RSPCA Rainbow Trout Standards Technical Advisory Group 20th November 2024 Summary notes

The Group discussed some potential areas for future standards development:

a) Health monitoring

Health visits and on-farm veterinary oversight was raised. The importance of health reporting was highlighted, and logistics and additional costs were also considered.

b) Mortality reporting

The Group discussed the current requirements around reporting and recording mortality, and it was suggested that current protocols could be clarified.

c) Transport

The Group agreed that the transport section of the welfare standards needs re-organising to be more user friendly and to improve its welfare impact.

d) Training

Training requirements and changes were raised, including suggestions for a tiered approach to basic and advanced training levels. The Group agreed that refresher training and on-farm competency requirements are also important and should be considered for future editions.

e) Welfare outcome assessments

The future requirement for welfare outcome assessments (WOA) was discussed. The Group felt positive about WOAs and the topic of automated welfare cameras was also raised. It was highlighted that challenges around resources and staff remained.

f) Slaughter

The importance of CCTV during slaughter was highlighted, although the Group felt that more guidance for auditors and clarification on GDPR would be needed. The RSPCA is also reviewing electrical stunning and on-farm casualty slaughter.