

#Act4Fish
#Act4FarmAnimals



The welfare of FISH the forgotten animal

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**EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS**

Why focus on fish welfare?

- 1. Fish are suffering.**
- 2. A lot is known – a lot still to learn.**
- 3. Opportunities in existing legal framework.**

Fish are suffering



Where is public opinion?

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COMPASSION
in world farming 
ciwf.org

ComRes 

1,000 respondents in each of 9
EU countries.

Do you agree?

Fish feel pain	73%
Fish are sentient	65%
Fish have positive emotions	55%

Should we protect the welfare of fish?

To same extent as other animals we eat	79%
Better than it is now	79%

What's important for good welfare?

Clean water	95%
Fish health	94%
Natural behaviours	93%
Minimum suffering	89%
Humane slaughter	89%
Enjoying life	82%

What do we know?

Transport



© Jungle Jack

Handling



Health



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What do we know? – fish slaughter

Humane Slaughter

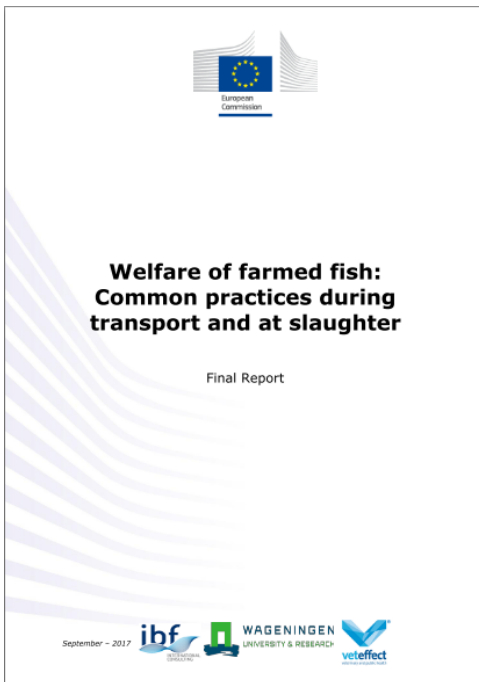
Parameters ✓

Processing efficiency ✓

Practical technology ✓

Product quality ✓

Commission Report



- Inhumane slaughter the most common practice in European aquaculture – asphyxiation of sea bass and sea bream.
- Implementing humane slaughter would, in most cases, result in either financial savings or very small increases in production costs.
- The largest sustainability certifier is the only one to currently specify humane slaughter, and this has been ineffective at encouraging adoption.
- National level advice continues to promote inhumane slaughter, e.g. Spain 2016, while national legislation has been effective e.g. Germany.

EU Legal Framework

Scientific
consensus



EFSA
opinions

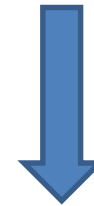


‘there is now sufficient scientific evidence indicating that fish are sentient beings and that they are subject to pain and suffering’ –
Commissioner Vassiliou, 2009



98/58 GFD

1099/2009 Slaughter



1/2005 Transport

2016/429 Animal Health



Organic

Current Opportunities

- Slaughter – guidelines to establish and harmonise best practice, and to facilitate training of personnel.
- Transport – guidelines on monitoring, equipment, and contingency planning.
- Further EFSA opinions on specific husbandry and handling practices.
- Establish species specific welfare indicators – EFSA, reference centre, or DG-RTD research programme.
- Research

WELFARE IS FIRMLY ROOTED IN PEOPLE'S UNDERSTANDING OF "SUSTAINABLE"

what
is
sustain-
able?

