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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