

ASC GLOBAL REVIEW: DENMARK (FAROE ISLANDS) SUMMARY

Denmark (largely Faroe Islands farms) accounts for six per cent of ASC certified production. However, a significant amount of their production is ASC certified relative to their industry's size at 42 per cent (42,397mT).¹

ANALYSIS

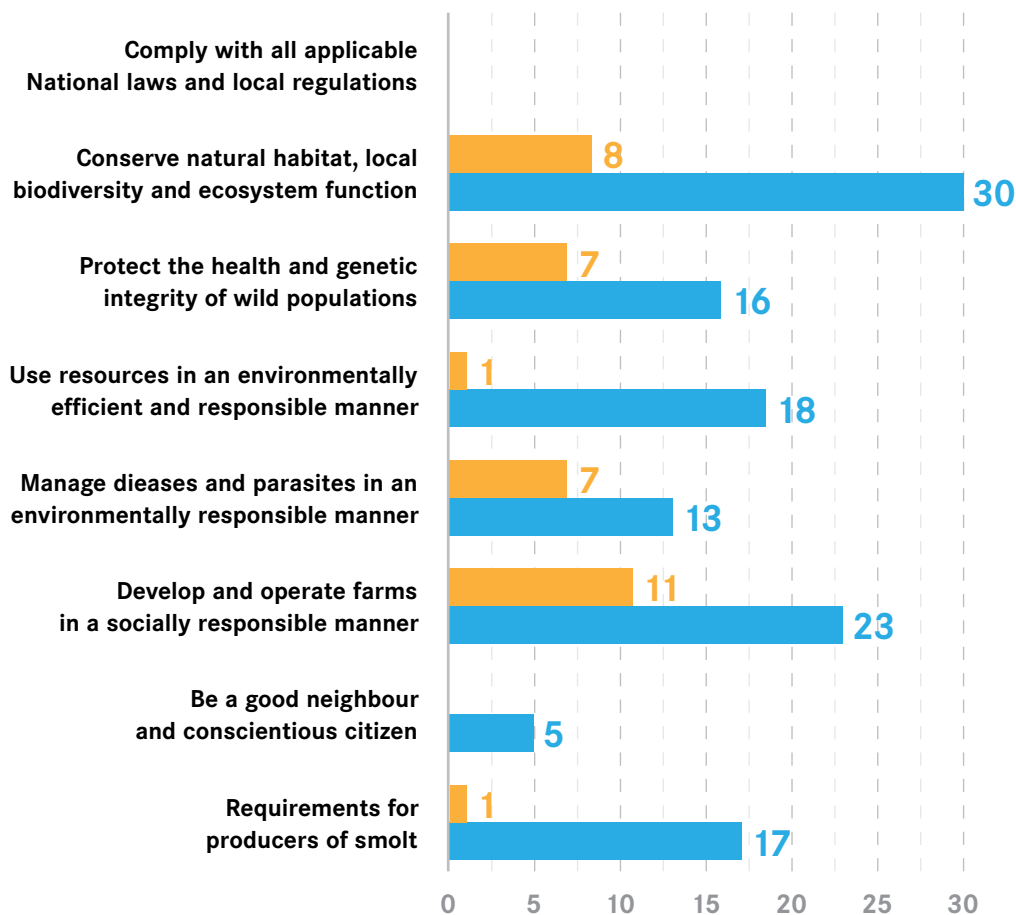
FARM CONFORMANCE

Seven Danish farms were reviewed, with six of these located in the Faroe Islands. On review of 12 audits (7 initial; 5 surveillance), 35 major non-conformities and 123 minors have been raised. On average, Danish audits had 2.9 major and 10 minor non-conformities per audit.



DENMARK (FAROE ISLANDS): MAJOR AND MINOR NON-CONFORMITIES BY PRINCIPLE

● MAJOR ● MINOR



COMMONLY RAISED NON-CONFORMITIES:

- Benthic sampling, monitoring and definition of site-specific Allowable Zone of Effect (AZE) not completed due to early auditing
- On-farm sea lice counts and levels
- Lack of documentation and untimely public posting of data for wildlife interactions
- Various socially responsible indicators in relation to working conditions

FARM PERFORMANCE

No farms had an area-based management agreement that fully complied with all Standard requirements. Farms remained certified that had experienced one of the following: elevated sea lice levels, high parasiticide use or a large escape event. Parasiticide use is common, however, the average farm can meet the current PTI threshold. Faroes farms successfully met the Standard's fish feed dependency ratios.

AREA-BASED MANAGEMENT (ABM)

Faroes' audits acknowledge no formal ABM scheme is in place for the three companies that operate in the region. Audits identify that company farm sites are mostly segregated and don't typically overlap at a fjord level. Regardless, CABs state that farms are in compliance with the ASC Standard and that farms do practice the Appendix II requirements. Detailed information on compliance is limited. However, auditors note regular meetings between the companies and the Faroese Veterinarian Act on Aquaculture² which mandates a one generation-based farming model, fallowing periods, biosecurity protocols and sea lice management measures. There is no evidence that cumulative impacts as per Appendix I-1 (e.g. antibiotics classified as "highly important" by WHO and parasiticide use) are being addressed.

SEA LICE MONITORING ON WILD SALMON

Audit reports for Faroe Island farms state there is very limited knowledge of sea trout locations and migration routes. No monitoring on wild fish occurs, but at least one large producer is involved in a "lice dispersion project".

SEA LICE LEVELS

Five (out of six) Faroe Island farms breached the ASC requirement during the sensitive period (defined as 1 April to 30 June). Values ranged from 0.12 to 2.1 mature female lice per fish.

MAXIMUM VIRAL DISEASE

No Faroes audits recorded a value over the metric limit.

ESCAPES

Gulin farm (Faroe Islands) recorded 109,515 fish escapes due to "weather conditions" in December 2017.³ The farm remains certified.

ANTIBIOTIC USE

1 audits reported antibiotic use for the grow-out stage, with a total of 3 treatments reported. Hatchery antibiotic use was also reported.

SEA LICE CHEMICAL TREATMENTS (I.E. PTI SCORE)

7 (out of 10) audits recorded parasiticide use. The average Faroes farm has a PTI score of 9.1 which is more than 2 treatments per cycle. One farm recorded a score more than two times the Standard metric yet remained certified.

FISHMEAL FORAGE FISH DEPENDENCY RATIO (FFDRM)

The average Faroes farm had a 0.94 FFDRm. This is the highest of all regions, but still below the Standard's required 1.2.

FISH OIL FORAGE FISH DEPENDENCY RATIO (FFDRO)

The average Faroes farm had a 1.67 FFDRO.

MARINE MAMMAL DEATHS

No audits recorded lethal incidents above the limit.

Transparency: Farm Public Reporting

Public reporting of on-farm sea lice counts, marine mammal and bird entanglements and estimated unexplained loss by certified farms was found to be relatively effective.

ASC AMENDMENTS OF CONCERN

OPERATIONAL REVIEW

Parasiticide Treatment Index (PTI) Review

The ASC's proposed revision to the sea lice parasiticide treatment indicator would allow Faroes farms up to eight treatments per cycle.⁴ The current treatment frequency allowance is 2-3 treatments, thereby, **the amount of parasiticide use allowed under the Standard would increase by 166% - 300%.**⁵ It would take a Faroes farm up to 12 years to reach the proposed 'global target' metric – defined at four treatments.

VARIANCES

Four variances have been approved. No variances defer to government regulation instead of the Standard criteria. Reuse of approved variances is uncommon; 6 citations of variances were found in audits. The average Faroes audit cites 0.5 variances (global mean 2.4).

1 ASC (2018). Direct communication

2 Føroya landsstýri (2018). Faroese Salmon Renowned Around the World. <https://www.faroeislands.fo/economy-business/aquaculture/> [Accessed May 2018]

3 Bakkafrost (2018). ASC Report: Gulin / 2017. Available at: http://www.bakkafrost.com/media/1756/a06_y2018_w9.pdf [Accessed June 2018].

4 ASC (2017). ASC Salmon PTI Standard Operational Review – Consultation Paper September 2017. Public Consultation. Proposals to replace ASC Salmon PTI indicators 5.2.5 and 5.2.6. Available at: <https://www.asc-aqua.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Salmon-2-PTI-Operational-Review-Consultation-Paper-19-Sept-17.pdf> [Accessed May 2018].

5 SeaChoice (2017). Re: ASC Salmon Standard Operational Review – 2nd PTI consultation. Available at: <https://www.asc-aqua.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/ASC-PTI-2nd-consultation-SeaChoice-stakeholder-submission.pdf>



**This regional report is supported by technical and summary reports.
For the complete analysis and ASC's response, refer to the technical report.**

Visit: www.seachoice.org/asc-global-review

info@seachoice.org

SeaChoice.org

