

# Welfare of Fish: Own Initiative-Update

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**The EU Animal Welfare Platform:**  
promoting dialogue on animal  
welfare issues relevant at EU level.



**Sixth Meeting**

Brussels, 7 October 2019



**GREEK MINISTRY  
OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD**

## **Central Competent Authority**

**for the implementation of legislation on animal welfare for farm animals including fish (including welfare in farms, during transport and at the time of killing)**

## **Strategy**

**based on actions derived from legislative texts and other guidelines (legally binding or not)**

**Webpage: [www.minagric.gr](http://www.minagric.gr)**

# Why this Own Initiative?

**Fish are sentient beings, can feel pain (OIE, 2008, EFSA, 2009) are more sensitive to their environment and EU regulations require that we pay full regard to their welfare.**

**Furthermore, only a very few medicines and vaccines are available to fish farmers.**

**The group selected handling and water quality as horizontal issues important to all fish species and also across all production stages.**

**The guidelines created by this initiative will allow farmers, competent authorities and the public to best ensure fish welfare.**

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# Members - update

PAW Member	Initiative Delegate
	Bente Bergersen
	Kristine Marie Hestetun
Norway	Inger Fyllingen (Co-delegate)
Germany	Stephan Reiser
Greece	Katerina Marinou
Denmark	Birte Broberg
Spain	Pilar Leon
Netherlands (observer for one meeting)	Leon Arnts, Gieta Mahabir
Italy	Amedeo Manfrin
Linda Keeling	Albin Gräns
Evangelia N. Sossidou	Evangelia Sossidou
International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE)	Dr Moira Harris
RSPCA (Alexandra Hammond-Seamann)	Malcolm Johnstone
Eurogroup for Animals	Douglas Waley
Compassion in World Farming	Krzysztof Wojtas / Natasha Boyland
FVE	Alain Schonbrodt
FEAP	Bernhard Feneis
EFFAB	Ana Granados Chapatte
Animals Angels	Helena Bauer
OIE (observer status)	Djahne Montabord
DG MARE (observer status)	Birgit Van Tongelen
<u>Secretariat:</u>	
Eurogroup for Animals	Sophie Aylmer
FEAP	Kathryn Stack



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# Meetings

1) Brussels, 25 September 2018

2) Athens, 15 January 2019

3) Brussels, 9 April 2019

4) The Hague, 21 June 2019

**NEXT MEETING**

**5) Brussels, 18 October 2019**



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# Structure of Guidelines

Photographs: Courtesy of Dr Michael Pavlidis

General guidelines on Water Quality and Handling identify the important parameters and detail any recommendations that are applicable across all species.

Species specific chapters then give detail on the specific parameters and recommendations for that species: trout, seabass, seabream and carp.



Final chapter highlighting priorities for future work and important knowledge gaps.

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# General guidelines

The text of this guideline on handling of vertebrate fish (hereafter named “fish”) is a combination of:

**Provisions and guidelines on handling of farmed fish from:**

- the Council of Europe Recommendation concerning farmed fish,
- the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code,
- the knowledge and experience from initiative members.

**Guides to good animal welfare practice for the handling of farmed fish developed by the voluntary initiative subgroup on fish.**

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# Topic No 1: Fish Handling

## General Guidelines Outline

### Section I. Provisions from the Council of Europe Recommendation concerning farmed fish

### Section II. Guides to good animal welfare practice

Each section covers:

**A: General principles** (gentle handling etc.)

**B: Guidelines for the operator** (documentation system, training etc.)

**C: Guidelines on specific practices** (crowding, pumping etc.)

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# Topic No 2: Water Quality

## General Guidelines Outline

### Section I. Provisions from the Council of Europe Recommendation concerning farmed fish

### Section II. Guides to good animal welfare practice

Each section covers:

**A: General principles** (supply, complexity etc.)

**B: Guidelines for the operator** (farm design, contingency plans etc.)

**C: Guidelines on specific water quality parameters and operating procedures** (oxygen, ammonia, monitoring etc.)

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# Topic No 3: Species specific provisions

## -Document outline

- **TROUT**
- **SEA BASS and SEA BREAM**
- **COMMON CARP**
  
- **Section: biological and behaviour characteristics**
- **Section: types of farming systems**
- **Section: water quality parameters**
- **Section: welfare indicators for each species**
- **Section: special handling recommendations**

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# Future work: Fish

## FINALISATION

**Platform to adopt or approve these guidelines early 2020**

**Next stage if feasible:**

- **Housing**
- **Killing**

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## *Acknowledgements*