

















How various certification compare to CIWF criteria for higher animal welfare: Farmed Fish

Certification Scheme	Logo	Country	Species	Is stunning prior to killing mandatory?	Is slaughter humane	What is the maximum stocking density? (kg/m ³)	Is genetic engineering (GE), cloning or triploidy prohibited?	What is the max. time out of water permitted?	Is killing of predators prohibited?
CIWF - Food business - better level of animal welfare		Global	All farmed fish	YES	YES	salmon: 10, trout: 15-17, sea bass/bream: 13-15, pangasius: 10	YES	15 sec.	YES
Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP)		Global	All farmed fish	YES	MAYBE ^{1,5}	salmon: 25+5% if KWI are good other species: max based on best management practices	NO	no max. ¹	NO
Friends of the Sea (FOS)		Global	All farmed fish. Specific for Salmon, trout, sea bass/bream, pangasius	YES	YES	Salmon: <22 kg/m3; Trout: >10 kg/m3 and below 60 kg/m3; bass/bream: 20 kg/m3	Genetic engineering is prohibited. Poliploidy and cloning are not prohibited.	Max 15 sec. without anaesthesia	NO
Global GAP		Global	All farmed fish ³	YES	MAYBE ^{1,5}	UNCLEAR ¹	GE prohibited	no max.	NO
Certified Quality Aquaculture (CQA)		Ireland	All farmed fish	YES	YES	UNCLEAR ¹	NO	no max.	UNCLEAR ¹
Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC)		Global	Salmon, trout, sea bass/bream, pangasius, tilapia	YES	IN TRANSITION Salmon: Yes Other species: transition period	No specific limit	GE prohibited cloning is not considered triploidy is allowed	Max 15 sec.	Shall not cause mortality. Exceptions for to avoid suffering for an animal or immediate human safety
RSPCA		Global	Salmon and trout	YES	YES	Salmon: 17; Trout: Up to ongrowers 60 kg/m3, <100 g: 10 kg/m3, >100g: 17 kg/m3	YES	15 sec.	NO
A Greener World		Global	Salmon ³	YES	YES	Salmon: 17	YES	15 sec.	NO
Label rouge		France	salmon, trout, sea bass/bream	salmon: YES, trout, sea bass/bream: NO	salmon: YES, trout, sea bass/bream: MAYBE	salmon: 15-20, trout: 60-70, sea bass/bream: 20	NO	no max.	trout: NO other species: YES
Sistema di Qualità Nazionale "Acquacoltura sostenibile"		Italy	trout, seabass/bream, other	NO	NO	trout (land-base): 20-35 kg/m3 sea bass/seabream (land-based): 40 kg/m3 seabass/seabream (seacages): 40 kg/m3	Genetic engineering is prohibited. Poliploidy is not prohibited.	no max.	NO
Naturland		Global	All farmed fish	YES	MAYBE	salmon; 10, trout: 15-20, salmonids in net cages: 10	GE, cloning prohibited	no max.	NO
EU organic legislation		EU	All farmed fish	YES	YES	salmon: 20, trout: 25, salmonids in sea water: 10, sea bass/bream: 15, pangasius: 10 Salmon: 15 Trouts: 25 Seabass/seabream: 4 (ponds), 10 kg/m3	GE prohibited	no max.	NO
Soil Association		UK	All farmed fish	YES	YES	Same as EU organic	GE, cloning prohibited	no max.	NO
Organic food federation		UK	All farmed fish	YES	YES	Same as EU organic	GE prohibited	no max.	NO
O-label Debio		Norway	All farmed fish	YES	YES	Same as EU organic	GE prohibited	no max.	NO
Global Animal Partnership (G.A.P.) - Step 1		Global	Farmed salmon	YES	YES	No, up to 17 permitted	YES	10 sec. ⁴	YES
Global Animal Partnership (G.A.P.) - Step 3		Global	Farmed salmon	YES	YES	No, up to 17 permitted	YES	10 sec. ⁴	YES
Global Animal Partnership (G.A.P.) - Step 5		Global	Farmed salmon	YES	YES	YES	YES	10 sec. ⁴	YES
Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)2		Global	Wild caught fish only	NO	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

















¹ This certification does not have a clear guideline on this welfare criteria. CIWF encourages these standards to be more clear regarding this subject

² MSC is a fisheries only certification scheme so only stunning and slaughter are applicable

³ Global GAP and A Greener World have agreed with RSPCA to apply RSPCA welfare standards for Farmed Atlantic Salmon

⁴ If fish are handled out of water for more than 10 seconds, fish must be anesthetized using acceptable anesthetics listed in Standard 2.5.2

⁵ This certifications accepts use of Ice, Ice slurry or thermal shock as stunning-killing technique for certain species. Doesn't detail which.

Certification Scheme	Logo	Country	Species	Is the prophylactic use of antibiotics prohibited?	What is the max. crowding duration?	Is enrichment provided?	What is the max. fasting duration?	Is Fish meal and fish oil being reduced?	Are routine mutilations permitted?	Is water quality monitored?	Is the welfare of cleaner fish assured?	Does this certification meet CIWF higher AW criteria?
CIWF - Food business - better level of animal welfare		Global	All farmed fish	YES	2h	recommended	salmon and trout: 72h, sea bass/bream, pangasius: 48h	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP)		Global	All farmed fish	YES	salmon: 1h, other: No max. ¹	NO	no max.	Limits amount.	YES	YES	YES	NO
Friends of the Sea (FOS)		Global	All farmed fish. Specific for Salmon, trout, sea bass/bream, pangasius	YES	Max 1.5 h for grading/treatments. Max 2h for harvesting	Recommended structural enrichment should be provided.	Just enough to get gut clearance. Max 50 degree-day	MAYBE	YES	YES - every 6 month	NO	PARTIAL
Global GAP		Global	All farmed fish ³	YES	no max.	Efforts to provide environment that cover needs ¹	no max.	NO	YES	Some guidelines	YES	NO
Certified Quality Aquaculture (CQA)		Ireland	All farmed fish	NO	no max.	NO	no max.	NO	YES	Requires a programme ¹	NO	NO
Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC)		Global	Salmon, trout, sea bass/bream, pangasius	YES	max 2 h	Suggests to implement enrichment if OWI declining trend is observed	Salmon <= 54°C days Trout <= 54°C days Seabass, seabream <45°C days if water temp <15°C; max 72h Pangasius: <=62°C days	MAYBE	YES	Requires monitoring, gives frequencies, and requests thresholds for parameters but does not specify thresholds	YES	PARTIAL
RSPCA		Global	Salmon and trout	YES	2h	NO	salmon: 72h (might be longer if advised by vet) (pre-transport: 48h), trout: 54 degree days	NO	NO	YES	YES	PARTIAL
A Greener World		Global	Salmon ³	YES	2h	NO	72h (might be longer if advised by vet) (pre-transport: 48h)	NO	NO	YES	YES	PARTIAL
Label rouge		France	salmon, trout, sea bass/bream	NO	salmon: 4h, trout, sea bass/bream: no max.	salmon, sea bass/bream: NO, trout: shelter from predators	salmon, trout: 10 days, sea bass/bream: 14 days	MAYBE	YES	YES	NO	NO
Sistema di Qualità Nazionale "Acquacoltura sostenibile"		Italy	trout, seabass/bream, other	NO	no max.	NO	no max.	NO	YES	YES - many parameters every 3 months or more	Not applicable	NO
Naturland		Global	All farmed fish	YES	No max.	NO	Salmon, trout: 50 degree days Other: not specified	YES	YES	maybe ¹	NO	NO
EU organic legislation		EU	All farmed fish	YES	no max.	freshwater fish: YES	no max.	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
Soil Association		UK	All farmed fish	YES	no max.	same as EU organic	salmon and trout: 50 degree days	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Organic food federation		UK	All farmed fish	YES	no max.	same as EU organic	no max.	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
O-label Debio		Norway	All farmed fish	YES	no max.	same as EU organic	no max.	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
Global Animal Partnership (G.A.P.) - Step 1		Global	Farmed salmon	YES	Max. 2h	YES	24h	MAYBE	NO	YES	YES	YES
Global Animal Partnership (G.A.P.) - Step 3		Global	Farmed salmon	YES	Max. 2h	YES	24h	MAYBE	NO	YES	YES	YES
Global Animal Partnership (G.A.P.) - Step 5		Global	Farmed salmon	YES	Max. 2h	YES	24h	MAYBE	NO	YES	YES	YES
Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) ²		Global	Wild caught fish only	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NO

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N.B this table focuses on the 5 main species CIWF works on: salmon, trout, sea bass, sea bream and pangasius. Certifications might have criteria for other species not included in this table. This table is accurate at the time of publishing (January 2022) based on the publicly available standards