hatchery/transport operates according to set densities	Not mentioned Not mentioned Not mentioned
STOCKING DENSITY ON WELLBOATS	The maximum stocking density in the well must be based on the liveweight of the fish as follows: Liveweight of fish (kg) Max stocking density (kg/m³) 5.0 125 4.0 110 3.5 100 3.0 90 2.0 75 1.0 60 0.1 45 Full standards for each type of transport (lorry, wellboat, helicopter)	Only mention – During transport, the density must not reach a level which is detrimental to the species If you transport live fish you must ensure that welfare of the fish maintained. This includes: a) Transporting the fish in suitable	Not mentioned Not mentioned	The farm/hatchery/transport operates according to set densities Elements of the risk assessment on animal welfare are applied for transport of live farmed aquatic species, eggs, and juveniles	 Fish should be transported in such a way that possible adverse effects on their welfare are minimised. Biosecurity and fish welfare should be considered before transporting fish populations.
SLAUGHTER TECHNIQUES	The method of killing used must rapidly, and without pain and distress render the fish insensible, until death supervenes.	tanks with clean water which meets their physiological needs in terms of temperature and dissolved oxygen. b) Thoroughly clean, disinfect and rinse tanks before transport of organic fish and fish products c) Taking precautions to reduce stress. During transport, the density must not reach a level which is detrimental to the species You must only use slaughter techniques that render fish immediately unconscious	Not mentioned	Farmed aquatic species are effectively stunged with consideration of farmed	Not mentioned
	distress, render the fish insensible, until death supervenes The following slaughter methods are considered to be inhumane and must not be used: a) bleeding (exsanguination) or decapitation without prior stunning b) asphyxia c) evisceration d) live chilling e) ice slurry or bath f) carbon dioxide narcosis. Bleeding must follow within 10 seconds	that render fish immediately unconscious and insensible to pain. You must take into account harvest sizes, species and production sites when considering optimal slaughter methods. Guidance includes prohibited list of methods - The following methods of harvest and slaughter do not meet this standard: • ice, except for warm water shrimp • carbon dioxide • suffocation, leaving stock to die in the open air • exsanguination without stunning • operating a rolling harvest where you starve all fish in the holding facility and selectively grade a number for slaughter on a repeated basis • starving stock to modify carcass weight or quality (body composition)		stunned, with consideration of farmed aquatic species welfare When farmed aquatic species are bled,	Killing efficiency should be monitored by a proficient person
RECORDING OF MISSTUNS RECORDING OF DEAD ON ARRIVALS CCTV	The number of fish that have not been effectively stunned must be recorded Not mentioned A functional CCTV system must be installed and operational to clearly monitor fish undergoing the following processes: a) initial tank/dewaterer entry and exit b) stunning, including entry and exit c) killing d) passing through post-stun assessment area. The recorded CCTV footage must be: a) retained for a period of at least three months	Not mentioned Not mentioned Not mentioned Not mentioned	Not mentioned Not mentioned Not mentioned	this is done immediately after stunning Not mentioned Mortalities are recorded and removed from the holding areas and reasons for death are recorded, where know (applies to wellboats and holding areas)	to ensure fish do not regain consciousness prior to death. Not mentioned Not mentioned Not mentioned
FISH WELFARE FOR SITE STAFF INC THOSE STANDARDS	b) available for viewing upon request. All stock-keepers must have attended a recognised fish welfare course	Staff keeping aquatic animals must have the necessary knowledge and skills to manage their health and welfare needs	Company regularly performs training of staff in fish husbandry, general farm and fish escape management and health and safety procedures	Workers directly responsible for handling farmed aquatic species receive species-specific training in health, welfare, and handling techniques	 Personnel carrying out lice counts should have appropriate training in lice recognition and recording, and demonstrate post-training competence Personnel involved in crowding should be trained in the appropriate techniques farmers should be trained in the procedures for assessing
WHICH ARE OVERARCHING) FISH WELFARE FOR AUXILIARY STAFF FISH WELFARE FOR HARVEST STAFF	All wellboat crew (inc skippers) must have received welfare training Vaccination staff must be trained and competent in aspects of the vaccination process • All staff involved with the slaughter/killing process must have received full training and be fully competent in all methods of harvest – dead haul, shore based or cage side. • There must be a named person responsible for fish welfare throughout the killing process who has attended a recognised training course in humane killing of fish.	Included in guidance – Staff who handle fish, including those involved with killing, are appropriately trained, competent and aware of their duty of care		Workers responsible for harvest operations have appropriate training in farmed aquatic species welfare and handling techniques Harvesting workers receive farmed aquatic species welfare training in relation to the slaughter process	farmers should be trained in the procedures for assessing smoltification and in minimising any negative effects on the welfare of the fish All those involved in vaccination should be appropriately trained and competent Not mentioned
GENETICS	 Genetic modification techniques are prohibited. Fish must not have been produced by breeding techniques that result in health or welfare problems for any of the animals involved. 	Products labelled as consisting of or made from GMOs must never be described as organic. When breeding organic aquaculture animals you must not use artificial hybridisation, artificial induction of polyploidy, cloning and production of monosex strains, except by hand sorting	No use of transgenic salmon by the farm	farming of genetically modified (GM/transgenic) farmed aquatic species is prohibited	Not mentioned