



COLLEGE des  
PRODUCTEURS  
AQUACULTURE



# **ASC label comparison with European and Belgian legislation**

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# The labels

## Quality



## Origin



## Sustainability



## Respect for dolphins



## Organic



## And other...



# The labels



The most comprehensive (12 different species)



Multi-species standards



Stricter for marine aquaculture (antifouling, ...)

## Sustainability



# The labels

## The ASC label

- The **most present** in Belgian **supermarkets**
- For trout, based on **5 pillars**:
  - **Biodiversity**
  - **Feed**
  - **Pollution**
  - **Fish health**
  - **Social issues**



## ASC Trout, based on 5 pillars (1) :

### Biodiversity

- **Farms not located in Natura 2000 areas**

In Wallonia they were removed from the Natura 2000 zones.

- **Minimize fish escapes**

AGW 03/10/2005: Art. 8. The operator ensures that a screening system is placed upstream and downstream of the establishment in order to avoid the escapement of farmed fish into the natural environment and the passage of wild fish into the breeding tanks.

- **Do not introduce alien trout where this has not yet been done**

Rainbow trout has been farmed over 70 years in Wallonia.

- **Maximum 50% water intake**

AGW 03/10/2005: Art. 6. A minimum flow corresponding to 2/3 of the low flow is reserved for the watercourse.



## ASC Trout, based on 5 pillars (2) :

### Feed

- **Minimize the use of fishmeal**
- **Traceability on the origin of fishmeal and soybean meal**

Feed manufacturers exporting to Wallonia (Le Guessant, Skretting, BioMar) are ASC approved.

### Pollution

- **Measurement of parameters at regular intervals (but no defined limits, at discretion of ASC ...)**  
Strict limits defined in the AGW of 03/10/2005.

### Fish health

- **Risk management plan developed with a veterinarian**  
Health status checked by the AFSCA 2x per year, passage from an operating veterinarian (only 1 in Wallonia) 2 to 3x per year compulsory depending on the risk.
- **Preventive (prophylactic) antibiotic treatment prohibited**  
Antibiotic treatment prohibited without veterinary prescription, no products approved in Belgium → responsibility of the veterinarian.



## ASC Trout, based on 5 pillars (3) :

### Social issues

- Prohibition of child labor
- Prohibition of forced labor
- Safe working environment
- Decent salary
- Regulated working schedules

Belgian and European legislative framework much stricter than ASC!

**But the ASC label = payments** (fixed annual amount + volume with logo)

- All the value chain must be **ASC** → **trout suppliers too (for processors)**
- In Wallonia, no added value, additional costs without economic fallout!

➡ **In Europe, for freshwater aquaculture, sustainability labels only serve to upgrade non-European productions!**





# Thanks for your attention!

**More info :**

<https://www.celagri.be/les-poissons-sans-label-ne-sont-ils-vraiment-pas-durables/>

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