

For the attention of Erik Hagen

Western Sahara Resource Watch

1st December 2025

By email

Dear Mr. Hagen,

Re: Communication received by email 21 November 2025

Since our last communication via email on 4th July 2025, we have further reviewed our organisational position in respect to programme activities within Western Sahara.

After careful consideration of circumstances and underpinned by the position of the United Nations, ASC has identified a need to undertake a process of Heightened Human Rights Due Diligence (HHRDD) in Western Sahara in order to inform the direction of our programme activities. This aligns with the guidance provided for business by UNDP.

At this time, ASC does not have the necessary resources at our disposal to enable such a process to be undertaken and, as such, we are discontinuing our programme activities in Western Sahara.

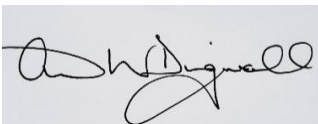
The certificate for the single certified farm in the territory will not be eligible for renewal on expiry and potential new entrants will not be accepted into the programme.

There are no Chain of Custody certificates linked to the certified farm and as such there are no products carrying the ASC ecolabel in the marketplace.

ASC will review our position should resources become available to complete a HHRDD assessment or when a process of self-determination has been completed in the territory.

Please do contact ASC should you wish to clarify any of the points above.

Yours sincerely,



Alastair Dingwall
Chief Technical Officer
Aquaculture Stewardship Council