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### **Executive Summary**

In April 2021, SalMar published its Green Bond Framework, committing to dedicated efforts towards sustainable activities and extending SalMar's tireless efforts to integrate sustainability in all aspects of its endeavours. The Framework includes several relevant project categories important to SalMar, where green investments would strongly contribute to sustainable development. SalMar issued its inaugural Green Bond in April 2021 (SalMar ASA FRN senior unsecured green NOK 3,500,000,000 bonds 2021/2027) and the full amount has been allocated to projects that align with the green project categories of the Green Bond Framework. These include:

- InnovaNor a new processing plant located in our operating area in Northern Norway, expected to contribute to saving at least 20,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions each year. The emission reductions will originate primarily from local processing, which will reduce the volume and weight of the salmon transported to the market.
- New smolt facilities built with state-of-the-art Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) technology that will increase operational control of the water environment and contribute to annual savings in the withdrawal of external freshwater equivalent to 865 million m³ compared to conventional flow-through systems.
- New production licenses to be used at sea sites certified or in preparation to be certified by the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC). The ASC certification sets strict requirements on the environmental impacts of fish farms related to biodiversity, sustainable feed, pollution prevention and control and fish welfare as well as on social factors.

### Allocation of Proceeds and Green Savings

The full amount of SalMar's outstanding NOK 3,500 million green bonds has been allocated to finance green projects and initiatives within four project categories. The allocated amounts and corresponding green savings are summarized in the table below. InnovaNor and New smolt facilities are regarded as new green projects as the facilities are or will be taken into use after the Green Bond was launched, while the new production licenses were bought in the fall of 2020 and is regarded as refinancing.

Project	Project Category As Presented in Framework	Allocated Proceeds	Green Savings
InnovaNor	Local and Sustainable Processing	NOK 1,191,856,000	At least 20,000 tons CO <sub>2</sub> e per year
New Smolt Facilities	Waste and Wastewater Management	NOK 1,192,953,000	865 million m³ freshwater per year
	Sustainable Facilities for Smolt Production		100% RAS facilities
New Production Licences	Sustainable Coastal Fish Farms	NOK 1,115,191,000	Increase in % of sea sites certified by the ASC



### **Green Bond Committee Statement**

The Green Bond Committee is an internal group of representatives within SalMar dedicated to selecting and evaluating green projects and to making decisions on behalf of SalMar on allocations of the Green Bond proceeds. The Committee approved allocations to three green projects during the year which all met the eligibility criteria of SalMar's Green Bond Framework. The Committee is also proud to announce that the proceeds have been allocated in a way that firmly promotes SalMar's vision of being the world's best salmon producer by ensuring that we maximize value creation on the salmon and minimize our footprint in the areas which we operate.



# Sustainability in Everything We Do

"Sustainability in Everything We Do" is one of SalMar's key tenets. For us, sustainability is about the way we operate as a company and how we behave in the areas surrounding our operations. This includes taking care of our employees, the salmon, and the environment, while developing the industry and moving society in a more sustainable direction.

SalMar aims to safeguard the seas, while maximising our production at the terms of the salmon. This includes contributing to the development of new technology like state-of-the-art processing facilities and recirculating aquaculture systems for sustainable smolt production, so that we can continue to reduce the biological footprint of our production.

The Group recognises the diversity of its corporate social responsibility, as an employer, producer, supplier of healthy food, user of the natural environment and administrator of financial and intellectual capital. Social responsibility is important for us, and we want everything we do to stand the light of day. At the same time, we aim to minimise the impact our operations have on the natural environment.

Our holistic approach rests on awareness of there being the link between caring for people, economy, and the environment, which determines whether something is sustainable. This is the core reason for why we think sustainability in everything we do.

SalMar's overarching principle for all our operations is to have a minimal footprint in the areas we operate. Although food production in general accounts for a large proportion of global greenhouse gas emissions, the farming of salmon is one of the most environment-friendly ways of producing food. It is SalMar's intention to be at the forefront of the development of a more sustainable aquaculture industry.

This means protecting the seas, reducing energy consumption, and minimising greenhouse gas emissions from our operations. By using new technologies and innovations, we are constantly striving to minimise our biological footprint, in a way that allows us to produce as much salmon as possible on the salmon's terms.

In 2021, SalMar pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the Science Based Targets initiative, and in 2022 SalMar's reduction targets were updated and verified by the SBTi. In this way, we ensure our emissions are reduced in accordance with global climate targets and at least within the "Below 1.5°C" scenario of the Paris Agreement.

**Scope 1 & 2** At least 42% reduction in our GHG emissions from 2020 to 2030 (in our own operations)

Scope 3 At least 42% reduction in our GHG emissions from 2020 to 2030 (in our value chain)

Note that the targets presented above differ from the targets presented in the Green Bond Framework of April 2021. Our targets were updated to reflect the "Below 1.5°C" trajectory prior to SBTi verification.



# **Targeted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

With the proceeds from the Green Bond, SalMar aims to contribute to the fulfilment of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. The following are specifically relevant for the green projects of which proceeds have been allocated. How each SDG is touched on, is described in the Green Project Profiles. The SDGs below are presented along with their UN definitions.



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.



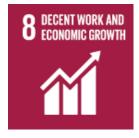
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.



Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.



Take urgent action to combat climate changes and its impacts.



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

## **Green Project Profiles**

### InnovaNor

Local processing is a core focus area for SalMar and investments in InnovaNor, a new processing plant in Northern Norway, is a significant step towards increasing local value creation in the aquaculture industry. The benefits of processing salmon locally are plentiful and touch on environmental, social, and governing aspects altogether. In 2023, 36.3 per cent of SalMar's harvested volume was used for local secondary processing in Norway. SalMar's main processing InnovaMar, comprised the majority of this quantity in 2023, with the recently upgraded secondary plant at Vikenco also contributing. The InnovaNor is SalMar's new flagship in the North and aims to



further push the local processing percentage higher. Operations at InnovaNor were rolled out early 2022 and has established itself as a vital part in SalMar's pursuit towards reaching several sustainability targets in the coming years.

Environmental benefits from local processing are outstanding and manifested especially in less inedible substances being transported around the world. By concluding processing operations in-house, only the readily edible salmon, and thus less weight, is sent by truck, train, boat and/or plane – thereby contributing to significant reductions in transport emissions. In 2023, SalMar's local processing saved the planet from 90,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions.

Local processing also contributes to positive social impacts. Carrying out more work in Norway creates more jobs in the local communities along the coast, with the InnovaNor employing more than 250 persons already. This has a natural snowballing effect, where more jobs in the districts drive people to move to these places, where they earn a living and spend their money locally, keeping the economic wheels rolling also in these local communities. By expanding operations and increasing its staff, SalMar also augments its capacity for developing field experts and gaining valuable experience within important social practices like human safety.

Shortening the value chain geographically by keeping the processing local, contributes also to a more masterful governing strategy. This allows SalMar to maintain full control over a larger part of its value chain which also makes internal and external auditing more transparent.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH



InnovaNor has augmented SalMar's production capacity, bringing more salmon to dinner tables around the world.



Increased production of salmon means more healthy, nutritious food reaching a growing population. Healthy food promotes good health and well-being.



InnovaNor promotes sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all employees.



InnovaNor is a resilient infrastructure that engages local contractors and fosters sustainable industrialization in the local communities.



InnovaNor creates sustainable work in local communities which contributes to population growth in the districts along the coast.



InnovaNor contributes to responsible consumption and production by focusing on production efficiency, by-product utilisation and state-of-the-art technology.



InnovaNor increases SalMar's local processing capacity by 30,000 tons per year, saving an estimated minimum of 20,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e emissions every year.

### **Smolt Facilities**

Financially sustainable processing in Norway requires a steady and substantial inflow of salmon. This makes it vital for SalMar to make strategic investments across the value chain. The construction of two new smolt facilities began in 2021 in Central Norway and in 2020 in Northern Norway. The facilities are located at Tjuin, in the municipality of Steinkjer, and at The investments increases Senja. SalMar's annual smolt production capacity from roughly 36 million to about 76 million smolt. This increase aligns with SalMar's growth ambitions.

The new facilities are built exclusively with state-of-the-art Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) technology, for increased



operational control of the water environment and a significant reduction in freshwater withdrawal.

Complete control of the salmon lifecycles affords SalMar to make strategic decisions on growth environment and final size of the smolt. SalMar may produce exactly the smolt needed to fit its specific demands at the given time while optimizing biological conditions for optimal fish welfare.

At Tjuin, the smolt facility neighbours Malm Biogass, which affords an industrial cooperation aligned with SalMar's circular approach where Malm Biogass receives waste substances (sludge) from filtered wastewater from the smolt facility to be used for biogas production.

The Tjuin smolt facility is located in close proximity to SalMar's largest smolt facility to date, at Follafoss. The new facility at Senja, the "Senja 2", neighbours "Senja 1", which is another large smolt facility in SalMar's ownership. Increasing smolt production within SalMar's main operating areas simplifies and shortens the value chain, which allows for both a higher degree of operational control and lower greenhouse gas emissions due to shorter upstream transport distances.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH



Increasing smolt production capacity is integral in SalMar's goal of expanding production of healthy, nutritious food for a growing global population.



Increased production of salmon means more healthy, nutritious food reaching a growing population. Healthy food promotes good health and well-being.



SalMar's new smolt facilities promotes sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all our employees.



SalMar's new smolt facilities are resilient infrastructures that engage local contractors and foster sustainable industrialization in the local communities.



The smolt facilities create sustainable work in local communities which will contribute to population growth in the districts along the coastline.



The new facilities contribute to responsible consumption and production patterns by focusing on a water use efficiency and sustainable value chain.



The new state-of-the-art facilities improves SalMar's ability to supply smolt with the right size and quality for increased fish welfare in the sea-phase.

### **New Production Licences**

Expanding production in a sustainable, yet consistent manner has always been an integral part of SalMar's business strategy. Investing in new production licences enlarges SalMar's scale of production and affords more effective business.

The main environmental challenges for the salmon aquaculture industry relate to the interaction with wildlife, fish health, sourcing of feed raw materials, and benthic impact. In addition to national regulations, third-party certification schemes have been developed which set out strict requirements for the industry. The strictest of these third-party schemes is the ASC certification.



SalMar's goal is to always be in a position to deliver fish from ASC certified farms and the Green Bond proceeds have therefore been allocated to production licences that will be used at fish farms that are certified or in preparation for certification by the ASC.

SalMar has personnel (field experts) with main operating function of choosing optimal locations for new fish farms. These decisions are based on operating environment for the salmon and for humans, e.g., wind, wave and current exposure, benthic conditions, operational logistics and much more. Correct placements of new fish farms are vital in maintaining a flexible value chain and ensuring sustainable operations. These conditions are also decisive for a sea site to have the correct prerequisites for an ASC certification.

We believe that the investment in new production licences, used at sea sites certified or in preparation for certification by ASC, will contribute towards reaching several of our key targets for coastal fish farming. These include:

Economic Feed Conversion Ratio of less than 1.13 by 2025

o Current value: 1.20

100% ASC or Debio (organic) certified farms by 2025

o Current value: 63%

Survival rate exceeding 97% by 2025

Current value: 93.8%

Share of harvested volume sent to local processing exceeding 42.5% by 2025

Current value: 36.3%

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH



SalMar's new fish farms will promote sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all our employees.



Increasing salmon production capacity is integral in SalMar's goal of expanding production of healthy, nutritious food for a growing global population.



SalMar's fish farms focus especially on fish welfare, minimal emissions and noise, human safety, and zero spill to the sea to ensure responsible production.



Increased production of salmon means more healthy, nutritious food reaching a growing population. Healthy food promotes good health and well-being.



SalMar has one of the lowest mortality rates in the industry and asserts that all production is done on the salmon's terms for high fish welfare.

# **Green Savings**

To provide insight into the green benefits of the allocated proceeds from the Green Bond, calculations and discussions of "green savings" are presented in the following section.

#### **InnovaNor**

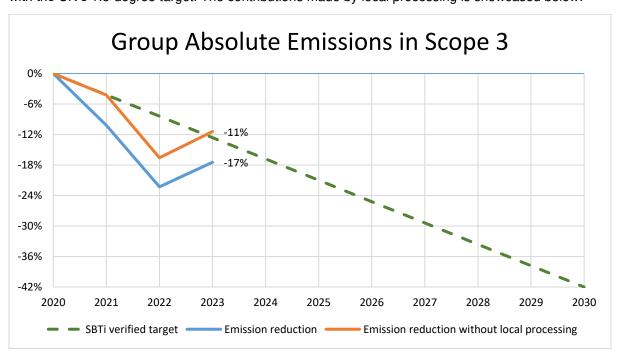
InnovaNor at Senja, Northern Norway, has a harvesting capacity of 75,000 tons per shift per year and a processing capacity of 30,000 tons per year. The processing of salmon means turning whole gutted fish into fine cuts, filets and loins by removing the inedible parts of the salmon. Processing reduces both the weight and volume of the products to be transported to the market, thus reducing transport related carbon emissions.

InnovaMar at Frøya, Central Norway, has a processing capacity of around 60,000 tons per year, i.e., double the current capacity at InnovaNor. In 2023, SalMar delivered 138,000 tons from InnovaMar and 84,700 tons from InnovaNor, a total of 222,700 tons of both whole fish and fully processed salmon products. If all had been delivered as whole fish, the volume delivered would have been 245,200 tons. So local processing removed 22,500 tons of inedible substances, saving 90,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions.



In 2023, 20 of the 90 tons CO2e emissions avoided came from Northern Norway and 70 tons CO2e emissions came from Central Norway. Since the local processing capacity in Northern Norway is half of the capacity in Central Norway, we believe that there are further emission reductions to be achieved in at InnovaNor.

SalMar has ambitious GHG reduction targets verified by the Science Based Targets initiative, aligned with the UN's 1.5-degree target. The contributions made by local processing is showcased below.



### **Smolt Facilities**

The new smolt facilities are built with state-of-theart RAS technology. Recirculating water means significantly less freshwater withdrawal compared to traditional flow-through systems and is thus aligned with SalMar's ambition to improve water efficiency by at least 30% through these investments, as presented in the Green Bond Framework. Investing in RAS technology is typically expensive compared to flow-through, but there are a multitude of biological benefits, like temperature control, improved water quality control, disease management, as well as the water withdrawal savings.

SalMar's share of smolt delivered from RAS facilities has steadily increased in the last years, and the withdrawal of freshwater has consequently decreased. The latest values denote 96% smolt delivered from RAS facilities and 38.9 million m³ freshwater withdrawn in 2023. This is a main area of focus for SalMar's sustainability efforts, and SalMar aims for 100% RAS-driven smolt production in the future.

The significant decrease in freshwater withdrawal with RAS technology is its main pull with regards to environmental benefits. The RAS installed at Tjuin and Senja each have an estimated average water circulation during normal operation of 840 m³/min where 7.5 m³/min is new freshwater. This gives a water circulation rate of 99.1%. However, slightly more freshwater is supplied during filling of the tanks (which happens initially and on some occasions during operations), so an estimate of 98% recirculated water is used for the following estimates. A 98% recirculating rate means that the state-of-the-art RAS technology only has 2% of a flow-through system's water withdrawal.

840 m³/min circulating water amounts to a water withdrawal of 441.5 million m³/year. This denotes the water withdrawal a flow-through system of the size and capacity required at Tjuin and Senja would have. With 98% recirculation, this amounts to an annual withdrawal of just 8.8 million m³. This means that the investments in RAS at SalMar's new smolt facilities will reduce SalMar's annual water withdrawal by 432.7 million m³ for each of the facilities, or about 865 million m³ per year for both facilities, relative to flow-through systems.





### **New Production Licences**

The new production licences are to be used at fish farms that are certified or in preperation of being certified by the ASC. ASC standards are the strictest in the industry today, and present austere requirements on all aspects of fish farming operations. Thus, the green savings of fish farms meeting ASC standards are plentiful.

The ASC standards include several requirements covering the potential impacts of aquaculture. Some of the main categories for certifying a salmon farm includes<sup>1</sup>:

**Biodiverisity** – Fish farms must minimise impacts on the local ecosystem, develop an impact assessment to wildlife and sensitive habitats, protect the ecological quality of the seabed, not be sited in High Conservation Value Areas, minimise fish escapes, and publish lethal incidents with wildlife.

**Feed** – Fish farms must adhere to strict limits to minimise the use of wild fish as an ingredient for feed, and ensure full traceability back to a responsibly managed source both for wild fish and soy.

**Pollution** – Fish farms must measure various water parameters (phosphorus, oxygen levels, etc.) at regular intervals and remain within set limits, and be classified as 'good' or 'very good' (e.g. by the EU Water Framework Directive), while also minimising and monitoring copper release into the water.

**Diseases** – Fish farms must adhere to rigorous requirements to minimise disease outbreaks, cooperate with other farmers operating in the same area, develop a Fish Health Management Plan detailing steps for biosecurity management, adhere to low levels of parasites (especially sea lice), only use certain medicines under very strict conditions, ensure high salmon survival rate, and publish unexplained increased mortality as well as sea lice counts.

**Social** – Fish farms must prohibit the use of child labour or any form of forced labour, display safe and equitable working environments where employees earn a decent wage and have regulated working hours, and consult communities.

As stated in the Green Bond Framework, the investments in new production licences for sustainable coastal fish farms will contribute to increasing the share of SalMar's sea sites certified by the ASC.





<sup>1</sup> https://www.asc-aqua.org/what-we-do/our-standards/farm-standards/the-salmon-standard/



Statsautoriserte revisorer Ernst & Young AS

Stortorvet 7, 0155 Oslo Postboks 1156 Sentrum, Oslo Norway Foretaksregisteret: NO 976 389 387 MVA Tlf: +47 24 00 24 00

www.ey.no
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#### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT

To the board of directors in SalMar ASA

#### Scope

We have been engaged by SalMar ASA to perform a limited assurance engagement, as defined by International Standards on Assurance Engagements, here after referred to as the engagement, to report on SalMar ASA's allocation of proceeds from SalMar ASA FRN senior unsecured green NOK 3,500,000,000 bond 2021/2027 (the "Subject Matter") as defined and referred to in SalMar ASA's Green Bond Report April 2024 (the "Report") as of 31 December 2023 for the period from 1. January 2023 to 31. December 2023.

Other than as described in the preceding paragraph, which sets out the scope of our engagement, we did not perform assurance procedures on the remaining information included in the Report, and accordingly, we do not express a conclusion on this information.

#### Criteria applied by SalMar ASA

In preparing the Subject Matter, SalMar ASA applied the relevant criteria from their Green Bond Framework issued 6 April 2021 (which is in line with ICMA Green Bond Principles published June 2018) (the "Criteria"). The Criteria can be accessed at salmar.no/en/green-financing and are available to the public. Such Criteria were specifically designed for companies and other organizations that want to report their sustainability impacts with allocation of proceeds from an issued Green Bond in a consistent and credible way. As a result, the Subject Matter information may not be suitable for another purpose. We consider these reporting criteria to be relevant and appropriate to review the Report.

### SalMar ASA's responsibilities

The Board of Directors and Group Chief Executive Officer (management) are responsible for selecting the Criteria, and for presenting the Subject Matter in accordance with that Criteria, in all material respects. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls, maintaining adequate records and making estimates that are relevant to the preparation of the Subject Matter, such that it is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### EY's responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the presentation of the Subject Matter based on the evidence we have obtained.

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the International Standard for Assurance *Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information ('ISAE 3000')*. This standard requires that we plan and perform our engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether, in all material respects, the Subject Matter is presented in accordance with the Criteria, and to issue a report. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risk of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

We believe that the evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our limited assurance conclusion.



### **Our Independence and Quality Control**

We are independent of the Company and the Group in accordance with the requirements of the relevant laws and regulations in Norway and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards)* (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

EY also applies International Standard on Quality Management 1, *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services engagements*, which requires that we design, implement and operate a system of quality management including policies or procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

### **Description of procedures performed**

Procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for, a reasonable assurance engagement. Consequently, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained if a reasonable assurance engagement had been performed. Our procedures were designed to obtain a limited level of assurance on which to base our conclusion and do not provide all the evidence that would be required to provide a reasonable level of assurance.

Although we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our assurance engagement was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls. Our procedures did not include testing controls or performing procedures relating to checking aggregation or calculation of data within IT systems.

A limited assurance engagement consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for preparing the Subject Matter and related information and applying analytical and other appropriate procedures.

Our procedures included:

- Review of SalMar ASA's process for preparation and presentation of the Report to provide us
  with an understanding of how the Green Bond proceeds have been allocated in accordance with
  the Green Bond Framework.
- Interviewed those in charge of SalMar ASA's Report to develop an understanding of the process for the preparation of the allocations and of the Report.
- Verified on a sample basis the information in the Report on the allocations and impact of net proceeds against source data and other information prepared by SalMar ASA.
- Assessed the overall presentation of selected information in the Report against the criteria in the Green Bond Framework, including a review of the consistency of information.

We believe that our procedures provide us with an adequate basis for our conclusion. We also performed such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

### Conclusion

Based on our procedures and the evidence obtained, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the Subject Matter as for the year then ended in order for it to be in accordance with the Criteria.



Trondheim, 12 April 2024 ERNST & YOUNG AS

The assurance report is signed electronically

Christian Ronæss State Authorised Public Accountant