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**Auchan** | RETAIL

# Assessing impacts on biodiversity on an Aquaculture portfolio

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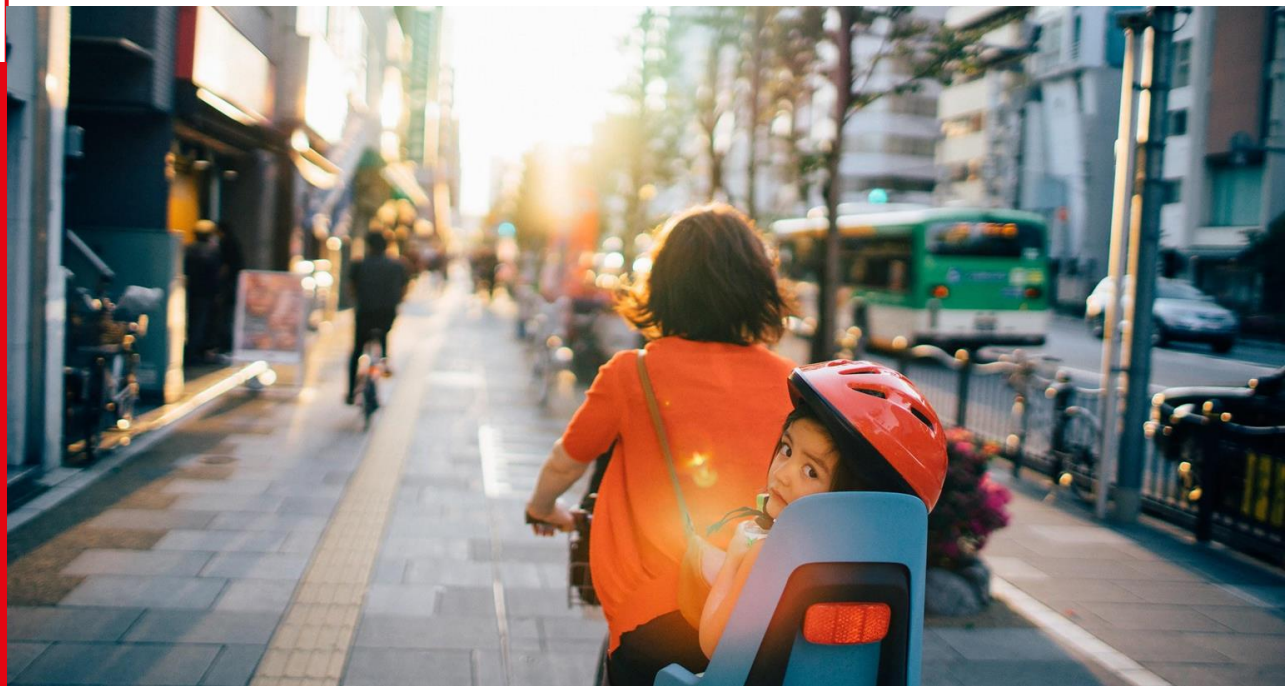
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# Business needs

Business Needs  
Auchan Retail  
Biodiversity &  
Seafood Strategy  
2023



# Auchan Retail 2032 Vision



# From footprint to **risk assessment** methodology

- **Context: first biodiversity footprint in 2023**, with the support of Sayari to conduct the footprint for the seafood sector and help draw the basis for an international Seafood Policy and related action plan.
- Initial idea: **define criteria for a seafood product to be considered “sustainable”**, such as a list of recognized certifications
- Result of workshops and discussion with experts: a black/white approach not adapted to many specific cases (bivalves, non-risky species...).
- Solution found: **risk approach, with a score scale**, to reflect the diverse reality of seafood products.

This applies especially to aquaculture, as :

- some farms with best practices but not certified
- alternative feed is not always rewarded by a certification
- certifications do not differentiate between type of species (carnivorous vs vegetarian)
- certifications cover only a small percentage of the total offer

# Methodology

# Methodology for product assessment

# Methodology – overview

- Land/sea use change
- Direct exploitation
- Climate change
- Pollution
- Invasive alien species
- Others

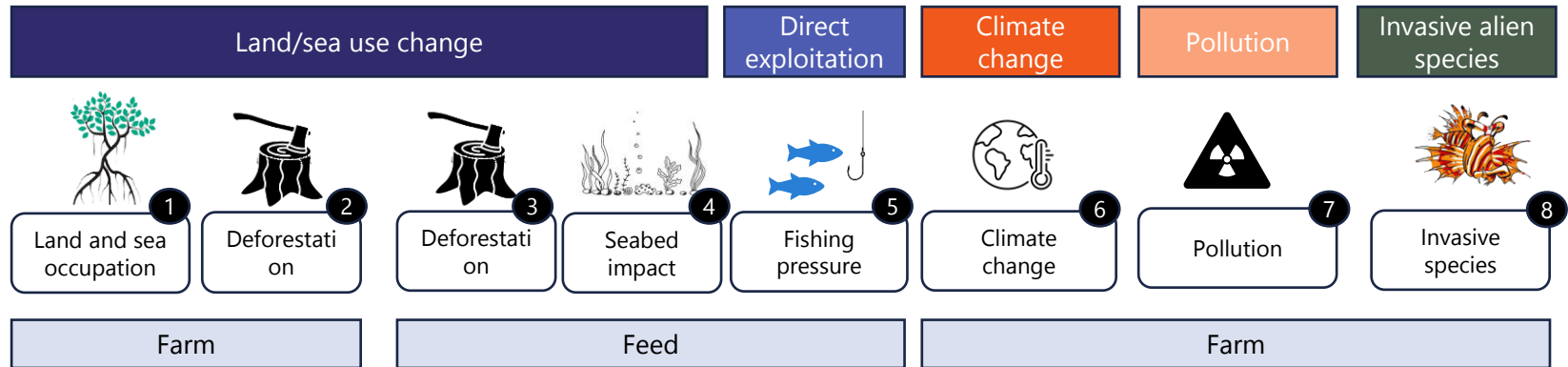
Methodology was initially tailored to marine species. Life Cycle Thinking approach : focus at farm level and feed.

Land and sea use change, climate change, pollution, and invasive alien species, are assessed at farm level.

For feed:

- Terrestrial commodities → Deforestation
- Marine commodities → Assessment of fishing and seabed impact

It is a risk-based approach, lack of data is penalized by downgrading default evaluation.



# Portfolio assessment : Dealing with unknown information

# For company portfolio

- Not all information is available for a given product
  - Species
  - Geography
  - Farming type (extensive/intensive/recirculating)
  - Farming practices (certification)
  - Fed or not
  - Feed type and quantity

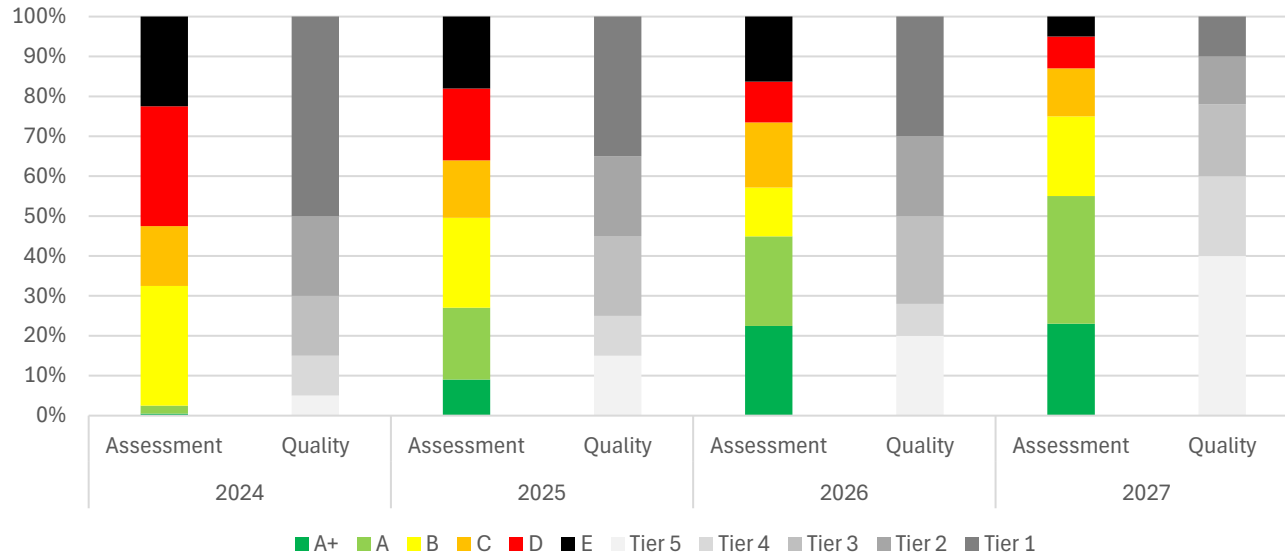
- There has to be combined efforts on
- Improving information (traceability)
    - Improving practices

# A tiered-based approach

- As some data can be difficult to collect, a tier-based approach is taken, tailored to Auchan's data efforts
- 5 tiers are defined according to data availability (Tier 1 less info, Tier 5 more info)
- For assessment: For tiers 1 to 4, when information is missing, **most conservative values are given**

# Objective: improve portfolio overtime

- Fictitious example :



In this example, the company is improving sustainability of products by decreasing E's and D's and increasing A+'s and A's.

It is also improving assessment quality by reducing Tiers 1 & 2 and increasing Tiers 4 & 5.

# Application of method and case studies

# Focus on 2 indicators – examples

# Indicator at farm level - example



Land and  
sea  
occupation

1

## Rationale:

Coastal productions alter biodiversity-rich areas such as **mangroves**. Open systems increase interaction with the near ecosystem, hence increasing risk of impacts.

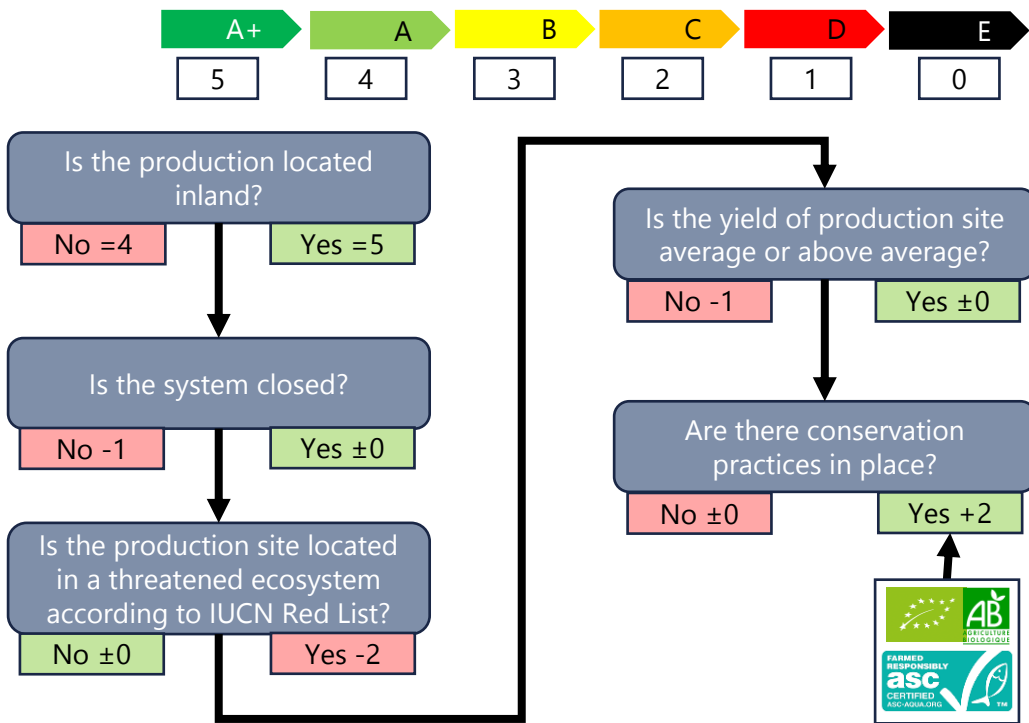
If farm is possibly located in a **threatened area**, there might be potential interactions and substantial degradation of native habitats in a close distance. Reliable **label** ensure conservation practices are in place and limit habitat degradation.

In any case, degradation of habitats is related to **yield**, with higher productivity being less impactful per unit of production.



Land and sea occupation **1**

# Indicator farm : "land and sea occupation"



### Examples of results

- Oysters, France, no label **C**
- Salmon, France, inland, RAS **A**
- Shrimp, Spain, ASC label **A+**
- Shrimp, Spain, no label **C**
- Shrimp, Ecuador, no label **E**

# Indicator at feed level - example



Fishing pressure

5

## Rationale:

Aquaculture species can be of **various trophic levels**, from filter feeders that don't need feed (filtration of water) to carnivorous species that feed on fish or plant-based substitutes.

Feed from fish oil/meal (from **fishing resources**) may impact biodiversity depending on management of targeted stock.

Assessment of this pressure on feed fish is made by applying **STECF 2022\*** sustainability indicators (EU marketing standards for fisheries products).

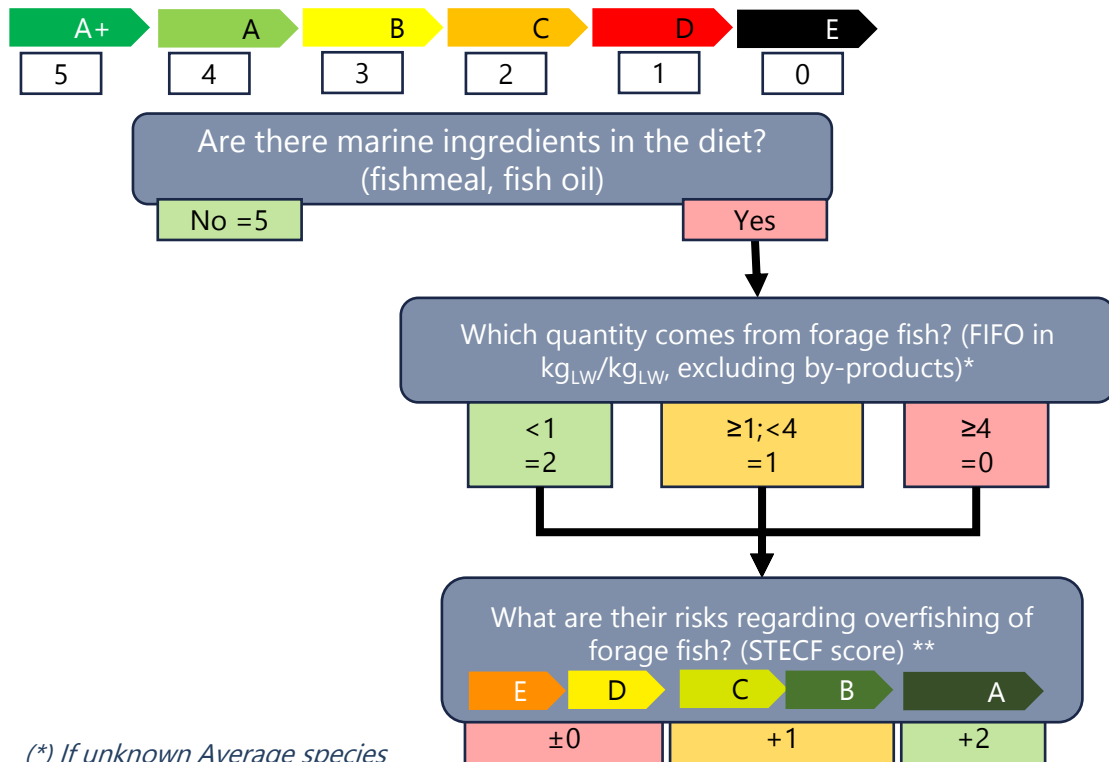
(\*) *STECF : Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries of the European Union*

# Methodology for feed



Fishing pressure

5



## Examples of results

Oysters, France, no label



Oysters, Organic Label



Salmon, no label, FIFO unknown



Salmon, FIFO = 1, ASC label, MSC sandeel fishery





(\*) If unknown Average species FIFO+ 50%  
 (\*\*) STECF score : from STECF 2022



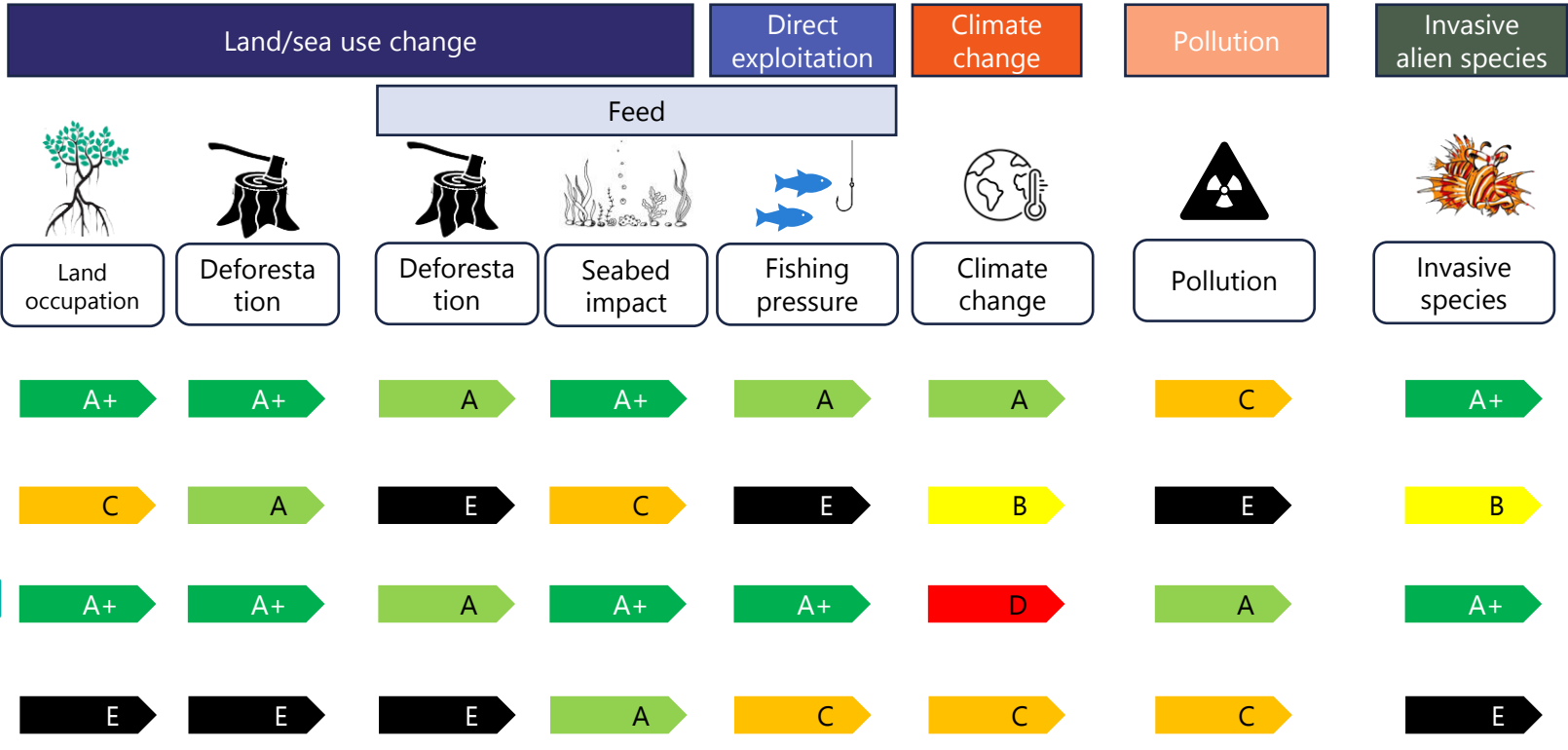
# Complete case studies – 4 constrasted commmodities

# Case study: Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and Whiteleg shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*)

- Application of the methodology to 4 (Tier 5) raw products:

	Salmon - organic	Salmon - Conventional	Shrimp - ASC	Shrimp - Conventional
Ecosystem	Fjord	Fjord	Inland	Mangrove
Country	Norway	Chile	Spain	Vietnam
Certification	Organic 	Not certified	ASC 	Not certified
Feeding	Fed	Fed	Fed	Fed
Feed fish (FIFO ratio)	<1 fish sustainable – no seabed impact	>4 overfished Fish - moderate seabed impact	No fish	3 fish C - no seabed impact
Soybean/palm oil (kg <sub>DM</sub> /kg <sub>LW</sub> )	<0.05 100% certified soybean	>0.2 soybean not certified	<0.05 100% certified soybean	>0.2 soybean not certified
System	Open	Open	Recirculating	Open
Annual yield (kg <sub>LW</sub> /ha)	High yield	Low yield	High yield	Low yield
Ecosystem	Not threatened	Not threatened	Not threatened	Threatened

# Case study



# 4 Take aways

# Conclusion

- A set of 8 indicators that
  - Represent variability of aquaculture practices
  - Are assessed across variability of aquaculture practices (from A+ to E)
- Client-based (e.g. Auchan's) weighting enables to prioritize impact pathways

## Next steps

- Weighting indicators :
  - No weighting (yet), as both marine and terrestrial biodiversity are assessed in this method
  - Could be proposed in a further version
- Apply it to further portfolios (including freshwater species)
- Improve methodology according to progress in science and knowledge

# Auchan's takeaways

The policy, especially the KPIs and related methodology will :

- help **sourcing** on daily decision making
- help **monitor portfolio sustainability** and its evolution overtime, with quantitative objectives
- reflect a **continuous improvement** strategy
- be aligned with the market reality
- help explain Auchan's position and action plan when answering extra-financial requests (external evaluation or regulatory reporting)

# 5 References

- IUCN (2024). "IUCN Redlist of ecosystems." Retrieved 08/2024, from <https://assessments.iucnrle.org/search>.
- European Commission STECF (2022). Validation of selected sustainability indicators and underlying methodologies for the revision of the EU marketing standards for fisheries products (STECF-22-12). Ispra, Italy.



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# Thank you !

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