

Orkla Animal Welfare Practice on Farmed fish

Farmed fish is a relatively small sourcing group for Orkla as the main part of the volume purchased is wild caught. Considering farmed finfish the main specie that we buy is salmon and more than 95% of the volume purchased is of Norwegian origin which means the minimum animal welfare standard is the regulations according to Norwegian law. In addition we are buying some quantities that is ASC / Global GAP certified and have ongoing discussions on transforming further volumes to be covered by these certifications.

Please find below some comments by relevant Animal Welfare topics for farmed fish:

Density: According to Norwegian law the maximum allowed density in salmon farming is 25 kg fish per m³ water. For around 15% of the volumes that we buy lower stocking densities apply; a maximum of 10 kg fish per m³ water.

Certifications: For 15% of the volumes either ASC or Global GAP is applied and transforming to ASC certified salmon is discussed for further volumes.

Sea Lice: A maximum of 0.5 mature female lice per fish on average are allowed as per regulations according to Norwegian law and accordingly applies to >95% of the volumes that we buy.

Stunning and slaughter: Orkla's general policy for slaughtering methods also apply for farmed fish (please see Orkla's Animal Welfare Policy point 6 "Slaughtering methods"). Norwegian legislation requires farmed fish to be stunned prior to slaughter. Today, fish farming in Norway involves two methods for stunning: electric stunning and percussive stunning. As we buy most salmon of Norwegian origin these rules apply for >95% of the volume purchased.

Antibiotics: Orkla's general policy for antibiotics also apply for farmed fish (please see Orkla's Animal Welfare Policy point 3 "Responsible use of veterinary medicines"). The usage of antibiotics in Norwegian salmon farming is very low, in 2019 the annual figure was 0,16 mg antibiotics per kg salmon produced. Moreover, antibiotics can only be prescribed by a veterinarian or a fishery biologist. All usage needs to be reported to the Norwegian authorities.

Transport: Orkla's general policy for transport of live animals also apply for farmed fish (please see Orkla's Animal Welfare Policy point 5 "Handling and transport"). According to Norwegian law the water quality needs to be monitored and systematic measuring of O₂, PH, salinity and temperature shall take place in case transports of fish has a duration of more than two hours.

Animal welfare outcome measures: According to Norwegian law operators of salmon farming need to register several animal welfare measures including mortality rates, damages to the fishes, health controls of the fishes (depending on the size of the salmon farm the number of checks may vary from 4 to 12 revisions per year), number of treatments etc. Also the quality of the water in the sea cages shall regularly be measured including parameters such as for example oxygen levels, temperature etc.

Mutilations (fin clipping): Orkla's general policy for mutilations and painful procedures also apply for farmed fish (please see Orkla's Animal Welfare Policy point 4 "Husbandry Practices"). According to Norwegian law it is forbidden to perform mutilations and to remove body parts (e.g. fin clipping or other) on living fish.