

Questions from Finnish Trout Producers

1. **What are the requirements for fingerling suppliers if fingerlings are of a size larger than 10 g as defined by ASC?**

R: See [QA171](#) for similar cases.

ASC is still exploring an acceptable route in line with the intent of the ASC Trout Standard and the proposed approach for intermediate sites as per ASC Farm Standard. ASC is drafting a Q&A on this, which will be made available on ASC VR Platform.

2. **What is the scope of Multisites? Some farms conduct farm operations in two countries (Finland and Sweden)**

R: . Multisite certification cannot be used in different countries.

More information on the different types of certification is outlined under 5.3 in ASC Requirement for Unit of Certification (RUoC) document

[ASC-Farm-RUoC-v1.0-July-22.pdf](#)

3. **At what depth shall TP be measured**

R: According to Appendix II-G, TP measurements shall be taken from a representative composite sample through the water column to a depth of the **bottom of the cages**.

4. **What is the frequency for water tests?**

R: In the ASC Trout Standard, appendix II-G sets the frequency for water samples once every three months during periods without ice.

5. **In Trout standard TP is to be measured at least every 3 months.**

However in the audit manual under 3.3.4. when defining background levels of TP farms shall provide monthly data to CABs.

Is it only for the background levels TP must be measured monthly?

Same goes for DO measurements.

R: Samples must be taken at least once every three months (i.e. quarterly) during periods without ice. When referring to "provide monthly TP monitoring", 3.3.4 d. means the sample that occurred during a particular "month" within that quarter.

6. **If the facility performs the water quality monitoring itself, measuring the amount of oxygen reliably from above the bottom is problematic in deep places, especially with a light oxygen electrode (flow takes). Is it acceptable if the oxygen is measured, for example, at the bottom of the cages or at depth of 10 meters?**

R: DO is to be measured 50 cm above the bottom sediment. Any deviation from this would require a Variance Request

7. **According to the instructions, water samples are taken at least once every three months during the ice-free period. The cages are in the breeding places from about April to November (7-8 months), and the fluctuations in water quality are naturally large during that time.**

How many observation visits would be expected?

R: The Frequency as per appendix II-G applies. ASC do recognize natural fluctuations occur, and still see TP as the best global proxy.

8. The fish are at the breeding site for 2 ice-free seasons to reach slaughter size. Will water quality monitoring be continued in the second year of growing?

R: ASC Certified farms are expected to meet all standard indicators over time. As such, meeting water quality indicators (e.g appendix II-G) is required.

9. What are the consequences for Feed containing MSC FMFO if the certification is suspended

R: Footnote 163 in the ASC Feed Standard states: In the situation that a UoC can demonstrate that its marine ingredient is dependent on a single fishery, and that shifting supplies is not possible, the feed manufacturer is allowed to extend its cycle on the current Overall Marine Sustainability Level for a maximum of 3 years to be in line with the FIP-progress trajectory. Supporting evidence (supplying fishery(ies), status of FIP-progress and expected time of completion) shall be added as an appendix to the ASC audit report.