

Aquaculture Stewardship Council Farm Standard

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The ASC Farm Standard

What is changing and why?

The [Aquaculture Stewardship Council](#) (ASC) launched its new ASC Farm Standard at Seafood Expo Global 2025 in Barcelona, Spain on 7 May 2025.

This major change brings together the 12 [ASC Species Standards](#) into one robust Farm Standard.

Actions

Producers can choose to adopt the new standard early. For those who need more time, a 2-year transition period began in May 2025.

The [Improver Programme by ASC](#) supports farms that are not ready or eligible for ASC certification, but are committed to improving their farming practices through an Aquaculture Improvement Project (AIP). The programme gives a clear framework with timebound targets in key areas to improve farm performance, supported by the expertise of a local Implementer who is ASC trained and has received an ASC qualification. Farms can choose between two routes:

- AIP to ASC certification: a four-phase plan to improve a farm's performance to a level where it is ready to become ASC certified
- AIP to Better Practices: ASC supports a farm to improve its practices in specific environmental or social areas, without ASC certification as the end-goal.

Timeline

ASC is implementing a 2-year transition period for the ASC Farm Standard, which will become mandatory on **1 May 2027**.

The ASC Species Standards will remain operational until **30 April 2027**.

For more information see the [full record](#) on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest [AGRINFO Update](#) newsletters and [search](#) the database.

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