



Gardner-Pinfold's Benchmark for Rating Government Aquaculture Regulation

Government regulation of salmon aquaculture is diverse. There is no shared government standard between jurisdictions on best practices in aquaculture for the protection of wild salmon.

To provide a single benchmark for comparison, Gardner-Pinfold Consulting Economists turned to the standards developed recently by the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC).

Founded in 2010 by World Wildlife Fund and the Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative, the ASC is a globally recognized independent not for profit organization.

The ASC Standard was developed over eight years with input from industry, governments, and conservation groups. Achieving ASC certification means companies use the best practices available to minimize environmental and social impacts. For consumers it means transparency and allows people to choose among producers.

SPECIAL NOTE

Gardner-Pinfold is in no manner using the ASC standard to measure whether a jurisdiction meets the criteria for certification. Instead, it is using the ASC STANDARDS as a BENCHMARK for comparing the quality of regulations in different jurisdictions as they relate to protecting wild Atlantic salmon.

SCOPE

- Gardner-Pinfold has used those provisions of the ASC Standard that relate to the protection of wild salmon from harmful effects of aquaculture. The full ASC Standards include many provisions that are related to the handling and processing of the salmon, and are not relevant.
- Four key principles which contain 11 criteria and 34 specific requirements serve as benchmarks for comparison across jurisdictions.

CRITERIA UTILIZED

- Criterion 2.1 – Avoid damage to seafloor under cages
- Criterion 2.2 – Maintain water quality around site
- Criterion 2.4 – Avoid damage to critical habitats and sensitive species
- Criterion 3.1 – Protect wild salmon and sea trout



- Criterion 3.3 – Prohibit genetically modified salmon
- Criterion 3.4 – Prevent escapes
- Criterion 5.1 – Manage fish health
- Criterion 5.2 – Documenting therapeutic use
- Criterion 5.4 – Avoiding disease spread to wild populations
- Criterion 7.1 – Meaningful consultation and complaint resolution
- Criterion 7.2 – Aboriginal consultations

BASIS FOR GRADING OF JURISDICTIONS

Attaining the standard means that the regulations of a jurisdiction have or appear to have the same effect as the ASC requirements. The wording of the regulations and the ASC standard do not have to match as long as the result is the same.

Partially attaining the standard is possible since criteria often have two or more components. A partial match with the standard could involve meeting only one or some of the ASC requirement. A jurisdiction may also have similar regulation, but with different target values. An example would be measurement of water quality.

Not attaining the standard means that an equivalent requirement could not be found in the jurisdiction's regulations.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- While all jurisdictions successfully achieved benchmark results in some criteria, there were several jurisdictions where the regulatory regime was inadequate, and in some cases woefully below the standards.
- See main BACKGROUNDERS on report to view results and recommendations
- Use REGIONAL BACKGROUNDERS to focus on results for each of the six jurisdictions considered in the Gardner-Pinfold report