

# Welfare of Fish: Own Initiative-Update

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promoting dialogue on animal  
welfare issues relevant at EU level.



**Fifth Meeting**

Brussels, 17 June 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 and can feel pain** (OIE, 2008, EFSA, 2009) and EU regulations require that we pay full regard to their welfare.

**Fish are more sensitive to their environment than terrestrial animals, their immune system more affected by stress, and only a very few medicines and vaccines are available to fish farmers.**

**Welfare is very important in aquaculture for ensuring robust fish, and this very young industry now has the chance to develop with this principle.**

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# Why this Own Initiative?

**Taking this into account, the work of our own initiative is based on the fact that farmers, competent authorities and the public need to have updated and clear guidelines in order to be able to best ensure fish welfare.**

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

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# Members - update

PAW Member	Initiative Delegate
	Bente Bergersen (until 1st Oct 18)
	Jonathan Vaz (from 1st Oct 18)
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)	John Avizienius
Eurogroup for Animals	Douglas Waley
Compassion in World Farming	Krzysztof Wojtas / Natasha Boyland
FVE	Kari Norheim
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**



European  
Commission

EU Platform on Animal Welfare

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European  
Commission | Health and  
Food Safety

#EU4AnimalWelfare



# Own Initiative PRIORITIES

Members highlighted the need to choose work topics for which **scientific data is available**.

The main proposals of the participants for the work of the subgroup were:

- **welfare during grow out**
- **welfare during transport**
- **welfare during killing**
- **handling**
- **water quality**
- **Species specific requirements**

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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.

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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, plus the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code, and 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 1: General principles**

gentle handling etc. (par. 1-5)

### **Section 2: Guidelines for the operator**

documentation system, training etc. (par. 6-9)

### **Section 3: Guidelines on specific practices**

crowding, pumping etc. (par. 10-24)

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# Topic No 2: Water Quality

## General Guidelines Outline

### **Section 1: General principles**

Supply, complexity etc. (par. 1-3)

### **Section 2: Guidelines for the operator**

Farm design, contingency plans etc. (par. 4-7)

### **Section 3: Guidelines on specific water quality parameters and operating procedures**

Oxygen, ammonia, monitoring etc. (par. 8- 20)

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# Topic No 3: Species specific provisions

## -Document outline

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

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# Future work: Fish

## FINALISATION

Platform to adopt or approve these guidelines

Next stage if feasible:

- Housing
- Killing

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## *Acknowledgements*