

The European Union Centre for the Welfare of Aquatic Animals



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WG1 Zoom Webinar on “Code on good practices on fish welfare and fish welfare indicators”. AAC. 26/3/2026



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❖ Farmed Fish Species

European sea bass, gilthead sea bream, common carp
rainbow trout, Atlantic salmon (and others upon request)

❖ Commercially important crustacean

1. Production systems

- Earth ponds
- Open-flow systems
- Open sea cages
- RAS

2. Life cycle / production phases

- **Hatchery** (Broodstock, Larvae)
- **Weaning** (Juveniles)
- **On-growing**

3. Procedures & operations of welfare concern

- Grading
- Handling
- Transportation
- Harvest & Slaughter



Primary target institutions

1. EU institutions, especially:

1. European Commission:

- **DGSANTE**
- DGAGRI
- DGMARE

2. European Parliament

3. European Council

4. Court of Justice of the EU

2. National Competent Authorities (NCAs) of EU Member States

1. These are the official bodies responsible for enforcing animal welfare legislation (e.g., veterinary authorities, inspection services).



Its core mandate is **institutional support:**

providing scientific and technical expertise, assisting with official controls, improving implementation and enforcement of EU animal welfare legislation.

EURCAW-Aqua is **not primarily aimed** at farmers, industry, or the general public (but is also open to questions, BUT answers validated by DG Sante).

In **EURCAW-Aqua**, industry, stakeholders, and NGOs are **not part of the core governance or target institutions**, but they are **formally integrated through structured consultation and engagement mechanisms**. The key instrument is the **Reflection Board (REB)**, complemented by broader outreach activities.

The **REB** includes representatives from:

- **Industry / supply chain (producers, aquaculture sector)**
- **Professional organisations (example: FEAP)**
- **NGOs / civil society organisations / Certification Schemes**
- **Academia: researchers and research institutions**
- **Advisory councils and EU-level bodies (The European Commission also participates as observer in the REB): Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC), EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism, EFSA...**

Functions of the REFLECTION BOARD (REB)

- Provides:

- **Technical input and practical knowledge**
- **Feedback on EURCAW-Aqua activities and priorities**
- **First-hand information from the field (production systems, welfare challenges, etc.)**

- Meets **periodically (e.g., annually)** to:

- Discuss work programs
- Reflect on outputs and future actions

Industry/NGOs/ academia/stakeholders:

- ❖ Do not govern EURCAW-Aqua
- ❖ Do not receive services as primary clients
- ❖ Instead, they act as:
 - ✓ **Consultative stakeholders**
 - ✓ **Knowledge providers**
 - ✓ **Feedback channels**



As
EURCAW,
we need to
guide and
observe

MAIN TARGET OF THE EURCAW-AQUA:

EURCAW-Aqua ensures broader representation through:

a) Continuous stakeholder engagement

- Interaction (mainly as “observers/listeners ” with:
 - NGOs
 - Producers
 - Consumer groups
 - Scientific community

b) Participation in sector platforms

- e.g. **Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC)** and working groups

c) Events and networking

- Scientific conferences: generation of knowledge
- Industry events
- Workshops and roadshows (mainly for NCA)

These activities:

- Facilitate **bidirectional knowledge exchange**
- Ensure **stakeholder input is integrated into future actions**



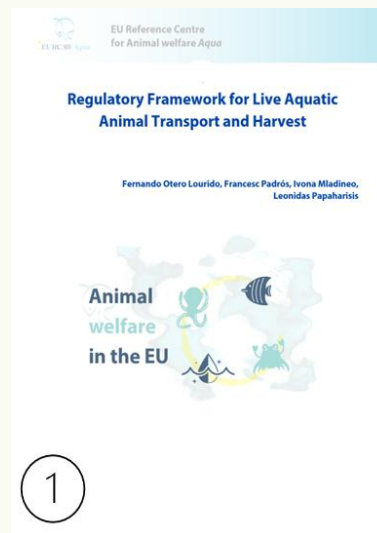
MAIN TARGET OF THE EURCAW-AQUA:

One example is training. Training activities are **primarily targeted at staff from competent authorities** (e.g. officials, inspectors, and personnel from these institutions), for instance on **how to implement EXISTING LEGISLATION** during inspections (**binding legislation**). Obviously, we can participate in trainings (as guests) with other stakeholders but is not our main target.

Obviously, we cannot conduct **joint** training sessions where we provide instructions simultaneously to inspectors and those being inspected.



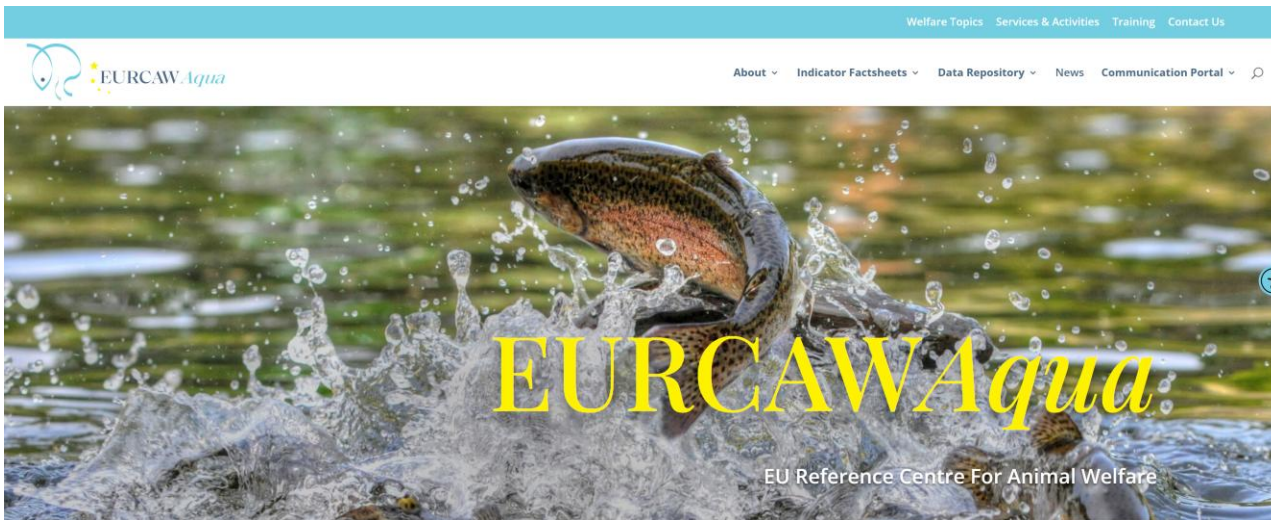
EXISTING LEGISLATION



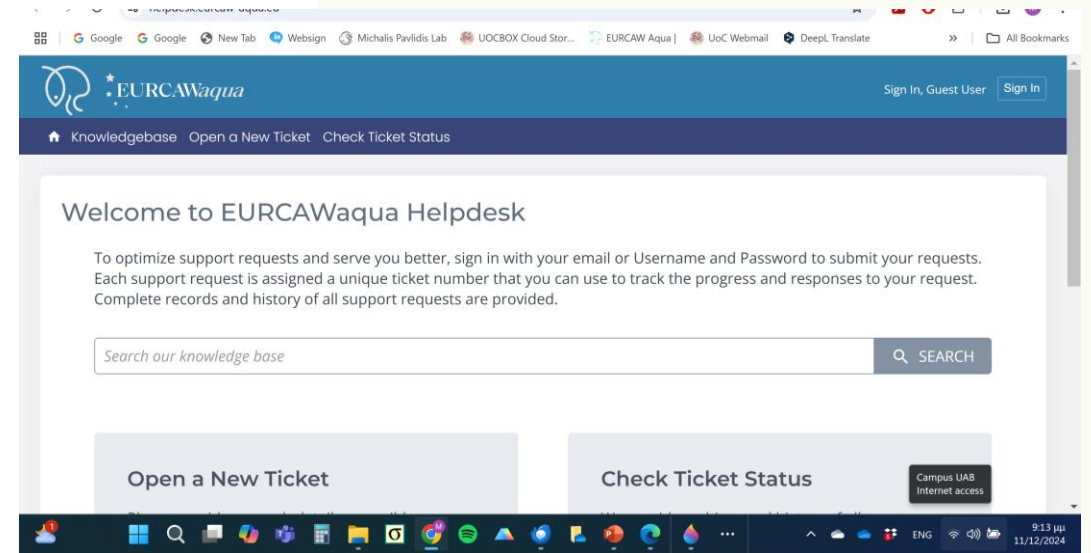
Level	Instrument	Binding force	Enforcement strength
1	Treaties	Absolute	Maximum
2	Regulations	Full, direct	Very high
3	Directives	Binding result	High
4	Decisions	Full (targeted)	High
5	Delegated/Implementing Acts	Full (derived)	High
6	International agreements	Variable	Medium–high
7	National laws	Full (domestic)	High
8	Guidance documents	Non-binding	Medium (practical)
9	Recommendations/opinions	Non-binding	Low
10	Codes of conduct	Voluntary	Very low
11	Training/materials	None	Minimal

1. Creation of website portal and email contact point

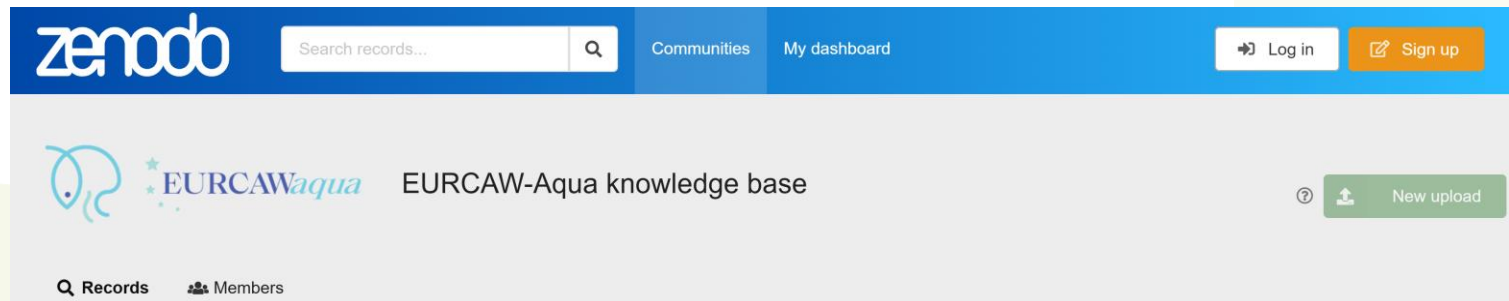
<https://www.eurcaw-aqua.eu/>



2. Creation of a “helpdesk secretariat”



3. Provision of a knowledge repository (zenodo)



4. Network building

- ✓ Establishing cooperation and regular contacts with the other EURCAWs
- ✓ Establishing links with the EU Member States (NCAs, NRCs & NSBs)
- ✓ Establishing a Reflection Board (Platform)

5. Organizing workshops

- ✓ Rainbow trout welfare aspects. Current knowledge and gaps
- ✓ European sea bass welfare aspects. What we know & what are the main knowledge gaps

6. Training

- ✓ Identification of training needs of inspectors
- ✓ Reviewing possible existing training activities and materials at EU and MS level

6. Development of a communication and dissemination strategy.

- ✓ Social media
- ✓ Newsletters
- ✓ Factsheets (+ translations)



1st Workshop on rainbow trout welfare

Join our workshop to explore welfare indicators and assessment methods for farmed rainbow trout, with insights from experts in fish welfare, genetics, health and behavior.

What you'll learn:

- How to identify key welfare indicators and stress responses in rainbow trout
- The role of genetics in enhancing trout health and resilience
- Practical tools for monitoring welfare in aquaculture environments
- Insights into pain perception and behavior in trout, and how it impacts welfare
- How effective health management can improve welfare outcomes

Save the date!
4th November 2024

Presenters

Prof Sonia Rey Planellas
Prof Sofia Consuegra
Dr Martin Haugmo Iversen
Dr Meritxell Diez-Padrisa
Prof Lynne Sneddon

Registration link:
www.eurcaw-aqua.eu/registration

Contact us ✉ anna.holcakova@paru.cas.cz 🌐 www.eurcaw-aqua.eu

Save the date!
12th December 2024

European seabass welfare: live transport and slaughtering

Place: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Type: Hybrid

Critical note: Travel and accommodation expenses for NCAs representatives will be covered by the organisers.

Workshop restricted to EURCAW members and representatives of European and National competent authorities.

The objective of this workshop is to inform about the state of the art of the current advances and knowledge gaps on European seabass welfare, particularly in stunning and slaughter methods. These advances are based in the results of research projects (PerformFISH, MedAID, Cure4Aqua) as well from guidelines from institutional organisations (EFSA) and producer organisations and will be contextualised in the current legislative framework.

This is a restricted workshop. Attendance by invitation only.

Results of the workshop will be summarised and disseminated.

EURCAW Aqua

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Edition #1 November 2024

»» NEWSLETTER ««

EURCAW-AQUA NEWS
EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare

TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

WELCOME TO EURCAW AQUA
www.eurcaw-aqua.eu

LEADING THE WAY IN AQUATIC ANIMAL WELFARE!

Dive into the latest updates from the EU's dedicated center for aquatic animal welfare. Our mission? Get up to date on the most recent information from the European Union's specialized center for the welfare of aquatic animals.

OUR MISSION? «««

To ensure the health and well-being of fish, cephalopods, and octopods across European aquaculture, we are striving towards a more sustainable future through a variety of means, including scientific developments and welfare indicators, as well as training courses and novel research methodologies. Continue to educate yourself, become active, and assist us in preserving the future of our sector!

EURCAW AQUA MISSION

7. Scientific studies

WG1 Zoom Webinar on “Code on good practices on fish welfare and fish welfare indicators”. AAC. 26/3/2026

EU Reference Centre for Animal welfare Aqua

Regulatory Framework for Live Aquatic Animal Transport and Harvest

Fernando Otero Lourido, Francesc Padrós, Ivona Mladineo, Leonidas Papaharisis

1

EU Reference Centre for Animal welfare Aqua

Blueprint for Research to Detect Loss of Consciousness and/or Sensibility of Fish at Slaughter

João L. Saraiva, Jeroen Brijs, Maria J. Cabrera-Álvarez, Pablo Arechavala Lopez, Albin Gräns

2

EU Reference Centre for Animal welfare Aqua

On Farm Score for Common Carp Transport and Harvest

Ivona Mladineo, Tereza Kresalova, Mikolaj Adamek, Anna Holcakova, Aggeliki Mitropoulou, Leonidas Papaharisis, Athanasios Samaras, Michail Pavlidis

3

EU Reference Centre for Animal welfare Aqua

Welfare Indicators for Common Carp and European sea bass during live transportation and at harvest

Short review

Ivona Mladineo, Leonidas Papaharisis

4

EU Reference Centre for Animal welfare Aqua

Report on Currently Available Welfare Assessment Systems for Farmed Fish

Athanasios Samaras

5

Priority #1

Fish welfare in hatcheries

Priority #2

Fish welfare in intensive production systems

Priority #3

Welfare of fish at critical operations, including transport and slaughter

Priority #4

Development of positive welfare indicators

Priority #5



Capture, transport & storage of decapod crustaceans

1. Animal welfare indicators, methods for the assessment and improvement of animal welfare

WG1 Zoom Webinar on “Code on good practices on fish welfare and fish welfare indicators”. AAC. 26/3/2026



List and description of welfare indicators for **broodstock** of all top five farmed fish species in EU

Review **positive welfare** indicators and challenges of implementation in fish farming

List and description of welfare indicators for juveniles of all five major farmed fish species at **transport**

Development and validation of welfare indicators for **on-growing** RT, AS, ESB & GSB in RAS

Development of an overall assessment score for **broodstock** of all 5 major farmed fish species in EU

Identification of welfare indicators at capture, transport, storage and slaughter of **decapod crustaceans**



2. Scientific and technical studies



1. Identify the welfare needs of **broodstock fish** and **fish larvae**

2. Provide a list and description of welfare indicators for **juveniles** of all top five farmed fish species in EU MSs

3. Review on humane slaughter methods and develop guidelines for the assessment of stunning of aquatic animals on farm

4. Assist the development of welfare **assessment schemes** for aquatic animals on farm

5. **Conduct pilot laboratory studies** to validate welfare indicators

6. To identify examples of **good welfare practices**



3. Training Courses



I. Design and organize webinars on welfare indicators and assessment tools

II. Develop training materials

III. Develop a **training platform** that will be hosted in EURCAW-Aqua portal

IV. Support **national capacity building** in the visited MSs, by presenting the latest scientific evidence related to the topics

V. Identify areas of interest and plan tailored future activities for **inspectors and policy makers**



3. Workshops & Roadshows



★ ★ EURCAW Aqua ★ ★

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Prof Lynne Sneddon

Registration link: www.eurcaw-aqua.eu/registration

Contact us: anna.holcakova@pari.cas.cz | www.eurcaw-aqua.eu

❖ 1st Welfare Workshop – Nov24
❖ Format: Hybrid

❖ 2nd Welfare Workshop – Dec24
❖ Format: Hybrid

❖ 3rd Welfare Workshop – Nov25
❖ Format: Online

❖ 4th Welfare Workshop – Dec25
❖ Format: Online

❖ 5th Welfare Workshop – Mar 26
❖ Format: Online

❖ 1st Welfare Roadshow – Feb 26
❖ Format: In-person format

Save the date! 12th December 2024

European seabass welfare: live transport and slaughtering

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Place: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Type: Hybrid
critical notes: Travel and accommodation expenses for NCAs representatives will be covered by the organisers.

EURCAW Aqua

UAB Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona | ICAEW

EURCAW Aqua

MAIN WELFARE INDICATORS USED IN SEABREAM GROW-OUT

EURCAW Aqua Workshop on Welfare in Gilthead Seabream Grow-Out Systems

Thammas SAMBAS (PhD) University of Oslo

EURCAW-Aqua Workshop on Welfare Assessment in Gilthead Seabream Grow-Out Systems

NOV 28, 2025 | NEWS

Barcelona, 25 November 2025 On 25 November 2025, the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) hosted an EURCAW-Aqua workshop...

[READ MORE](#)



Post-Webinar Update: Welfare Indicators and Assessment Tools for On-Growing Rainbow Trout

DEC 5, 2025 | NEWS

Our webinar "Welfare Indicators and Assessment Tools for On-Growing Rainbow Trout" was successfully held on 27 November 2025...

[READ MORE](#)

EURCAW Aqua

BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTRE CAS

COMMON CARP

WELFARE INDICATORS AND ASSESSMENT TOOLS FOR COMMON CARP AT TRANSPORT

3 MARCH 2026 10:00 - 12:00 CET Online (MS Teams)

WEBINAR OVERVIEW: The webinar offers an overview of welfare indicators and operational assessment tools for common carp during transport. Through case-based examples and interactive sessions, it aims to support knowledge exchange among National Competent Authorities and state veterinary inspectors across EU Member States involved in carp aquaculture.

TARGET AUDIENCE: This webinar is specifically designed for National Competent Authorities (NCAs) and state veterinary inspectors.

EURCAW Aqua is organising a roadshow on farmed fish welfare, covering EU legislation, key welfare indicators and a practical case study on seabass harvesting.

Monday 9 February 2026
Salamina, Attica

The language will be Greek and it is addressed exclusively to official inspectors (veterinarians)



Thank you for your attention

Francesc Padrós

EURCAW-aqua training area

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

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 www.linkedin.com/company/eurcaw-aqua

 www.eurcaw-aqua.eu

 [#Aquaculture4Sustainability](https://twitter.com/Aquaculture4Sustainability)

 www.youtube.com/@EURCAW-Aqua

