GENERAL ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 2026

Application for AAC membership

Aquaculture Advisory Council General Assembly

22 September 2026

JESÚS DEL SAZ

Semi-Senior Institutional Advocacy Specialist

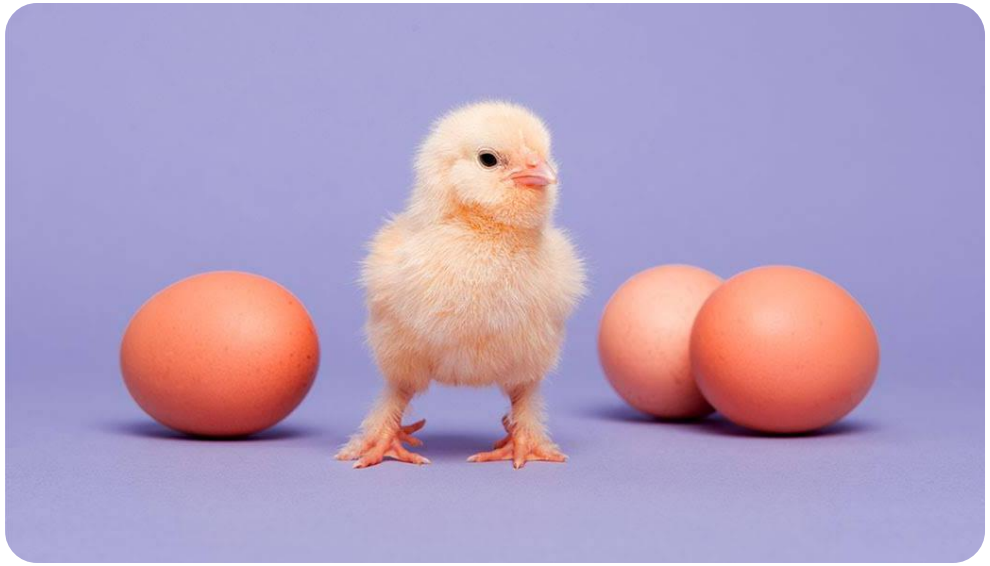
Aquaculture Advisory Council

AWO Animal Welfare Observatory

A Spanish organisation with a record of practical change

AWO works to improve the lives of animals raised for food by securing changes from companies and public institutions.

Our main programmes focus on laying hens, chickens raised for meat and aquatic animals. We combine research, corporate engagement, institutional advocacy and public communication.



2018
Founded in Spain

44
animal-welfare policies developed

+230m
animals estimated to benefit, 2020–2025

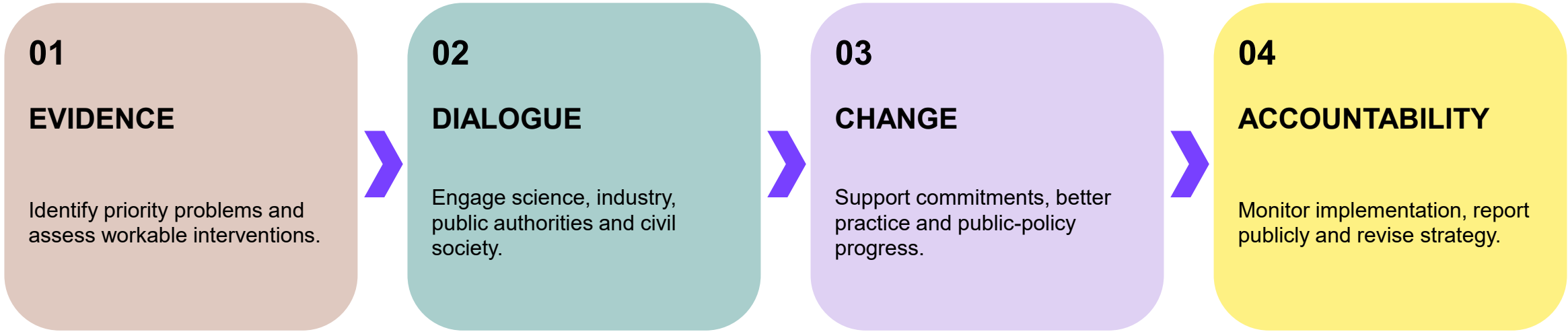
2025 ACE RECOMMENDED CHARITY

AWO publishes annual impact and accountability reports. Its 2025 accounts were independently audited.

Sources: AWO 2025 Impact and Accountability Report; Animal Charity Evaluators, 2025. Impact estimate based on corporate commitments supported or co-supported by AWO.

AWO

Evidence, dialogue and accountability shape our work



Our work on cage-free eggs and broiler welfare taught us that commitments only matter when implementation is measurable and transparently monitored.

Source: AWO 2025 Impact and Accountability Report.

AWO’s aquaculture work, 2022–2026

A growing programme focused on practical implementation, stakeholder dialogue and public policy

2022

GENERAL GUIDE

Contributed to APROMAR’s first sector-wide fish welfare guide under our former name, Equalia.

2024

SPECIES AND SLAUGHTER

Seabass and seabream guides. AWEC review of stunning before slaughter. Presentation at the CIBA conference.

2025

STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

European Maritime Day event, policy consultations and engagement with researchers, public authorities and industry.

2026

POLICY MOMENTUM

Open letter, parliamentary questions, AAC application and preparation of a Spanish Congress event.

THE NEXT STEP

Bring this experience into AAC working groups and help turn shared evidence into workable European advice.

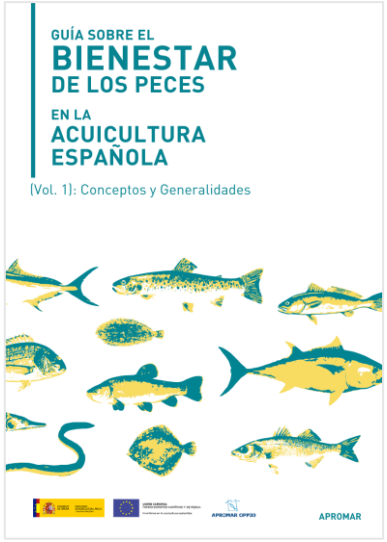
Sources: APROMAR guides; AWEC stunning report; AWO 2025 Impact Report and aquaculture project reporting.

Collaborative guides created shared technical ground

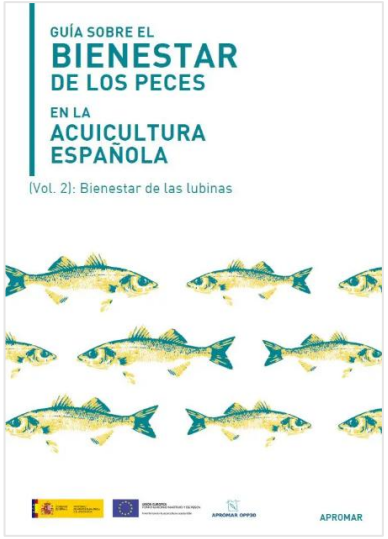
AWO contributed to the general guide and the first two species-specific guides developed by APROMAR.

- A joint process involving producers, researchers, public authorities and animal-welfare organisations.
- Common principles and operational indicators grounded in science and farm experience.
- A practical Spanish foundation for future European discussion.

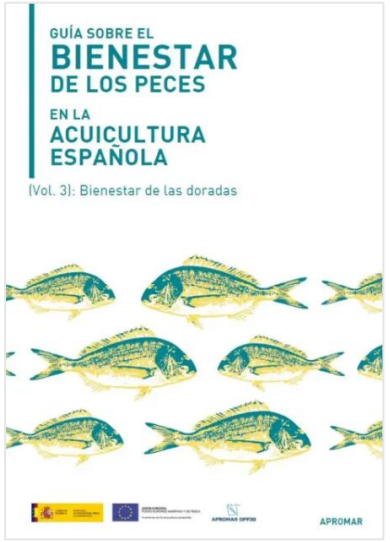
CONTRIBUTION THROUGH CONSENSUS



GENERAL GUIDE



EUROPEAN SEABASS



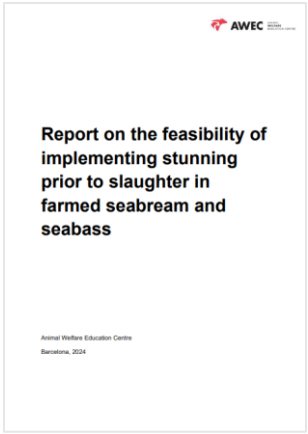
GILTHEAD SEABREAM

*AWO participated under its former name, Equalia.

Sources: APROMAR, General Guide on the Welfare of Fish in Spanish Aquaculture (2022); European seabass and gilthead seabream guides (2024).

We translate technical evidence into sector discussion

III CIBA Network Conference · Valencia · September 2024



AWEC REPORT (2024)

CONVENTIONAL SLAUGHTER TIMELINE

Time to lose consciousness without stunning:

7.5–20 min
seabream

10–34 min
seabass

to lose consciousness after chilling or asphyxia in air

AWO commissioned AWEC to assess feasible pre-slaughter stunning for seabream and seabass.

KEY FINDING & IMPLICATIONS

The report found that electrical stunning can improve welfare and product quality under commercial conditions. Deployment in Spain still requires engineering and operational adaptation.

Source: AWEC, Report on the feasibility of implementing stunning prior to slaughter in farmed seabream and seabass, commissioned by AWO, 2024.

European Maritime Day brought the relevant actors together

Fish welfare and sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean

23 October 2025 · Complutense University of Madrid
Co-organised by AWO, APROMAR and Compassion in World Farming

2 **moderated roundtables**

Science, industry, public authorities, certification and civil society

Operational indicators | species-specific needs | training | handling and slaughter | certification | markets

Renewed dialogue around clear, measurable and applicable standards

Source: AWO, European Maritime Day in My Country event report, 2025. Event supported by DG MARE.

We connect evidence, public debate and policymaking

Best available science and existing experience

Clear, measurable requirements developed through collaboration

PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT

2024

European Parliament

Stunning alternatives and species-specific slaughter provisions.

2026

Spanish Congress

A national roadmap, operational indicators, protocols and a fair competitive framework.

2026

European Parliament

A coherent EU approach to farmed-fish welfare and harmonised implementation.

Sources: AWO open letter; Spanish Congress written questions and Government response; European Parliament questions E-001218/2024 and E-003011/2026.

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What AWO will contribute to the AAC

PRIORITY WORKING GROUPS

WG1 FINFISH

Operational welfare indicators

Species-specific requirements

Welfare plans, training, handling, transport and slaughter

WG3 HORIZONTAL MATTERS

Future EU rules and implementation

Consumer expectations and communication

Market coherence and a level playing field

HOW WE WILL WORK

EVIDENCE	Bring research and tested Spanish examples into AAC discussions.
DRAFTING	Help develop species-specific language with measurable outcomes.
IMPLEMENTATION	Test feasibility with members and identify transition and training needs.
COMMUNICATION	Explain AAC agreements accurately and communicate remaining differences.

We want to help the AAC turn shared evidence into recommendations that improve fish welfare and work in practice.

General Assembly · WG1 · WG3 · Executive Committee, if approved

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THANK YOU!

We look forward to contributing to the Aquaculture Advisory Council

JESÚS DEL SAZ
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