



Agricultural Production Standard Expansion of Scope into Aquaculture

Fair Trade USA

Version 1.0.0

1. Introduction

Fair Trade USA has long been a driver of sustainable livelihoods, social responsibility and community development, via the application of robust and credible social, economic, and environmental standards that support farms and fisheries in a transition towards improved social welfare and environmental sustainability. Since 2014, when the organization launched the world's first Fair Trade Certified™ seafood, the program has generated over \$1,000,000 in community development premium for fishermen, workers, and their communities.

To build upon this success, and in recognition of the value of collaboration, Fair Trade USA and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to improve the livelihoods of farmers, workers, and the environment using the partners' proven models. The ASC offers a leading science-based certification program promoting responsible aquaculture production, while Fair Trade USA has a proven model for workplace safety, producer empowerment, and community and individual well-being. The expertise of both organizations will contribute to the shared goal of furthering improvement of social and environmental performance in the aquaculture sector and the prosperity of the individuals working in the industry.

To deliver these goals the partners are piloting Fair Trade USA's Agricultural Production Standard (APS) on select ASC-certified farms to test the applicability of its use in an aquaculture context and confirm the viability and value of add-on or joint certification. This document summarizes the objectives, project activities, and decision-making process for the expansion of scope of the APS into an aquaculture context.

2. Background and Rationale

The high-risk nature of the aquaculture industry, in addition to the estimated 19 million workers associated with the industry globally, creates a clear opportunity for Fair Trade USA to apply its unique model and rigorous social standards to bring a positive impact and improve working conditions in the sector. Ongoing data collection through monitoring and enforcement of Fair Trade USA standards can function as a risk mitigation tool for brands and retailers alike as the market continues to signal demand for greater supply chain transparency from the seafood industry. For Fair Trade USA, improving the livelihoods of people around the world means broadening our model to include millions more producers from multiple sectors and to drive greater impact.

The producer context for aquaculture is similar to that of agriculture in terms of the challenges faced by small-scale producers and workers on larger farms, which make the Fair Trade USA model a good fit for this industry. The APS sets the requirements for Fair Trade Certified agricultural production systems globally – covering diverse groups and sizes of farms and associated processing facilities under one standard. It drives toward the long-term goal of providing farmers and workers with sustainable livelihoods and the skills and resources to manage their businesses and to produce in environmentally sustainable



ways. We believe testing the applicability of the APS in an aquaculture context is an innovative way to empower millions more people to forge a better future for families and communities, by applying this proven system in a similar industry. The application of the APS to an aquaculture context in collaboration with the ASC will reduce the administrative burden of developing and maintaining another standard while leveraging a credible existing certification program for aquaculture that was developed through a multi-stakeholder process in line with the International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labeling (ISEAL) Alliance’s “Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards.”

Fair Trade USA and the ASC have had remarkable success driving better performance, accountability, and improving livelihoods through certification. The partnership between complementary systems such as these can leverage systems efficiencies to reduce barriers and deliver efficient pathways for those that choose to seek certification.

3. Scope

The APS currently covers all agricultural production systems worldwide and is comprised of six modules, including a resource management section. The proposed approach to Fair Trade USA aquaculture certification is to leverage the robust environmental criteria contained within the ASC’s species-specific standards and recognize a certified aquaculture facility as having met the intent of the resource management requirements of the APS. This document presents the steps and plan to expand the scope of the APS into aquaculture production in the piloting stages of the scope expansion

4. Project Activities

We have begun the process of expanding the scope of the APS to include aquaculture farms via pilots. Timing of the project will depend heavily on the timing of pilots, with the aim for public consultation on the scope expansion and amendments to the APS to begin no later than Q1 2021. Outlined below are the key activities of the project’s lifecycle.

Consultation Phase	Timeline	Description
Develop Engagement Workplan	Q4 2018 – Q2 2019	Develop necessary documentation to ensure alignment with ISEAL code of good practice for standard setting, planning of pilots, audit check lists, surveys for consultation, stakeholder mapping, etc. to carry out the expansion of scope of the APS.
Pre-pilot and Pilot Consultation	Q1 2019 – Q4 2020	Select stakeholders including, but not limited to, experts, NGO partners, and Industry representatives within the field of aquaculture and sustainable certification schemes to be consulted regarding: (1) the overall strategy and project development process; (2) applicability and comprehensiveness of the APS in addressing relevant aquaculture specific issues; (3) identifying areas of concern which should receive focused attention during the pilots.



Drafting of Amendments to the APS and Public Consultation	Q1-Q2 2021	Pilots are carried out to test the applicability of the APS in an aquaculture context.
Analysis and Revision of Feedback	Q3 2021	<p>The Standards team will develop draft amendments to the APS based on early consultation and learnings from the pilots. The APS with draft amendments applicable to Aquaculture is published on Fair Trade USA's website for a 60-day public consultation period where all interested stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide feedback. Fair Trade USA will actively solicit feedback on specific areas of challenge within the industry, the implications of proposed changes and on the input provided by targeted stakeholders and pilot participants.</p> <p>The Standards team reviews, analyzes, synthesizes, and incorporates the feedback into the APS with draft amendments of the scope expansion.</p> <p>A public summary of the feedback from the consultation period, as well as how feedback was incorporated is made public, along with an announcement of the plan for publication and translation of the updated requirements of the scope expansion.</p>
Finalization, Approval and Publication	Q4 2021	Fair Trade USA's Executive Leadership Team approves the expanded scope of the APS. The document is translated into multiple languages and implemented. The finalized Standard will be made available and an announcement will be sent to relevant partners and stakeholders

5. Decision-making Process

Fair Trade USA's Standards team works to review stakeholder feedback, discuss core strategic issues, and make recommendations on the content of the Standard. The Fair Trade USA Executive Leadership Team will have the authority to approve the final expansion of scope of the Standard.

6. How to Get Involved

The Standards Team at Fair Trade USA is leading this project, and we encourage you to comment on this expansion of scope and revision process by emailing us at standards@fairtradeusa.org.

During this project, Fair Trade USA will hold opportunities to comment on the expansion of scope of the standard. There will be at least one public comment period. Please inform us if you would like to receive notice when the public comment period is open. Summary of the comments received and Fair Trade USA responses will be publicly shared.

