



Fish Welfare Reference Centre (EURCAW)

Reflection Board meeting –
3rd December 2024

Fish Welfare Reference Centre (EURCAW)

Reference Centres and their role

One of four Reference Centres:

- Pigs (2018)
- Poultry (2020)
- Ruminants and Equines (2021)
- Aquatic Animals (2024)

Target audience:

- Member States – National competent authorities
- European Commission



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Aims to covers all systems and life-stages

Production system:

- Ponds
- Open-flow
- Open Sea-cages
- RAS

Life stages:

- Hatchery
- Juveniles
- On-growing



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Aims to cover all procedures and operations of welfare concern

Procedures and operations:

- Grading
- Handling
- Transportation
- Harvest
- Slaughter



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Species covered

Priority species

- Rainbow trout
- Seabass
- Seabream
- Carp

Can cover others on request of Member States or DG Sante

- Eg salmon, crustaceans etc



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Fish Welfare Reference Centre (EURCAW) Helping Member States Competent Authorities

Helping Competent Authorities

- Easy point for enquiries
- Scientific and technical studies
- Developing and improving animal welfare indicators
- Training courses
- Disseminating innovations and research findings
- Network building

Developed an online portal

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



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Work in 2024

- Network building
- Communication strategy and action plan
- Review of current training courses – Member States and regional authorities
- Identifying training needs
- Providing three scientific reviews
- Workshops
- Developed an online portal - Knowledge Gateway - <https://www.eurcaw-aqua.eu/>



European Sea bass Transport and Slaughtering Workshop in Barcelona

DEC 12, 2024 | NEWS

Workshop restricted to EURCAW members and representatives of European and National competent authorities. The objective of this workshop is to inform



Workshop for the National Competent Authorities on carp harvest

NOV 14, 2024 | NEWS

Hosted by the European Reference Centre for Welfare of Aquaculture Animals (EURCAW-AQUA) Date: 3.12.2024. Location: Prague, Czech Republic Target Audience:



EURCAW-Aqua Online Workshop on Rainbow Trout Welfare

OCT 10, 2024 | NEWS

Date: 4th November 2024 Time: 09:00 – 12:40 CET Platform: Zoom (Link will be sent upon registration) Language: English (with Czech translation available) Cost: Free of





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Work Programme priorities

Priorities 2025-27:

1. Fish welfare in hatcheries – broodfish, larvae and juveniles
2. Fish welfare in intensive systems
3. Welfare of fish at critical operations including transport and slaughter
4. Development of positive welfare indicators
5. Capture, transport and slaughter of decapod crustaceans (crab and lobster – mentioned nephrops).



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Questions and discussion which arose

Some questions and responses in discussion:

1. Octopus? No plans, but on request
2. American lobsters No plans, but on request (MS or DG Sante)
3. Shrimp Not farmed (??) No plans, but on request
4. Work with EFSA? Have close contacts
5. Work with DG Mare on best practices for welfare. Will review document before publication
6. Need to check stunning equipment and new developments. Priority to review methods to check consciousness during slaughter
7. Carp slaughter different. Member States Competent Authorities interested, wanting to harmonise. What are the best OPIs? Will produce document on welfare indicators for carp during transport and slaughter
8. Issue of ethology raised.