

Agreement between the Labour Party, the Conservative Party, the Centre Party, the Progress Party, the Socialist Left Party and the Liberal Party on Report No. 24 (2024-2025) to the Storting on Future Aquaculture - Sustainable Growth and Food for the World.

**The parties agree on the following basis for the agreement:**

- Norway shall have a world-leading and sustainable aquaculture industry, which creates value for coastal communities, the national economy and global food supply, as indicated in the white paper. This means that the policy must support a competitive and knowledge-based aquaculture industry.
- In light of the assessments from the UN and FAO, Norway will facilitate increased production within knowledge-based environmental requirements. Aquaculture activities must be regulated on the basis of their actual impact on nature and the environment. The impact of salmon lice must be reduced to a level in line with the objective discussed in the white paper.
- The parties have had good and constructive discussions in the work on the processing of Report No. 24 (2024-2025) on future regulation of the aquaculture industry. The parties recognise and respect each other's primary positions, and agree that these can be expressed in the committee's recommendation.
- With regard to activity in local communities along the entire coast, the development of the aquaculture industry, fish welfare and environmental considerations, all parties have shown a willingness to reach an agreement on a balanced and forward-looking direction for the regulation of approaches.
- The parties agree not to put forward alternative majorities in proposals or comments that challenge the agreement in this agreement.
- Where Roman numeral decisions are necessary, in accordance with this agreement, these parties will stand together in their recommendation and vote

**The parties will join Report No. 24 (2024-2025) with the following principles and amendments:**

**1. Goals and direction for the aquaculture industry**

- Future regulation of aquaculture shall be based on actual and measurable environmental impact and be oriented with individual incentives for the

aquaculture companies, also to achieve set goals of better fish welfare and reduced mortality.

- The model in Report No. 24, the Aquaculture Committee's proposal and the current framework will be examined before the Storting makes a final decision.

## **2. Transition to a new system**

- The transition to a new regulatory system must be predictable and broadly politically based.
- The current system of MTB and traffic light systems will be continued until new regulations have been developed and adopted, but with incentive mechanisms to reduce the environmental footprint in the form of an environmental technology scheme.
- A distribution key for the possible allocation of allowances based on company MAB (maximum allowed biomass) will be investigated. The consequences for company value, ownership and financing in the event of a repeal of MAB must be investigated before a final decision is made.
- The new regulatory system will facilitate framework conditions that also safeguard small and medium-sized players and be structurally neutral.
- The consideration behind special permits will be continued in the new regulatory structure, and it will be investigated how these can be included in the new facility.
- The system will be investigated and consulted in accordance with the instructions for official reports and will be submitted for reconsideration by the Storting in the course of 2026 before its introduction.
- New regulation will come into force within 2-4 years.

## **3. Environmental technology scheme**

- It is important for the parties that technology development is stimulated within the current system in order to contribute to the restructuring of a future new system.
- The Storting supports the establishment of a technology-neutral environmental technology scheme where reduced capacity can be used in facilities with zero emissions of salmon lice. The scheme will come into force in the autumn of 2025.

- The scheme will be expanded as soon as possible to also include low-emission solutions, when there is sufficient data and technological verification - including automated lice counting. This requires a study and consultation, and the new scheme will enter into force during 2026 at the latest. The scheme will replace the current exemption rule in the traffic light system and be designed so that the effect on lice reduction and the strength of the incentive are linked.
- The Storting asks the Government to expand the scheme, if appropriate, to a general scheme in line with the Government's proposal and the Storting's unanimous request resolution 606 in 2024.

#### **4. Management and area**

- The Storting asks the Government to consider consolidating the overall responsibility for coordination of aquaculture management in a Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture, with authority for site clarifications and allocations. The Directorate will also be responsible for the follow-up of the municipalities in their land-use planning in coastal sea areas.
- The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries will continue to be responsible for knowledge building and regulation of sea lice impact.
- It is supported that state planning guidelines are developed to also cover coastal sea areas and that more of the conditions for establishment and operation are stipulated in regulations and not in permit conditions, in order to contribute to more coordinated and efficient land management. The municipalities are the planning authority.
- Such a change, with state planning guidelines and more stipulated in regulations, will contribute to faster and more uniform processing of site applications. Access to sufficient acreage is an important prerequisite for development and growth in the industry.
- The Aquaculture Fund will be continued and further developed to ensure and maintain predictable and stable revenues for host municipalities and local communities.

#### **5. Knowledge base, data basis and technology**

- A more comprehensive and thorough knowledge base will be developed for the environmental impact of aquaculture, including the industry's actual and relative impact on the Norwegian wild salmon stock. A broad range of

researchers and professionals will participate in this work, and there will continue to be transparency about methods and models.

- The Government is asked to strengthen the technical and biological data basis for environmental impact assessments. The costs associated with collecting a good data basis can be high, and the Government is asked to consider the possibilities of strengthening this by coordinating with and using data from private actors along the coast.
- The experience gained from the evaluation of the traffic light system will be used to improve the basis for decision-making and support the development of any new regulation, including strengthening research and monitoring related to limit values for wild fish mortality, the effects of lice infestation on wild salmon stocks and stock assessments of spawning stock targets, etc.
- Efforts will be made to improve monitoring of salmon lice, discharges and fish welfare through the use of new technology and available data, including automatic transfer of relevant data from the fish farmer to the supervisory authority.

## **6. Second point of agreement**

### **Fish welfare**

- The Storting asks the Government to initiate work on measures to achieve the goal set in the Animal Welfare Report of a mortality rate down to 5%.

### **Sludge**

- In the course of 2026, the Government will present an assessment of how sludge and other waste streams from aquaculture can be included in a more circular economy, including opportunities for recycling, use in agriculture and energy, as well as the development of a national strategy for a circular economy in aquaculture.

### **Low-trophic**

- The Storting asks the Government to facilitate increased production of low-trophic aquaculture, including macroalgae cultivation, with the aim of facilitating sustainable growth and increased value creation in the production of low-trophic species, including access to land.

### **Species**

- Species restrictions in aquaculture licences shall remain.