



EU Reference Center for Welfare of Aquatic Animals

Aquaculture Advisory Council

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EU Reference centers for Animal welfare



Currently, **three reference centers** for animal welfare (EURC), as foreseen by Regulation (EU) 2017/625

tasked with providing technical expertise to MS and the Commission

- Pigs (2018)
- Poultry & small farmed animals (2019)
- Ruminants & equines (2021)

The role of the AW Reference Centers

Focus on the enforcement of EU rules

- developing and disseminating knowledge and tools to assist the competent authorities in performing better official controls (Regulation (EU) 2017/625).
- providing scientific and technical expertise to relevant national scientific support networks or bodies
 - training courses
 - disseminating research findings and technical innovations.





4th reference center welfare of aquatic animals

- Call launched by the Commission on 12/04/2023
- Deadline 15/06/2023

Terms of reference



Scope

- The Center main activities will concern the welfare of ‘aquaculture animals’
- **‘aquaculture animals’** meaning any aquatic animal at all its life stages, including eggs, reared in a farm, including any aquatic animal from the wild intended for a farm.



Terms of Reference

Eligibility Criteria

The applicant shall

- be a **legal entity** established in one of the **EU Member States**.
- have been **entrusted by the NCA** to perform tasks of public interest in the area of competence of the call.

Selection & preference criteria

- Scientific and technical **capacity/expertise**, infrastructure/equipment
- Capacity to provide **training**, **disseminate** findings, etc.

Designation procedure

- Only **National Competent Authorities** of the Member States (NCAs) may **submit** an application
- **Preselection** by NCAs, on the basis of the eligibility and selection criteria.



The Commission will

- set up a **selection panel**
- **evaluate** the applications against the eligibility, selection and preference criteria.
- The selected center will be designated by a **Commission implementing act**.
- The designation will be **reviewed regularly**.

A large school of salmon swimming in clear, shallow water. The fish are densely packed, and their silvery scales catch the light, creating a shimmering effect. The water is a deep blue-grey color, and the bottom is visible through the clear water.

Thank you