



EU Reference Centre
for Animal Welfare *Pigs*



EURCAW-Pigs

Hans Spoolder

NRC +SB meeting - 15 October 2025



Designated by
the EU Commission



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UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



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FRIEDRICH-LOEFFLER-INSTITUT

FLI

Bundesforschungsinstitut für Tiergesundheit
Federal Research Institute for Animal Health

Proud to present.....

Marko: communications

The Pig Team!

Herman: think pig

Jan: training

Lars: quality issues

Anita: decades of practical experience

Jamie: office manager

Hans: leftovers

Antje: sows

Lene: farrowing

Mette: transport and slaughter

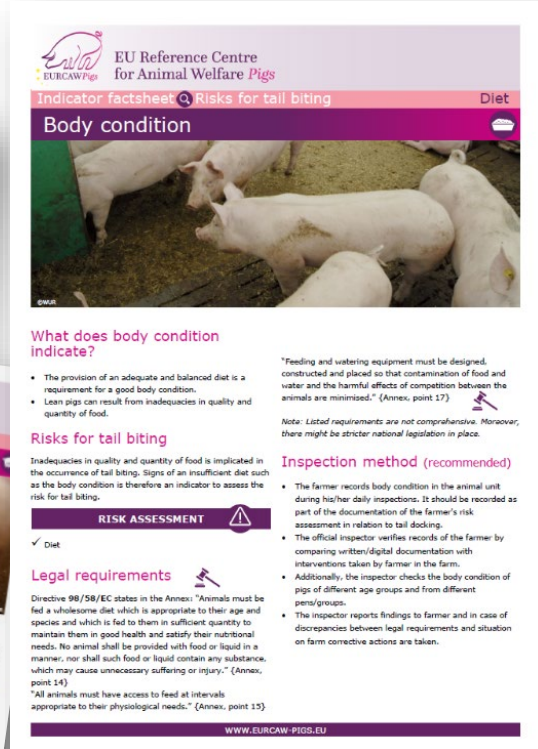
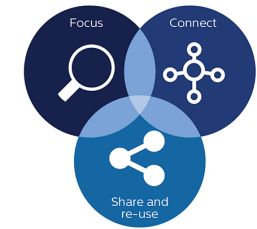
Merel: technical support

Gisela: tech & admin

Hanne: health

Missing on the picture: Lysanne: slaughter and transport, Eimear: social sciences, Antonia: tails, Teresa: CoP, Tine: education, Inga: slaughter

1. Novel digital support tool



45 factsheets. Each in EN, DE, FR, ES, PL, RO, NL, DK

How to make them more useful?

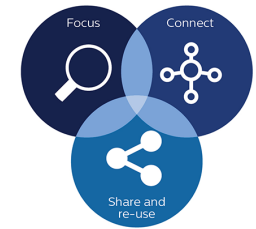
- Smartphone application
- Graphs
- Benchmarking pictures
- Calculation tools

1. Novel digital support tool

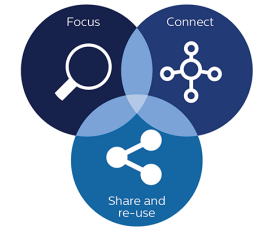


2025

- In 2025 we are **investigating the inspectors' needs** for format and content of the new tool.
- Also **which indicators** should be covered per welfare topic.
- This is done by **interviewing 10-15 inspectors / team leaders** from different MS, supported also by the Community of Practice.



1. Novel digital support tool



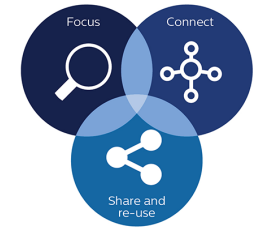
First ideas

- EURCAW Ruminants and Equines will explore, together with EURCAW Pigs, the possibility to partially **reuse already available tools** for further development, in particular, the CARE4DAIRY APP and its source IT systems.



2. Ending Routine Tail docking

The 2025-2027 programme has a strong focus on tail docking



Routine tail docking has been banned since the 1990's.... Yet many EU pig farmers still dock all pigs.



2. Ending Routine Tail docking



- Feasibility testing to develop a procedure for the assessment of **tail length and tail damage in the abattoir**
- Development of training materials to apply the correct and **standardised monitoring procedures** across the Member States.
- **Literature studies:**
 - In-barn climatic conditions
 - Competition at the feeder and drinker in weaners and finishers
 - Mixing of finishing pigs



2. Ending Routine Tail docking



- **Technical studies:**
 - Policy measures to prevent tail docking -> options for policy workers
 - Sector scenarios to prevent tail docking -> options for the industry
- An ethnographic study into **perceptions and attitudes** regarding routine tail docking -> aiming to support inspectors in their dialogue with farmers



EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare *Pigs*



Thank you!



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Bundesforschungsinstitut für Tiergesundheit
Federal Research Institute for Animal Health



EURCAW-Poultry-SFA highlights



10.2025



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- **Q2Es: → all Q2E answers are available online:**

<https://www.eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu/en/minisite/sfawc/question-eurcaw-q2e>



In **2025** three queries received in 2024 were answered.

8 queries were submitted to EURCAW-Poultry-SFA from January 2025 to mid-September 2025:

- 7 queries were admissible:
 - 3 were answered
 - 4 are under preparation
- 1 is under treatment

Latest Q2Es:

- Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2024-007: Piling behaviour Q1
- Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2024-008: Piling behaviour Q2
- Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2024-009: Laying hens nest depth
- Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2025-001: Broiler breeders platform area
- Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2025-002: Culling individuals
- Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2025-003: Second stunning of rabbits at slaughter



The EURCAW-Poultry-SFA LinkedIn account :

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/eurcaw-poultry-sfa>

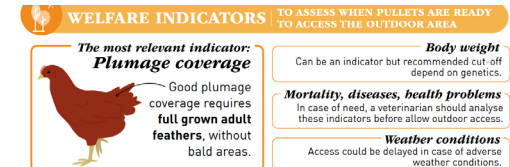
Newsletters → Sign-up!!

<https://sitesv2.anses.fr/en/minisite/sfawc/subscribe-eurcaw-poultry-sfas-newsletter>



Infographics, issued respectively from Q2E answers, created in collaboration with **La Chaire bien-être animal**:

- **Manual handling and carrying turkeys** (ENG)
- **Outdoor access for pullets** (available in ENG and FR)
- **Pullets access to litter for dustbathing** (available in EN and FR)



3 peered-reviewed scientific articles have been published

- *Relevant Indicators of Consciousness After Head-Only Electrical Stunning in Rabbits, Stunning Efficiency, and Risk Factors in Commercial Conditions" has been published in Animals and is available [here](#).*
- *Testing the validity of latency-to-lie tests without water for objective on-farm assessment of walking ability of broiler chickens" has been published in Poultry Science and is available [here](#).*
- *Positive impacts of a covered veranda on broiler chicken welfare has been published in Poultry Science and is available [here](#).*

Translations

- **10 factsheets** were translated into **5 languages** during **2025**
- **6** in **DE, ES, FR, IT**
- **4** in **NL** (thanks to the Flemish AW NRC) → help us translate!

Study on consciousness assessment in ducks' slaughterhouses

EURCAW-Poultry-SFA



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the European Union

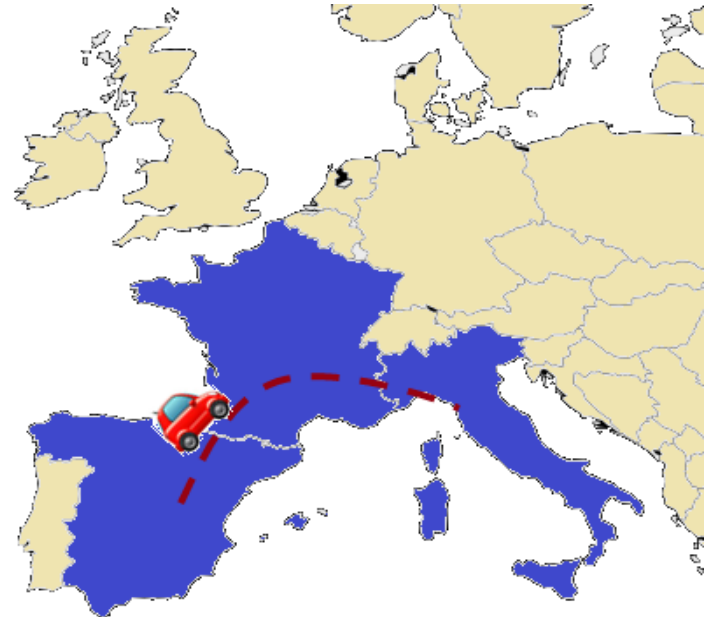
➤ Study on consciousness assessment in ducks' slaughterhouse

The Team:



3 observers from:
IZSLER, ANSES and IRTA

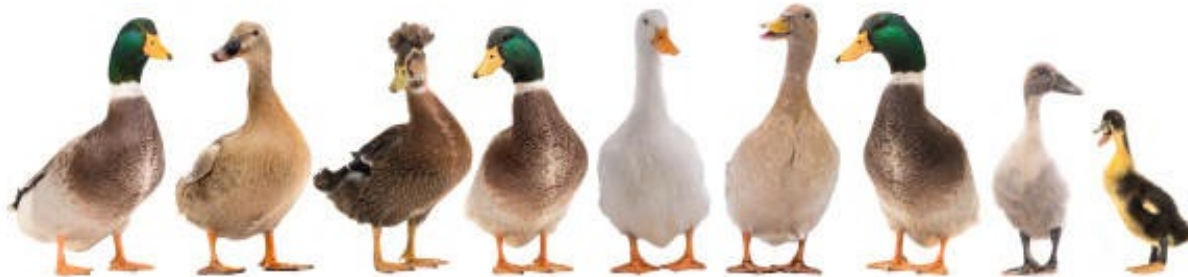
Duck slaughterhouses (SHs):



6-12 different SHs from the
three main duck producer
countries in the EU

General objective:

Identify a refined **list of indicators** that can be used to assess the state of consciousness of **electrically waterbath stunned ducks** in commercial slaughterhouses to ensure consistency of controls and to evaluate the efficiency of induction of unconsciousness



Specific objectives:

1. Assess the **inter-observer repeatability** of the most valid and feasible indicators of consciousness according to the EFSA
2. Elucidate the **association** among the indicators
3. Assess **efficiency of stunning**
4. Find **key factors** that contribute to effective stunning
5. **Other welfare issues**
 - Shackling
 - Pre-stun shocks
 - Re-stunning
 - Line stop





What has been done so far?

- 6 Slaughterhouses visited
- France, Italy and Spain
- Foie and meat purpose
- Small and large SH
- Around 2.000 ducks assessed

What is planned for the future?

- 4-7 Slaughterhouses more
- December 2025 and January 2026
- France, Italy and Spain



➤ Study on consciousness assessment in ducks' slaughterhouse



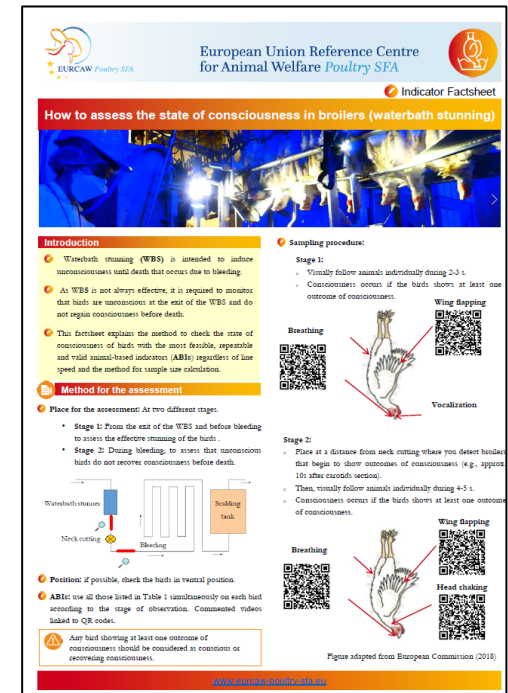
REPORT: May 2027



WEBINAR: May 2027



FACTSHEET: September 2027

Indicator Factsheet

How to assess the state of consciousness in broilers (waterbath stunning)

Introduction

- Waterbath stunning (WBS) is intended to induce unconsciousness until death that occurs due to bleeding.
- As WBS is not always effective, it is required to monitor that birds are unconscious at the exit of the WBS and do not regain consciousness before death.
- This factsheet explains the method to check the state of consciousness of birds with the most flexible, repeatable and valid animal-based indicator (ABI) regardless of line speed and the method for sample size calculation.

Method for the assessment

- Place for the assessment: At two different stages:
 - Stage 1: From the exit of the WBS and before bleeding to assess the effective stunning of the birds.
 - Stage 2: During bleeding, to assess that unconscious birds do not recover consciousness before death.

Position: if possible, check the birds in ventral position.

ABI: use all those listed in Table 1 simultaneously on each bird according to the stage of observation. Comma-separates videos linked to QR codes.

Any bird showing at least one outcome of consciousness should be considered as conscious or recovering consciousness.

Sampling procedure:

- Stage 1:
 - Visually follow animals individually during 2-3 s.
 - Consciousness occurs if the birds shows at least one outcome of consciousness.

Stage 2:

- Place at a distance from each cutting where you detect bodies that began to show outcomes of consciousness (e.g. approx. 10 m and avoid wetness).
- Then, visually follow animals individually during 4-5 s.
- Consciousness occurs if the birds shows at least one outcome of consciousness.

Resampling: (Includes QR codes for 'Resampling' and 'Wing Flapping')

Head shaking: (Includes QR code for 'Head shaking')

Figure adapted from European Commission (2018)

www.eurcaw-animal-sfa.eu

Thank you for your attention



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Pasture access



Review

Restricted access to pasture and inadequate
grazing in ruminants and equines

Valentin Brunet (chair), Francesca Fusi, Tiziano Bernardo, Elisabetta Canali, Alice Ruet, Bernard Faye, Lydiane Aubé

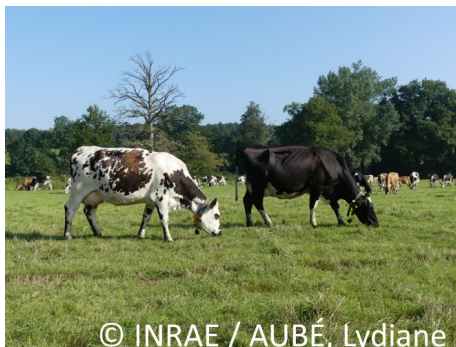
Published June 2025



Pasture access in ruminants and equines

Many advantages

- Opportunity to perform natural feeding behaviour (grazing or browsing)
- Opportunity to move freely and explore environment
- Better lying comfort





Pasture access in ruminants and equines

Risks

- Nutritional deficits (due to poor quality pasture or insufficient forage availability)
- Endoparasitism (e.g., liver fluke in cattle, barber's pole worm in sheep and goats)
- Thermal stress





Pasture access in ruminants and equines

Recommendations

- Sufficient forage availability
- Parasitism control plan
- Adverse weather mitigation
(e.g. presence of sufficient shade area on pasture)



Ongoing work

- Thematic and indicator factsheet (2025)
- Training toolkit (2026)



Animal welfare during long distance transportation

Specific learning objectives

- To enhance the level of **competencies** expressed during official control activities on AW during long-distance transportation, according to Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005
- To recognise **indicators** of fitness for transport of bovines (cattle and calves), equines and small ruminants
- To **improve skills** for inspection
- To identify practical take-home messages for **cascade training** at national level.

Methodology

A structured, discussion-based session, guided by **facilitators**, where participants meet in a **virtual** professional setting to play a pre-defined **role** in a specific situation.





Animal welfare during long distance transportation

Beneficiaries

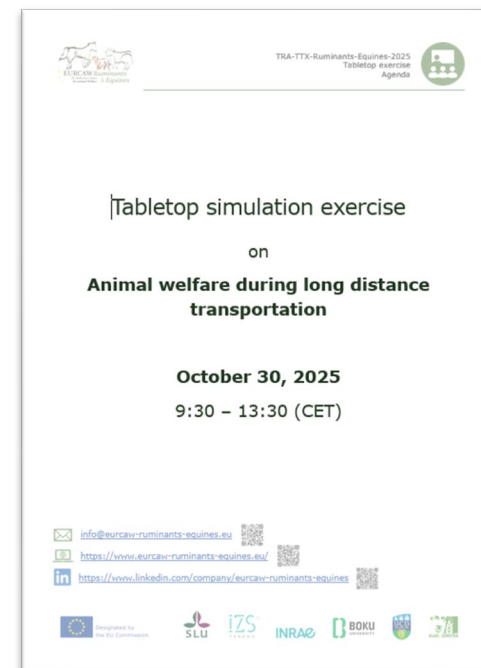
Staff of central or local **Competent Authorities** and their Supporting Bodies

Agenda

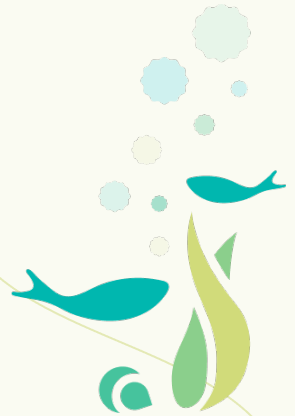
- Opening
- Presentation on fitness for transport
- Sub-groups working on different scenarios (*bovine, equine, small ruminants*)
- Plenary session
- Debriefing

Enrolment

44 applications from Austria (1), Belgium (1), Bulgaria (1), Cyprus (2), Denmark (1), Estonia (1), Finland (1), Germany (1), Greece (13), Ireland (4), Italy (4), Lithuania (7), Portugal (4), Spain (3)



The European Union Centre for the Welfare of Aquatic Animals



Francesc Padrós

EURCAW-Aqua

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona



Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or HaDEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



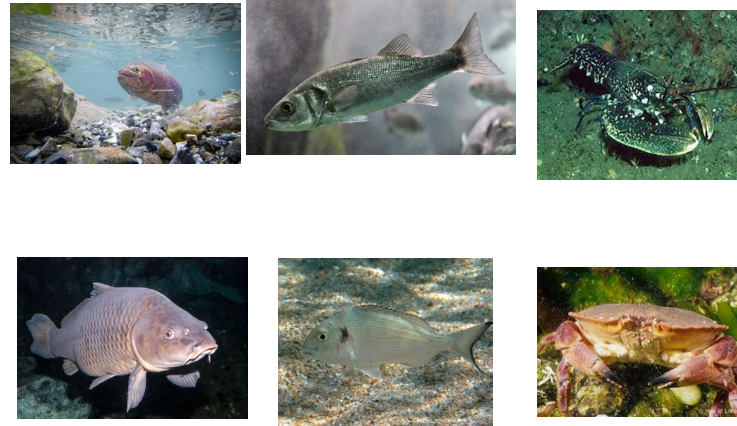
Funded by
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October 15, 2025

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare



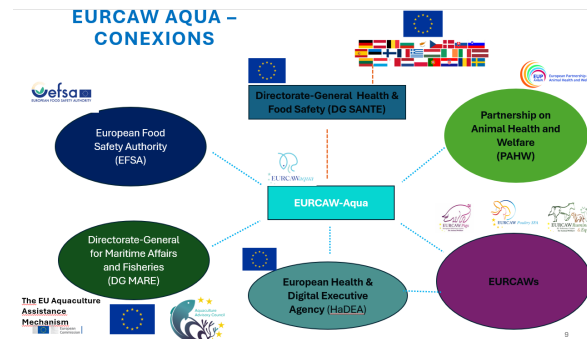
EURCAW-Aqua, is the fourth European Union Reference Centre for the Welfare of aquatic animals, established in January 2024



EURCAW-Aqua

Serves as the official reference point for advancing welfare standards in fish, crustaceans, and cephalopod mollusks.

The primary role of EURCAW Aqua is to **support** EU Member States competent authorities in enforcing current EU animal welfare legislation by developing and disseminating scientific and technical **knowledge** and by providing **tools to assess aquatic animal welfare** and **conduct effective official controls**.



EURCAW-Aqua Consortium & Coordination Team



Michail Pavlidis

Director

University of Crete



Ivona Mladineo

Deputy Director

Biology Centre Czech
Academy of Sciences



Francesc Padrós i Bover

Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona



❖ 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

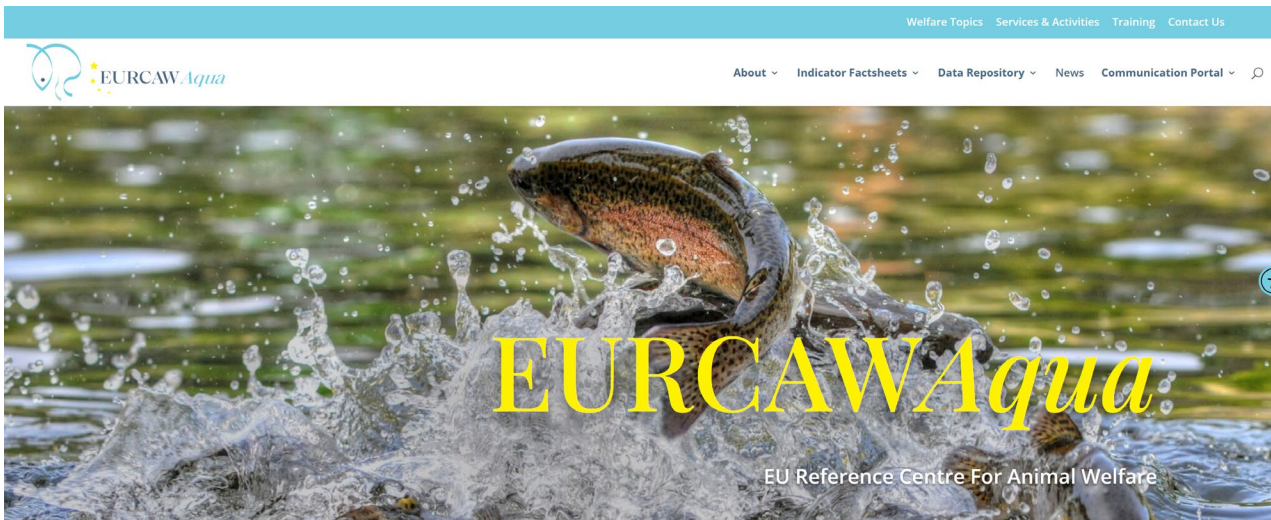
- Grading
- Handling
- Transportation
- Harvest & Slaughter



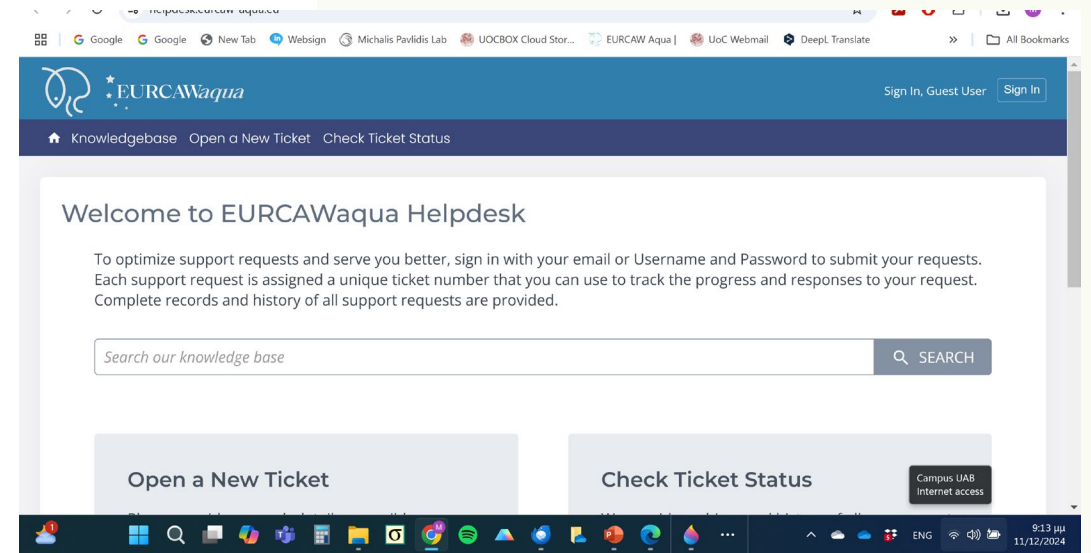
Output – 2024 Work Programme

1. Creation of website portal and email contact point

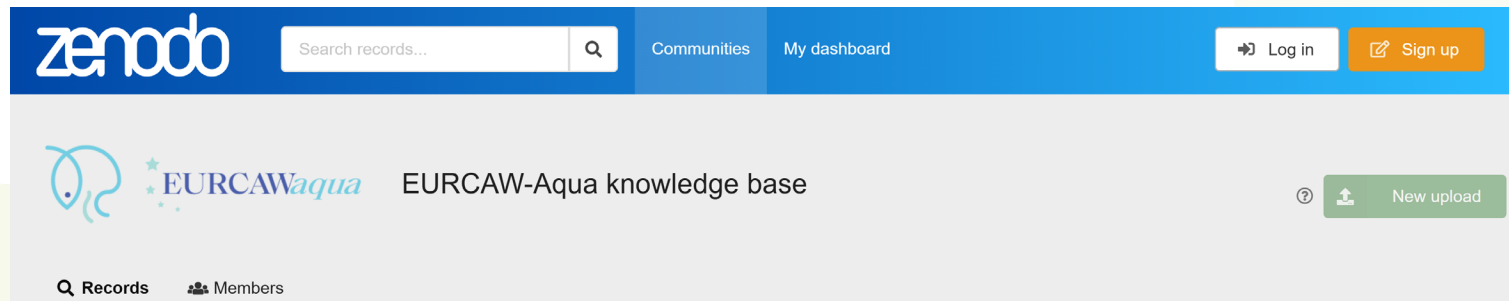
<https://www.eurcaw-aqua.eu/>



2. Creation of a “helpdesk secretariat”



3. Provision of a knowledge repository (zenodo)



Output – 2024 Work Programme

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

Availability for this European Union research project is reserved for those who are citizens of the European Union and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. The granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Contact us ✉ anna.holicakova@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

Financed by the European Union. Health and services researched are however those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. The granting authority can be held responsible for them.

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 decapods across European aquaculture, we use driving advances for 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!



7. Scientific studies

Regulatory Framework for Live Aquatic Animal Transport and Harvest

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

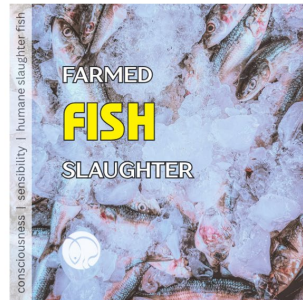
Animal
welfare
in the EU



1

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

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

info@eurcaw-aqua.eu

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

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

info@eurcaw-aqua.eu

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

Ivona Mladineo, Leonidas Papaharisis



4

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

info@eurcaw-aqua.eu

Report on Currently Available Welfare Assessment Systems for Farmed Fish

Athanasios Samaras



5

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

info@eurcaw-aqua.eu

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



To provide a list and description of welfare indicators for **broodstock** of all top five farmed fish species in EU MSs

To review positive welfare indicators and challenges of implementation in fish farming

To provide a list and description of welfare indicators for juveniles of all five major farmed fish species at **transport**

To develop and validate welfare indicators for on-growing RT, AS, ESB & GSB in RAS

To develop an overall assessment score for broodstock of all 5 major farmed fish species in EU

To identify welfare indicators at capture, transport, storage and slaughter of decapod crustaceans



2. Scientific and technical studies



1. To identify the welfare needs of broodstock fish and fish larvae

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

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

4. To assist the development of welfare assessment schemes for aquatic animals on farm

5. To conduct pilot laboratory studies to validate welfare indicators

6. To identify examples of good welfare practices



3. Training Courses



I. To design and organize webinars on welfare indicators and assessment tools

II. To develop training materials

III. To develop a training platform that will be hosted in EURCAW-Aqua portal

IV. To support national capacity building in the visited MSs, by presenting the latest scientific evidence related to the topics chosen by the delegates

V. To identify areas of interest and plan tailored future activities for inspectors and policy makers



4. EURCAWs Common Activities



Development of a
Community of Practice (CoP)

Creating a novel digital
support tool for welfare
inspection purposes



Guidance for the assessment
of stunning equipment

Audio materials



Participation as observers in
the European Partnership on
Animal Health and Welfare
(EUP AH&W)



Thank you for your attention

Francesc Padrós

EURCAW-aqua training area

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 www.linkedin.com/company/eurcaw-aqua

 www.eurcaw-aqua.eu

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

 www.youtube.com/@EURCAW-Aqua



Italian NRL on fish pathology and its involvement in fish welfare



DVM Amedeo Manfrin – IZSve Italy - amanfrin@izsvenezie.it

4 EURCAWs meet National Reference Centres and Support Bodies Webinar online 15th October 2025

WHAT IS IZSVe?



- Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe) is a public veterinary institute belonging to the **Ministry of Health** and it is part of **10 II.ZZ.SS. network** in Italy.



- The IZSVe employs more than **650 people**, including veterinarians, biologists, chemists, technicians and administration staff.

● IZSVE MISSION



- IZSVe promotes health in the fields of **animal health and welfare, food safety** and **environmental** protection.
- **One Health is our mission since 1978.**
- It also provides **scientific and technical support** to the central and regional authorities.

Research



IZSVe research programs are carried out in the field of:

- **animal health and welfare**
- **infectious diseases of animals**
- **zoonosis**
- **food safety**
- **risk analysis & communication**
- **epidemiology**

National Reference Laboratories

- Beekeeping
- Avian influenza and Newcastle disease
- Scientific research for infectious diseases at the human-animal interface
- [Fish, Crustacean and Mollusc Pathology](#)
- Rabies
- Salmonellosis
- Pet-therapy

International Reference Laboratories

- European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) for **Avian Influenza** and Newcastle Disease
- FAO Reference Centre for **Beekeeping**
- FAO Reference Centre for **Rabies**
- FAO Reference Centre for **Zoonotic Coronaviruses**
- WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Diseases at the **Animal/Human Interface**
- WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Epidemiology, Training and Control of Emerging Avian Diseases
- WOAHA Reference Laboratory for **Mycoplasmosis**
- WOAHA Reference Laboratory for **Salmonellosis**
- [WOAHA Reference Laboratory for Viral Encephalopathy and Retinopathy of Fish](#)

● Fish, mollusc and crustacean pathology



● **Centro di referenza nazionale**
per lo studio e la diagnosi delle malattie dei pesci, molluschi e crostacei



● NRL FOR FISH MOLLUSC AND CRUSTACEAN DISEASES

- **Since 1994** National Reference Center for Fish, Crustacean and Mollusc Diseases
- **Since 1999** OIE reference Laboratory for Viral Encephalopathy and Retinopathy of marine species
- **Accredited** according **ISO 17025** standards since 2001
- **Cooperating with EURL** for fish and crustacean diseases (Copenhagen –DK), for mollusc diseases (La Tremblade – FR)



National Reference Center for Fish, Crustacean and Mollusc Pathology: activities (1)

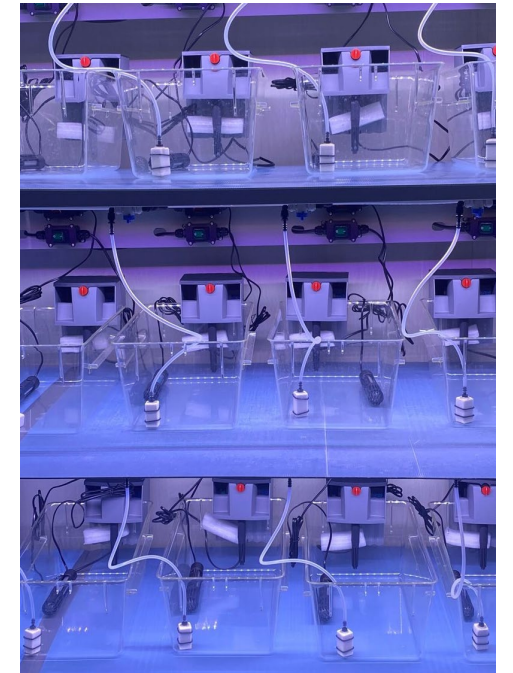
- **Diagnosis** of fish, mollusc and crustacean diseases
- **Field surveillance plans** about fish, mollusc, crustacean diseases according to EU legislation
- **Identification of virus, bacteria and parasites** related to new and emerging diseases
- Technical and **scientific advices** to veterinarians and fish farmers
- **Technical collaboration** with Ministry of Health, Local and Regional Veterinary Services, environmental authorities, fishermen associations, pharmaceutical companies

National Reference Center for Fish, Crustacean and Mollusc Pathology: activities (2)

- **Confirmation of positive results** obtained in different national laboratories and organization of inter-labs proficiency tests
- **Coordination of diagnostic methods** applied in other fish laboratories
- Development and **standardization** of new biomolecular technics
- **Research and training** with Universities and other public or private institutes
- **Epidemiological studies** on risk factors associated to relevant diseases
- **Risk assessment** of new and emerging diseases
- **Risk communication**

EXPERIMENTAL AQUARIUM

- 3 fiberglass tanks of 2500 liters
- 2 fiberglass tanks of 380 liters
- 12 fiberglass tanks of 300 liters
- 16 fiberglass tanks of 70 liters
- 8 fiberglass tanks of 280 liters
- 1 G-hab system equipped with 12 tanks (10 L each)



IZSVe NRL and its involvement in **fish welfare...in agreement with NRL on animal welfare (IZSLER Brescia) since 2008**

- Participation in different **working group** on fish welfare on the behalf of the Ministry of Health:
- **Standing committee** of the European convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes – Strasbourg (F) - 2004-2009
- Working group on **emergency killing and stunning** methods for fish. EFSA 2007.
- **OIE-WOAH** Coordination working group to discuss animal **health and animal welfare** of the OIE Aquatic Code. 2009-2011
- Member of the European Medicine Agency (**EMA**) **working group** on veterinary treatments in aquaculture production according to EU regulation 2019/06).
- Member of **EU Platform on Animal Welfare Own-Initiative Group on Fish** publishing Guidelines on Water Quality and Handling for the Welfare of Farmed Vertebrate Fish (20202)
- **External expert of EURCAW-Aquatic Animals** (European Reference Laboratory on aquatic animals welfare)

● IZSve Research projects on fish welfare in the last 20 years

- **IMAQUANIM** (Improved Immunity in Aquaculture Animals) Food CT 2005-007103 E. U. Research Project
- Hygienic and quality measures applied to crustacean species for human consumption. (Ministry of Agriculture Project).
- **QUALIFISH** Inter-Reg. Project Italy-Albania 2007/08.
- New technique to stun rainbow trout (*O. mykiss*) during slaughtering. (Ministry of Health Project).
- ERANET **WINFISH Welfare**, Health and Individuality in Farmed FISH (2015 - 2017).
- Work study: STRENGTHENING THE FISH **WELFARE RESEARCH** - SCAR FISH - EU Commission.
- **MedAID** - Mediterranean Aquaculture Integrated Development (H2020).
- **FutureEUAqua** - Future growth in sustainable, resilient and climate friendly organic and conventional European aquaculture - H2020 EU Project (2018 - 2022).
- **AdriAquaNet** - Interreg Italy - Croatia CBC Programme - Priority Axis: Blue innovation (2019 - 2022).

A EU survey (30 countries involved) on research needs on fish welfare was performed in 2018

Strengthening fish welfare research through a gap analysis study

SCAR
Standing Committee
on Agricultural Research

FISH  Fisheries and
Aquaculture Research

 European Animal Health
& Welfare Research
COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUP

November 2018

 CASA
Carni, Capi, Acque
e Sottile Strumenti
di Ricerca Cinesi

 EUROPEAN UNION
Project co-funded by
H2020 Programme under
Grant Agreement n° 727466

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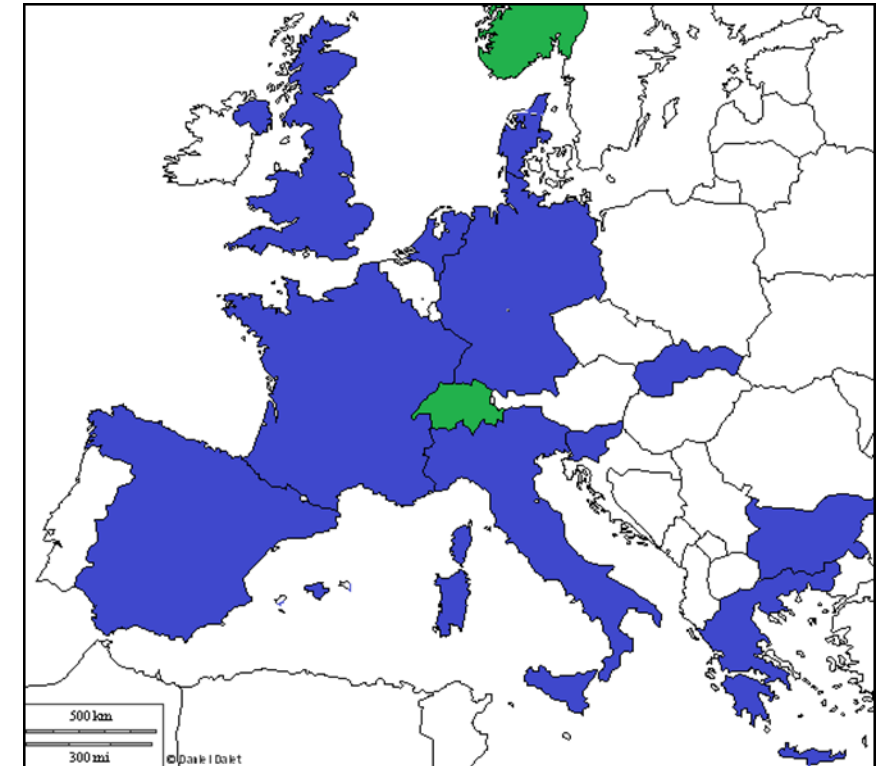
² CWG AHW Secretariat

³ SCAR Fish Member

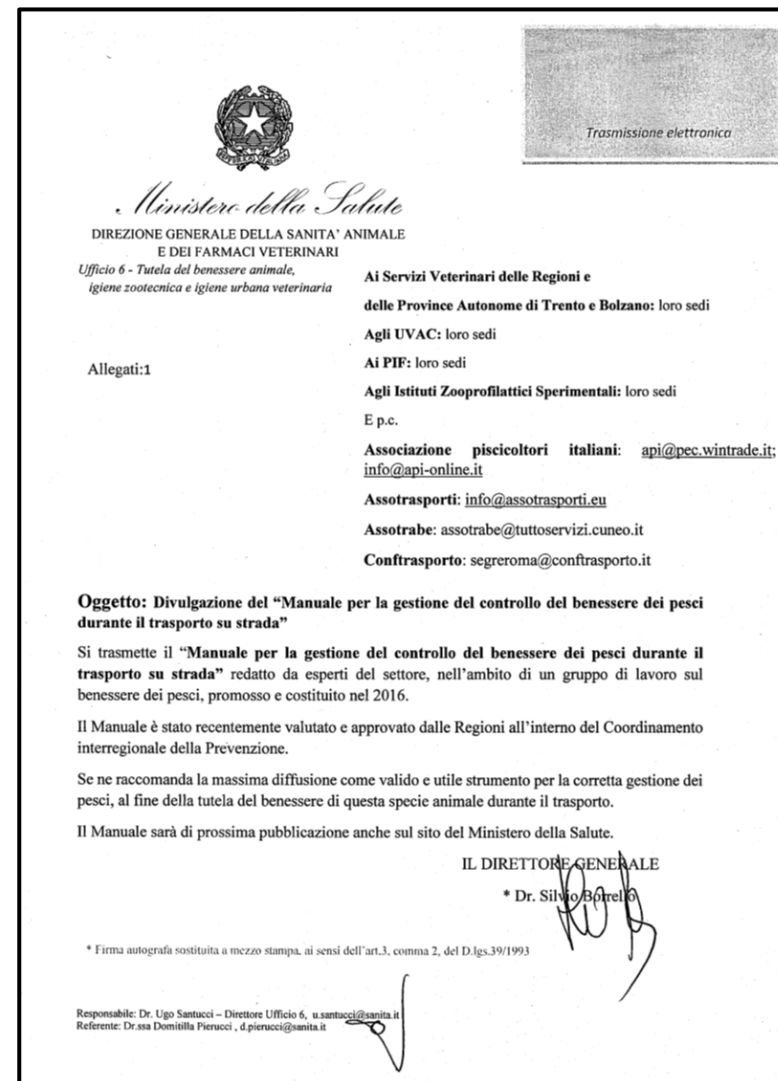
SCAR
Standing Committee
on Agricultural Research

FISH  Fisheries and
Aquaculture Research

 European Animal Health
& Welfare Research
COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUP



Guidelines on transport by Italian Ministry of Health in 2019



Fish welfare book

- Thanks to funding from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry (MASAF) within the framework of the Three-Year National Plan for Fishing and Aquaculture (2024) - CUP J38H23001060001, we brought together 9 experts in aquaculture, environment, well-being, biosecurity, therapy and vaccination, nutrition, and regulations:



Ministero della Salute

IZS delle Venezie - CRN

A.P.I

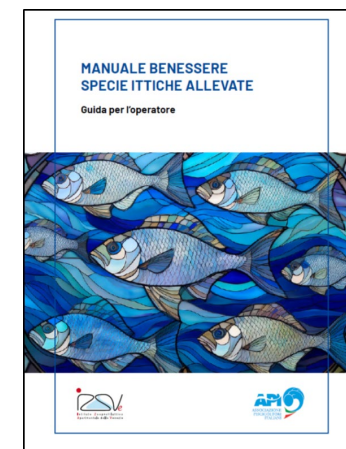
Università di Bologna

Università di Camerino

ISPRA - Roma

Università di Milano

A practical manual on fish welfare was published on February 2025



● News 2025-2026


- The **Ministry of Health** has established a **working group on crustacean welfare**:
- The members belong to:
 - Welfare office Ministry of Health – Rome;
 - **National Reference lab on animal welfare – IZSLER Brescia**
 - University of Naple;
 - Local Competent authorities;
 - Private company (to identify)



● Thanks from IZSVe staff



Annual NRL meeting - 5.6 June 2025 in Legnaro (Padova)



Finnish Centre for Animal Welfare
goals and methods of work &
current animal welfare issues:

surgical castration of pigs
the future of fur animal production

Satu Raussi and Tiina Kauppinen
Finnish Centre for Animal Welfare,
Natural Resources Institute Luke Finland



I know what I am eating



Goals of the Finnish Centre for Animal Welfare

Promote animal welfare
by increasing knowledge and ensuring that welfare issues are widely recognized in Finnish society

Increase cooperation
between authorities, researchers, organizations and other animal welfare stakeholders (media, education, industry, retailers, artists, ...)

Monitor the state of animal welfare
by following, collecting, analysing and reporting scientific data and statistics on animal welfare (e.g. Animal Welfare in Finland -reports).

Serve as an expert body
providing research-based information to decision-makers (e.g. policy briefs, statements), professionals, media, and the public.



Finnish Centre for Animal Welfare – methods of work

Enhance welfare of all animals by science based communication

- Elaintieto.fi
 - tells about animals in human use – from the perspective of animal welfare
 - weekly blog posting
 - species-specific information
 - reports and statements
 - consumer’s guide & life path of a cow (in Finnish)
- Podcast Eläinvaltakunta (Animal Kingdom) 2 seasons, 5 episodes/season
- Social media: FB, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube
- Secretaries in Finnish Farm Animal Welfare Council and Finnish Companion and Hobby Animal Welfare Council
- Stakeholder work: authorities, research, NGO’s, media, politics, education, industry, retailers, arts
- Organizing events like NordCAW seminar in Helsinki 11.11.2026 “Crises, disasters, preparedness and animal welfare in the Nordic and Baltic countries”



Every country has strengths and weaknesses in animal welfare

- For example, in Finland, pigs' tails and chickens' beaks are not docked, painful veterinary procedures require pain relief and the new regulation on horse welfare requires that horses have the company of a conspecific
- But in Finland, as elsewhere, there is much room for improvement in animal welfare

Current AW issues – surgical castration of piglets

- The new Finnish Animal Welfare Act and the regulation on measures that may be taken on animals and requirements regarding such measures entered into force at the beginning of 2024
- The use of painkillers and, from the beginning of 2027, anesthesia will be required in connection with the surgical castration of piglets. Surgical castration of piglets will be prohibited from the beginning of 2035
- In practice, all Finnish male piglets are surgically castrated. Immunocastration would be possible, but slaughterhouses do not accept immunocastrated pigs



- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry now wants to repeal the ban on surgical castration at the request of the industry
- According to the industry, the castration ban increases costs and weakens the competitiveness of Finnish pork in export markets
- The repeal of the ban was subject to a public comment round. A total of 50 comments were submitted of which 6 supported the repeal of the ban on surgical castration and 44 opposed it
- It remains to be seen whether the ban on surgical castration will be repealed or not





Current AW issues Finland – fur animal welfare

- Finland is Europe's largest producer of fox furs
- Finland's first ever citizens' initiative was to phase out fur farming, submitted to Parliament in 2013
 - Parliament rejected but promised to reform the fur animal welfare decree. The reform was subject to a public comment round 2025
 - Comments were largely negative, stating e.g. that the proposed changes are not in line with animal welfare act
- The current Finnish government recognizes the importance of fur production and wants to develop quality systems in the fur industry
- 2nd citizens' initiative to phase out fur farming submitted to Parliament in 2023
 - The initiative is still under consideration

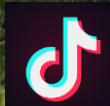


- According to the Finnish Food Authority and Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare fur farming is a significant health risk because in farm conditions, animals can be exposed to viruses that can mutate and spread to humans, potentially triggering a new pandemic
- Many fur farms in Finland paused or stopped production after the large 2023 H5N1 outbreaks and related restrictions
- 2023–2024 H5N1 outbreaks led to orders to kill roughly 485,000 Finnish fur animals from ~70 farms, of those 75 infected animals died from infection
- Finnish Food Authority estimates that compensation to fur producers for fur animals culled under the Animal Diseases Act has cost the state approximately 50,7 million euros
- Because of the outbreaks only 800 000 fur animal cubs were born in 2024, of which 52% were mink, 34% fox, and 14% raccoon dogs
- Fur industry trade value and exports have fallen. Public debate, EU regulatory moves and disease risk have reduced the sector's economic prospects



- EU list of invasive alien species contains raccoon dog and mink
 - Finland is the only EU country that has a 30-year exemption for raccoon dog farming, the permit is valid until 2049
 - Finland may apply for an exemption for mink farming
- It remains to be seen whether a new regulation on fur animal welfare is adopted in Finland before the EU Commission decides what will happen to fur production in the EU

Kiitos!



ILVO

Instituut voor Landbouw-,
Visserij- en Voedingsonderzoek



Vlaanderen
is diervriendelijk

Scientific **Reference** Center for Farm Animal **Welfare** **'RefWel'**

Charlotte Vanden Hole
Anneleen Watteyn



Introduction

- Charlotte Vanden Hole, PhD – coordinator
- Anneleen Watteyn, PhD – scientific staff
- Dimitri Van Grembergen – technical staff

- Founded: January 1st, 2025
- Language: Dutch

- Website: <https://refwel.ilvo.be>
- Email: refwel@ilvo.vlaanderen.be



Mission

To improve **farm animal welfare** in Flanders.

Core activities:

1. Monitoring welfare of farm animals in Flanders
2. Organizing training courses
3. Raising awareness and informing the sector



Monitoring the welfare of farm animals

- General goal: To develop a **monitoring strategy to document annual trends per animal species in Flanders**, in order to follow up/evaluate the influence of policy and development within the sector. This strategy will thus facilitate the pursuit of better animal welfare.
- As much as possible
 - Animal-based indicators
 - Monitoring @slaughterhouse
- First up:
 - Broiler chickens
 - Finishing pigs

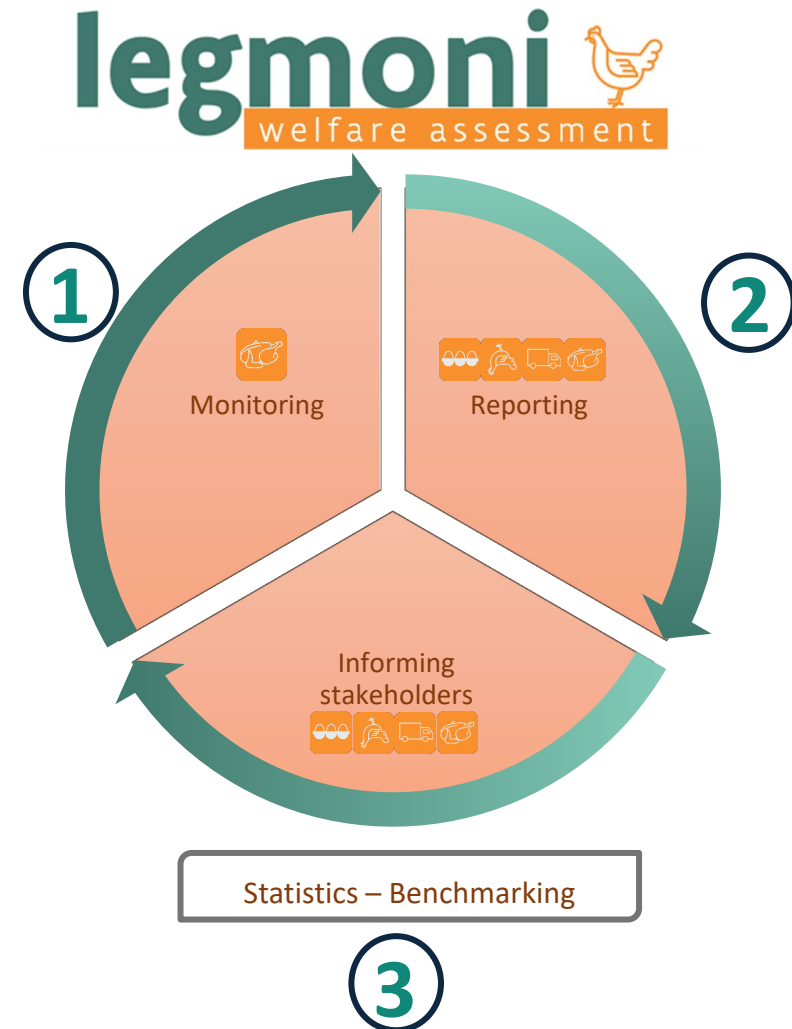
Monitoring the welfare of farm animals

Legmoni-project (2019-2023):

Development of a ready-to-use tool for evaluating laying hen welfare at the slaughterhouse

- Application: assessment @slaughterhouse
- Report: automatically generated
 - General information about the flock
 - Visual welfare radar & detailed scores
 - No aggregated welfare score

→ Since September: practical implementation in Flanders



Organizing training courses

Target group: government personnel (policy, inspection)

- Upcoming (2025 - early 2026):
 - Fitness for transport and planning of transport (dec 2025)
 - Welfare of ruminants (jan 2026)
 - Footpad lesions in broilers and turkeys (feb 2026)

Raising awareness and informing the sector

Target group: sector (farmers, advisors, etc), scientists, general audience

- Workshops
- Webinars
- Vulgarizing articles
- Factsheet translations


Raising awareness and informing the sector

- Workshops and webinars
 - Webinars 'Rearing of calves' (June 2025)
 - Workshop 'Lameness in pigs' (Sept 2025)
 - Workshop 'Prevention of footpad lesions in broilers and turkeys' (Nov 2025)



The screenshot shows the ILVO website's navigation bar with links for Home, Onze thema's, Opleidingen, Publicaties, Over RefWel, Nieuws, Agenda, Contact, and Nuttige links. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area features the title 'Webinars kalveropfok' and a sub-header 'Homepagina → Webinars kalveropfok'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'In samenwerking met het [Rundveeloket](#), organiseerde RefWel een driedelige webinarreeks over kalveropfok genaamd 'Een sterke start - Optimale opfok bij kalveren'.

The page displays three webinar topics, each with a title, an image, and a description of the speakers and their focus:

- Biest en voeder**:  Sprekers Karen Goossens en Sarah Lievens leggen uit hoe je biestmanagement en melkvoeding kunt optimaliseren voor sterke, gezonde kalveren
- Huisvesting en comfort**:  Sprekers Hans Van Loo en Matthieu Frijlink gaan dieper in op mogelijke huisvestingsvormen bij kalveren
- Koe-kalf contact**:  Sprekers Frank Tuytens en Janina van der Drift bespreken de voordelen, uitdagingen en mogelijkheden van het samen houden van koe en kalf

Raising awareness and informing the sector

- Vulgarizing articles regarding various subjects, e.g.:
 - The importance of nestbuilding for sows
 - Natural shelter for ruminants
 - Enrichment for turkeys
- Factsheets EURCAWs:
 - Translations or proofreading Eng → Dutch
 - ...happy to help any way we can!



Future

- Gain more recognition in Flanders...Belgium...Europe
- Interaction with the sector (what do **they** want/need?)
- Cooperation with other scientific institutes, other national reference centers and the EURCAWS
 - knowledge exchange!
- Provide yearly statistics (welfare status)
- Science4policy

ILVO

Instituut voor Landbouw-,
Visserij- en Voedingsonderzoek



Vlaanderen
is diervriendelijk

Thank you! Questions?

Website: <http://refwel.ilvo.be>

E-mail: refwel@ilvo.vlaanderen.be



French Reference Centre
for Animal Welfare

What's new at the French Reference Center for Animal Welfare?

Geneviève Aubin-Houzelstein, director of FRCAW, INRAE

Outline



Presentation of FRCAW



Ongoing projects



**National Centre Group for
Animal Welfare**



**Links with other national
and European reference
centres**



01.

About the FRCAW



Who We Are



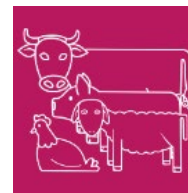
French Reference Centre
for Animal Welfare

Created in 2017

Two missions:

- Scientific and technical expertise
- Dissemination of consolidated scientific, technical and regulatory information

Scope of action:



**Farm
animals**



Pets



**Captive
wildlife**

FRCAW Organisation and Network



Operational Team

4 full-time staff

Steering Committee

Operational Team + 13 experts from



2 permanent working groups

Expertise

Bibliographic monitoring

Expert network

~120 specialists across species and disciplines

Advisory Committee

40+ key stakeholders (vets, NGOs, producers, distributors...)

What We Do

FRCAW resources are made available on its website (available in both French and English): <https://www.cnr-bea.fr/en/>



Scientific opinions

<https://www.cnr-bea.fr/en/expertise-avis/>

18



FARM ANIMALS

6



PETS



News *scientific, technical, regulatory...*

<https://www.cnr-bea.fr/en/actualites/>

2979



Knowledge hub

<https://www.cnr-bea.fr/en/plateforme-de-ressources/>

1560 documents



Monthly newsletter

To subscribe: <https://www.cnr-bea.fr/en/inscription-a-la-newsletter/>

55 newsletters
2879 subscribers





02.

Ongoing Expertise Projects

Farm Animals



In 2025 : expertises linked to the European proposal for a Regulation on the Protection of Animals during Transport

The French Ministry for Agriculture asked for expertises related to the following proposal's objectives :

- Avoiding exposure to extreme temperatures;
- Ensuring more space for transported animals;
- Improving conditions for vulnerable animals.

Questions asked by the French Ministry of Agriculture in connection with negotiations on the revision of EU transport regulations



Temperature

What are the **thermoneutral zones** for animals?
What are the **parameters** (temperature, humidity, air flow, etc.) that can be used to regulate the temperature felt by animals during transport? **How can these parameters be adjusted** to improve the animals' thermal comfort?

Species covered: cattle, pigs, poultry (broilers and laying hens)



Density

Are animals transported by road at the **densities specified in the proposed regulation** revising Regulation 1/2005 **more likely to fall and/or injure themselves** than animals transported by road at the **densities specified in the current regulation** (Regulation 1/2005)?

Species covered: cattle, pigs, poultry (including




Vulnerable animals


What are the consequences of transporting **calves aged less than 5 weeks** on their welfare?

To download in French : <https://www.cnr-bea.fr/en/expertise-avis-travaux/#animaux-de-ferme>
and soon in English: <https://www.cnr-bea.fr/en/expertise-avis-travaux/>

STRESS THERMIQUE PENDANT LE TRANSPORT DES BOVINS



Centre national de référence pour le bien-être animal



Espèce concernée : Bovins

Rapport complet

Télécharger le rapport (version FR)

Télécharger le rapport (version EN)
Bientôt disponible

Titre complet : Avis du CNR BEA sur le confort thermique, les facteurs de stress thermique et les leviers d'action pendant le transport des bovins
Commanditaire : Direction Générale de l'Alimentation (DGAL) – Bureau du Bien-être animal (BBEA)
Date de saisine : 28/08/2024
Date de rendu : 28/02/2025
DOI : 10.17180/mShn-pa61

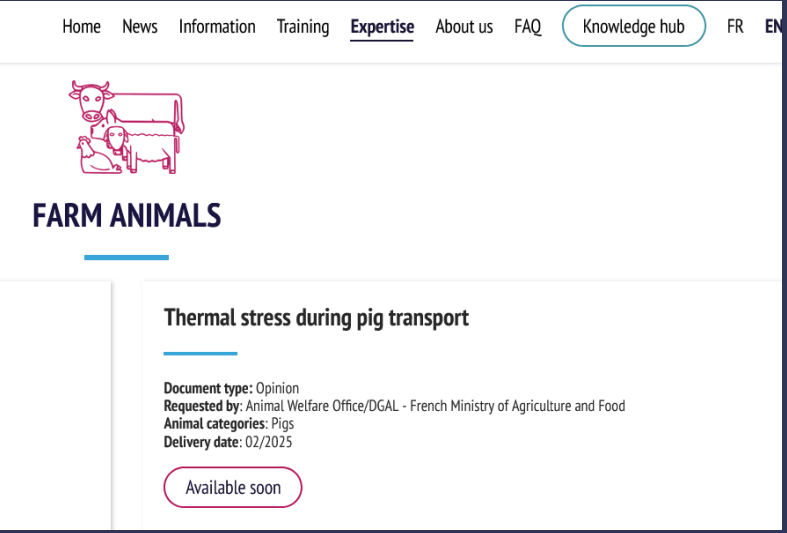
CONTEXTE DE LA SAISINE

La réglementation européenne relative au bien-être des animaux de ferme est actuellement en cours de révision. En décembre 2023, la Commission européenne a émis la proposition de règlement du Parlement européen et du Conseil relatif à la protection des animaux pendant le transport et les opérations annexes, modifiant le règlement (CE) n°1255/97 et abrogeant le règlement (CE) n°1/2005 du Conseil actuellement en vigueur. Cette révision a été entamée dans le but d'ajuster les exigences réglementaires aux nouvelles connaissances scientifiques relatives au bien-être animal pendant le transport, sur la base des avis publiés par l'Autorité Européenne de Sécurité des Aliments (EFSA) à la demande de la Commission européenne. **Le projet de révision du règlement 1/2005 suggère des prévisions de températures extérieures à respecter pour autoriser ou non les transports d'animaux vivants** quels que soient l'espèce/race/lieu. Des négociations entre les États membres sont en cours (au premier semestre 2025).

Afin de soutenir ses arguments au cours des discussions européennes, le BBEA de la DGAL a saisi le CNR BEA pour répondre

French versions :

- + Temperature : published
- + Density : finalised, publication to come
- + Calves: nearly finished



Home News Information Training **Expertise** About us FAQ Knowledge hub FR EN

FARM ANIMALS

Thermal stress during pig transport

Document type: Opinion
Requested by: Animal Welfare Office/DGAL - French Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Animal categories: Pigs
Delivery date: 02/2025

Available soon

English traductions :

- + Temperature : finalised, publication to come
- + Density: traduction under progress
- + Calves: traduction to come

New Projects : Broiler Chickens and Laying Hens



Full titles:

- + Opinion of the FRCAW on the implications for French farming of the EFSA opinion on laying hens welfare
- + Opinion of the FRCAW on the implications for French farming of the EFSA opinion on broilers welfare

Method:

Analysis of EFSA opinions + French context

Builds on previous work on pigs (2024)

<https://www.cnr-bea.fr/en/expertise-travaux/analyse-francaise-de-lavis-efsa-sur-les-porcs/>

Objective:

Identifying EFSA recommendations with highest impact on French farmers

03.

The National Centre Group for Animal Welfare Network



How It Works



Created in **2021**

Launched by FRCAW

6 countries Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Sweden.
2 candidates : Slovenia and Flanders

Promotes collaboration and knowledge-sharing among national centres

Quarterly online meeting

16 so far

Collaborative agenda – equal participation



A Pause in the Network

- + Network **on hold** since May 2025
- + Due to departure of **Agnès Tiret** from FRCAW
- + Plans to **resume soon** with new coordination
- + Warm thanks to Agnès for her commitment



04.

Strengthening Links with the EURCAWs

How can our national centres support EURCAW work?

- Translation of EURCAW outputs and documents:

- Translation of factsheets: Finnish, Swedish, French, Spanish, Italian – pending budget availability for some.
- Translation of the queries (Q2E): for national competent authorities – pending budget availability for some.

- Other resources:

- **Finland:** Reporting national animal welfare state: <https://www.elaintieto.fi/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Animal-Welfare-in-Finland-III.pdf>
- **France:** Knowledge hub: <https://www.cnr-bea.fr/en/plateforme-de-ressources/> Opinions and reports: <https://www.cnr-bea.fr/en/expertise-avis-travaux/> Training resources (in French): <https://www.cnr-bea.fr/plateforme-pedagogique/> Newsletter: <https://www.cnr-bea.fr/en/newsletters-archives/> News & Monitoring: <https://www.cnr-bea.fr/en/actualites/>

- To be discussed with EURCAWs:

- Provide support to EURCAWs with factsheet content and compliance with national legislation
- If relevant, this could be discussed at an upcoming meeting with EURCAWs (e.g., 4 EURCAWs meeting, or next EURCAWs x NCGAW x SBs meeting)





cnr-bea.fr/en/



French Reference Centre
for Animal Welfare

Thank you for your attention

genevieve.aubin-houzelstein@inrae.fr

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER :

<https://www.cnr-bea.fr/inscription-a-la-newsletter/>

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

Meeting National Reference Centres and Support Bodies



Synergies and overlaps



To identify potential synergies and overlaps between NRCs/SBs and EURCAWs, we collected answers to the following questions:

1. Which potential do you see for closer cooperation between NRCs/SBs as well as between NRCs/SBs and the EURCAWs?
2. What are your thoughts on how to promote or strengthen synergies between the NRCs/SBs at EU level and between them and the EURCAWs?
3. Which good practices of bilateral/multilateral collaboration between NRCs/SBs are already in place that could be scaled up at EU level?
4. Could you please identify any potential overlaps between the NRCs/SBs and the EURCAWs, and suggest solutions for mitigating or avoiding these risks?



Potential for Closer Cooperation

A European Network for Animal Welfare

Closer cooperation between NRCs, SBs and EURCAWs offers strong potential to:

- Enhance scientific consistency and harmonisation of welfare assessment across MS.
- Avoid duplication of efforts through better coordination and information flow.
- Facilitate knowledge transfer between EU and national levels.

Key Areas of Collaboration

- Information and good practice exchange: sharing updates on research projects, innovations, and EU/national legislation.
- Knowledge and data sharing: building common and comparable databases.
- Joint thematic groups: e.g. co-developing welfare indicators and improving the quality of official controls.
- Workshops and training activities: strengthening national capacities and ensuring coherent implementation.
- Translation and dissemination: adapting EURCAW materials to national contexts to improve outreach and impact.

Expected Benefits

- EURCAWs – EU-level coordination and harmonisation → Evidence-based tools, harmonised indicators.
- NRCs/SBs – National adaptation and implementation → Practical applications, reliable local data.
- EU System – Integrated cooperation and communication → Improved welfare standards and effective dissemination.

Common Goal

- Promoting a shared European approach to animal welfare, grounded in collaboration, harmonisation, and mutual learning.

Promoting and Strengthening Synergies

Towards a More Connected EU Network

- Synergies between NRCs, SBs, and EURCAWs should be built on regular communication, shared tools, and coordinated initiatives.

Key Strategies for Strengthening Cooperation

- Regular and interactive meetings – shorter but more frequent online sessions, plus annual in-person events and quick sharing of information via email.
- Joint workshops and training activities – sharing good practices, scientific advances, and tools to enhance the effectiveness of animal welfare enforcement.
- Digital platforms and shared databases – centralised tools for data collection, monitoring, and reporting.
- Cross-border and joint projects – collaborative pilots on emerging welfare issues (e.g. aquaculture, transport).
- Clear coordination and contact points – a designated coordinator (e.g. CVO or competent authority) and updated contact directory.
- Common templates and shared calendar – harmonised materials for guidance, training, and communication.
- ‘Pivotal individuals’ as liaisons – experts active in both NRCs and EURCAWs can serve as bridges between structures.

Expected Outcome

- A cohesive EU-wide network that ensures complementarity, avoids duplication, and accelerates the translation of scientific knowledge into practical animal welfare improvements.

Good Practices of Collaboration

Existing Successful Practices

- Regular remote meetings – frequent online exchanges between national centres strengthened coordination and mutual learning.
- Face-to-face meetings – in-person sessions fostered trust and made post-meeting communication between Member States smoother.
- Joint webinars and mentoring – shared technical materials and bilateral mentoring improved harmonisation and capacity building.
- Collaborative projects with EURCAWs – example: FRC-AW and EURCAW-Poultry-SFA joint work on depopulation during avian influenza outbreaks.
- Shared data systems – the Italian ClassyFarm model provides a structured framework for data collection, benchmarking, and risk assessment, offering a scalable EU-level template.

Scaling Up Potential

Develop a structured EU coordination framework with:

- Rotating annual conveners to ensure continuity and inclusiveness.
- A shared digital platform for materials, data, and best practices.
- Thematic collaboration clusters (e.g. transport, biosecurity, emergency response).

Identifying and Mitigating Potential Overlaps

Potential Areas of Overlap

- Guidance and training materials – similar outputs may be developed independently by NRCs/SBs and EURCAWs without coordination.
- Scientific reports and advisory work – some NRCs (e.g. French NRC) have roles in public decision-making that occasionally overlap with EURCAW studies or recommendations.
- Lack of visibility and communication – no central repository or shared overview of ongoing and planned activities leads to duplication risks.
- Limited cross-awareness – it is difficult to stay informed about developments in other NRCs or EURCAWs.

Solutions to Prevent or Mitigate Overlaps

- Transparency and shared planning – early coordination and mutual consultation before launching new activities.
- Centralised EU database or registry – a common platform listing ongoing and planned initiatives, reports, and training materials.
- Joint annual work plans – co-defined priorities to ensure complementarity and prevent duplication.
- Regular coordination meetings – exchange of progress updates, with rotating facilitation among NRCs and EURCAWs.
- Benchmarking and role clarification – NRCs can support EURCAWs by benchmarking data and contextualising results at national level.

Outcome

- A transparent and well-coordinated network where overlapping efforts evolve into synergistic collaborations and collective impact.



EURCAW NRC SB Meeting 15 10 25

14 - 20 Oct 2025

Poll results

Table of contents

- QUESTION 1 : Potential for Closer Cooperation
- QUESTION 2: Promoting and Strengthening Synergies
- QUESTION 3: Good Practices of Collaboration
- QUESTION 4: Identifying and Mitigating Potential Overlaps

QUESTION 1 : Potential for Closer Cooperation (1/2)

0 2 9

Select the three most important proposals among the ones mentioned:
(1/2)

Enhance scientific consistency and harmonisation of welfare assessment across MS



Avoid duplication of efforts through better coordination and information flow



Facilitate knowledge transfer between EU and national levels



Share updates on research projects, innovations, and EU/national legislation



QUESTION 1 : Potential for Closer Cooperation (1/2)

0 2 9

Select the three most important proposals among the ones mentioned:
(2/2)

Build common and comparable databases for knowledge and data sharing



Co-develop welfare indicators and improve the quality of official controls



Strengthen competencies and ensuring coherent implementation at national level.



Adapt EURCAW materials to national contexts to improve outreach and impact



QUESTION 2: Promoting and Strengthening Synergies (1/2)

0 2 8

Select the three most important proposals among the ones mentioned:
(1/2)

Regular and interactive meetings – shorter but more frequent online sessions, plus annual in-person events and quick sharing of information via email.



Joint workshops and training activities – sharing good practices, scientific advances, and tools to enhance the effectiveness of animal welfare enforcement.



Digital platforms and shared databases – centralised tools for data collection, monitoring, and reporting.



QUESTION 2: Promoting and Strengthening Synergies (1/2)

0 2 8

Select the three most important proposals among the ones mentioned:
(2/2)

Cross-border and joint projects – collaborative pilots on emerging welfare issues (e.g. aquaculture, transport).

 25 %

Clear coordination and contact points – a designated coordinator (e.g. CVO or competent authority) and updated contact directory.

 50 %

Common templates and shared calendar – harmonised materials for guidance, training, and communication.

 14 %

‘Pivotal individuals’ as liaisons – experts active in both NRCs and EURCAWs can serve as bridges between structures.

 32 %

QUESTION 3: Good Practices of Collaboration (1/2)

0 2 9

Select the three most important proposals among the ones mentioned:
(1/3)

Regular remote meetings – frequent online exchanges between national centres in the framework of the group of NRCs strengthened coordination and mutual learning.



Face-to-face meetings – in-person sessions fostered trust and made post-meeting communication between Member States smoother.



Joint webinars and mentoring – shared technical materials and bilateral mentoring improved harmonisation and capacity building.



QUESTION 3: Good Practices of Collaboration (1/2)

0 2 9

Select the three most important proposals among the ones mentioned:
(2/3)

Collaborative projects with EURCAWs – example: FRC-AW and EURCAW-Poultry-SFA joint work on depopulation during avian influenza outbreaks.

 41 %

Shared data systems – the Italian ClassyFarm model provides a structured framework for data collection, benchmarking, and risk assessment, offering a scalable EU-level template.

 21 %

Rotating annual conveners to ensure continuity and inclusiveness in the group of NRCs .

 7 %

A shared digital platform for materials, data, and best practices.

 17 %

QUESTION 3: Good Practices of Collaboration (1/2)

0 2 9

Select the three most important proposals among the ones mentioned:
(3/3)

Thematic collaboration clusters (e.g. transport, biosecurity, emergency response).



QUESTION 4: Identifying and Mitigating Potential Overlaps (1/3)

0 2 2

Select the two most important POTENTIAL AREAS OF OVERLAP among the ones mentioned:

Guidance and training materials – similar outputs may be developed independently by NRCs/SBs and EURCAWs without coordination.



Scientific reports and advisory work – some NRCs (e.g. French NRC) have roles in public decision-making that occasionally overlap with EURCAW studies or recommendations.



Lack of visibility and communication – no central repository or shared overview of ongoing and planned activities leads to duplication risks.



Limited cross-awareness – it is difficult to stay informed about developments in other NRCs or EURCAWs.



QUESTION 4: Identifying and Mitigating Potential Overlaps (2/3)

0 2 1

Select the three most important SOLUTIONS TO MITIGATE OR PREVENT OVERLAPS among the ones mentioned:

(1/2)

Transparency and shared planning – early coordination and mutual consultation before launching new activities.

 52 %

Centralised EU database or registry – a common platform listing ongoing and planned initiatives, reports, and training materials.

 48 %

Joint annual work plans – co-defined priorities to ensure complementarity and prevent duplication.

 33 %

QUESTION 4: Identifying and Mitigating Potential Overlaps (2/3)

0 2 1

Select the three most important SOLUTIONS TO MITIGATE OR PREVENT OVERLAPS among the ones mentioned:

(2/2)

Regular coordination meetings – exchange of progress updates, with rotating facilitation among NRCs and EURCAWs.



Benchmarking and role clarification – NRCs can support EURCAWs by benchmarking data and contextualising results at national level.





Workshop: End of Cages

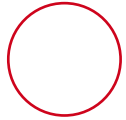


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End of cages

- Laying hens
- Ducks
- Breeders
- Rabbits
- ...

EURCAW activities related to cages or alternatives to cages:



For laying hens: focus on alternative systems (indicators, good practices, etc)



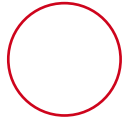
Report: [Farm rabbits' welfare in different husbandry systems, gaps of knowledge and recommendations](#)

Thematic Factsheet: [Rabbits Welfare in farm rearing systems](#)

GP factsheet: [Outdoor rearing of rabbits](#)

GP: [Elevated pen system for breeding and growing rabbits](#)

Workshop



End of cages

Queries related to cages or alternatives to cages:



[Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2021-004](#) Space at feeder and usable area needed for pullets.

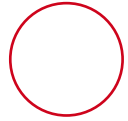
[Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2023-011](#) Pullets rearing in the first weeks in aviary.



[Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2020-002](#) Mink cage dimension

[Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2023-001](#) Stocking density for the keeping of growing rabbits grouped in elevated pens.

[Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2023-002](#) Recommended parameters for part-time group housing of does (rabbits).

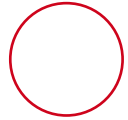


End of cages



¿Do you have ongoing National legislation about stopping cages?

¿Have NRCs or SB been questioned by their Competent Authority or other stakeholders about it?



Beak trimming

- Laying hens
- Ducks
- Turkeys
- Breeders

...



¿Do you have ongoing National legislation about stopping beak trimming?

¿Have NRCs or SB been questioned by their Competent Authority or other stakeholders about it?



Thanks for your attention!



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Workshop

Beef cattle welfare



Designated by
the EU Commission





1

Beef cattle in the current EU legislation

- 9 M fattening cattle, 10 M suckler cows; main producers France, Germany and Italy
- Currently **no specific** EU animal welfare legislation covering **beef cattle**.
- Beef cattle are only covered by the **horizontal provisions** of Directive 98/58/EC
- **Vague provisions:** e.g., point 7 of the Annex "Where an animal is continuously or regularly tethered or confined, it must be given the space appropriate to its physiological and ethological needs in accordance with established experience and scientific knowledge."





2

EFSA mandate on beef cattle welfare

The mandate's target species is **beef cattle** (*Bos taurus*), which includes:



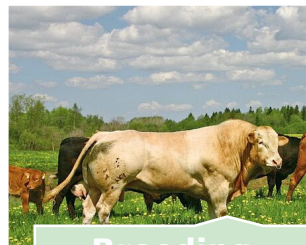
Un-weaned suckler calves



Suckler cows/heifers



Fattening cattle



Breeding bulls



Cull suckler cows



Cull dairy cows

Welfare of veal calves and of **calves born on dairy farms** that are slaughtered for beef (up to 6 months of age) have **already been covered** in a dedicated Scientific Opinion on the welfare of calves (EFSA, AHAW Panel, 2023)



3 Terms of Reference

EC mandate

ToR 1 | Description of current practices



A review of the most common **husbandry systems and current practices** for keeping suckler calves, fattening cattle, suckler cows, heifers, breeding bulls, end-of-career dairy cows and end of career suckler cows in the EU

ToR 2-3 | Assessment of impact of current practices on beef welfare





3 Terms of Reference

EC mandate

ToR 2a | Welfare assessment of indoor housing conditions

Lack of env.
enrichment

High
temperature

Flooring

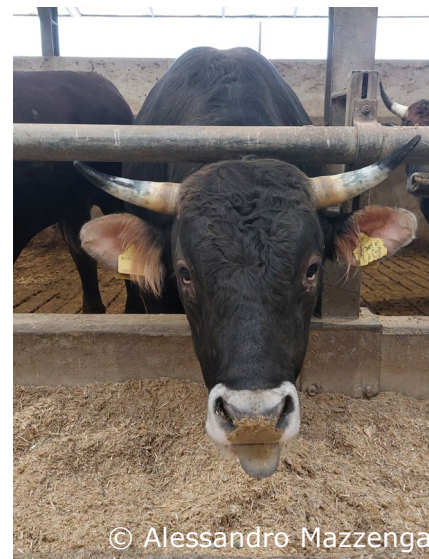
Lack of outdoor
access

Mixing
of cattle

Nutrition and
feeding

Water access (type of
drinkers, number of
drinking points)

Minimum space allowance (total space
allowance, bedding and resting areas, feeding
trough space requirements)





3 Terms of Reference

EC mandate

ToR 2b | Welfare assessment of cattle kept at grass

Nutrition and Water feeding access

Outwintering: protection from cold, wind, rain and underfoot conditions



ToR 2c | The risk to the welfare of suckler cows and calves associated with the weaning of suckler calves



ToR 2d | The risk to welfare associated with the mutilation of cattle including:

Castration

Disbudding, dehorning

Tail docking



Terms of Reference

EC mandate

ToR 2e | The risk to welfare associated with breeding strategies and genetics

Dystocia and caesarean sections

Hyper-muscularity

Maternal ability

Polledness

Temperament





4 Recommendations

1. Space allowance per animal **should be increased in relation to current practice** to reduce

- resting problems
- restriction of movement
- group stress
- locomotory disorders

2. Increase the total space allowance to $\sim 13 \text{ m}^2$ per animal (for animals $> 400 \text{ kg}$) to allow for synchronous lying while maintaining inter-individual distances and further reduce group stress





4 Recommendations

3. Provide **ad libitum feeding** and enough space at the manger that allows simultaneous feeding
4. Provide more structured fibre (peNDF) than current practice
5. Provide **environmental enrichment** (roughage, salt blocks, brushes, rubbing objects)
6. Provide freely and easily accessible **outdoor area** adjacent to the barn
7. **Groups** of cattle should remain **stable** as much as possible
8. Provide **bedded solid floors** (with high-quality straw litter) in the lying area in preference to concrete slatted floors
9. Overlay concrete slatted floors with non-slip rubber mats





4 Recommendations

10. Prefer water troughs over water bowls and avoid nipple drinkers
11. Provide at least two water sources per pen
12. Barn building:
 - maximise natural ventilation (doors, windows, roof ridge)
 - have insulated roofs
 - include more than one water trough per pen
 - include a permanently accessible outdoor loafing area





5 Discussion

Is beef cattle welfare a (hot) topic in your country?

What are the different stakeholders' viewpoints on beef cattle welfare?

Are there specific (legal) provisions regarding beef cattle welfare in your country?

Which aspects of beef cattle welfare do you consider to be the most in need of legal regulation?





★
★ **EURCAW** *Aqua*
★

Fish at Transport

Welfare Indicators for Fish at Transport

EURCAW - NRCs/SBs meeting 2025



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About EURCAW Aqua

EURCAW Aqua has been created in 17th of January 2024 in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council (notified under document C(2024) 209), **a European Union reference centre for the welfare of aquatic animals**

Our Mission

EURCAW-Aqua will mainly focus on the welfare of fish, cephalopods and decapods. Priority will be given to **farmed aquatic species of economic significance** for European Union. Main mission is to support European Commission and MS Competent Authorities with **technical specifications and guidelines for the application of EU legislation** and **filling knowledge gaps**.

Vision

Our vision is the establishment of an **EU Reference Centre** for the Welfare of Aquatic Animals, that will **become a global gold standard** for the services provided to National Competent Authorities in Member States, addressing the main scope **to improve the welfare of aquatic organisms.**



Target Audiences



Target Audience #2
EU Member States
National Competent Authorities
National Reference Centers / Scientific
Bodies



Target Audience #3
Scientific Community
Producers Organizations

Target Audience #1
European Commission
EURCAW Aqua is led by DG Sante and is
in close cooperation with DG Mare,
European Food Safety Authority. Direct
communication lines with AAC and EU
PAWH

Welfare Indicators For Fish at Transport

- 01 Five Domains Model
- 02 Welfare risks
- 03 Risk tolerance
- 04 Welfare assessment
- 05 Fish Transport Process



Five Domains Model



Five Domains & our Animal Welfare Aims

1 Good Nutrition

Give animals the right amount and the right quality of fresh water and food to suit their needs and keep them happy.



2 Good Environment

Give animals the environment they need, which means a suitable place to rest and get shelter, and which is not stressful or gives them a negative emotional experience.



3 Good Health

Try to prevent any disease or injury, and if it does happen, have it treated quickly and as stress free as possible.



4 Appropriate Behaviour

Give them enough space, proper facilities, company of their own kind, and opportunities to make their own decisions.



5 Positive Mental Experience

Try to eliminate or reduce negative emotional experiences and provide them comfort with positive emotional experiences.





Five Domains	Risk Factors	Welfare Risks
1. Nutrition	Feeding restrictions, poor feed quality, improper feeding frequency	Hunger, malnutrition, emaciation, fat deposition obesity related diseases, frustration, exhaustion
2. Physical Environment	Poor environmental conditions, high stocking densities, low oxygen saturation, extreme water temperatures	Thermal discomfort, restricted movement, injury stress from overcrowding, diseases
3. Health	Injuries from equipment/handling, painful husbandry procedures, poor hygiene	Pain, disease, chronic stress, weakness, mortality
4. Behavioural Interactions	Inability to move from unfavorable environment, stock hierarchies, competition for feed and space , predators presence	Boredom, frustration, aggression, isolation, fear, anxiety
5. Mental / Affective State	Negative emotional drivers from above factors (stressors, deprivation of choice, poor environment)	Stress, fear, depression, panic

WELFARE RISKS

MORTALITY

DISEASE

PAIN / INJURY

STRESS

HUNGER

RISK TOLERANCE

< 3% Critical handlings

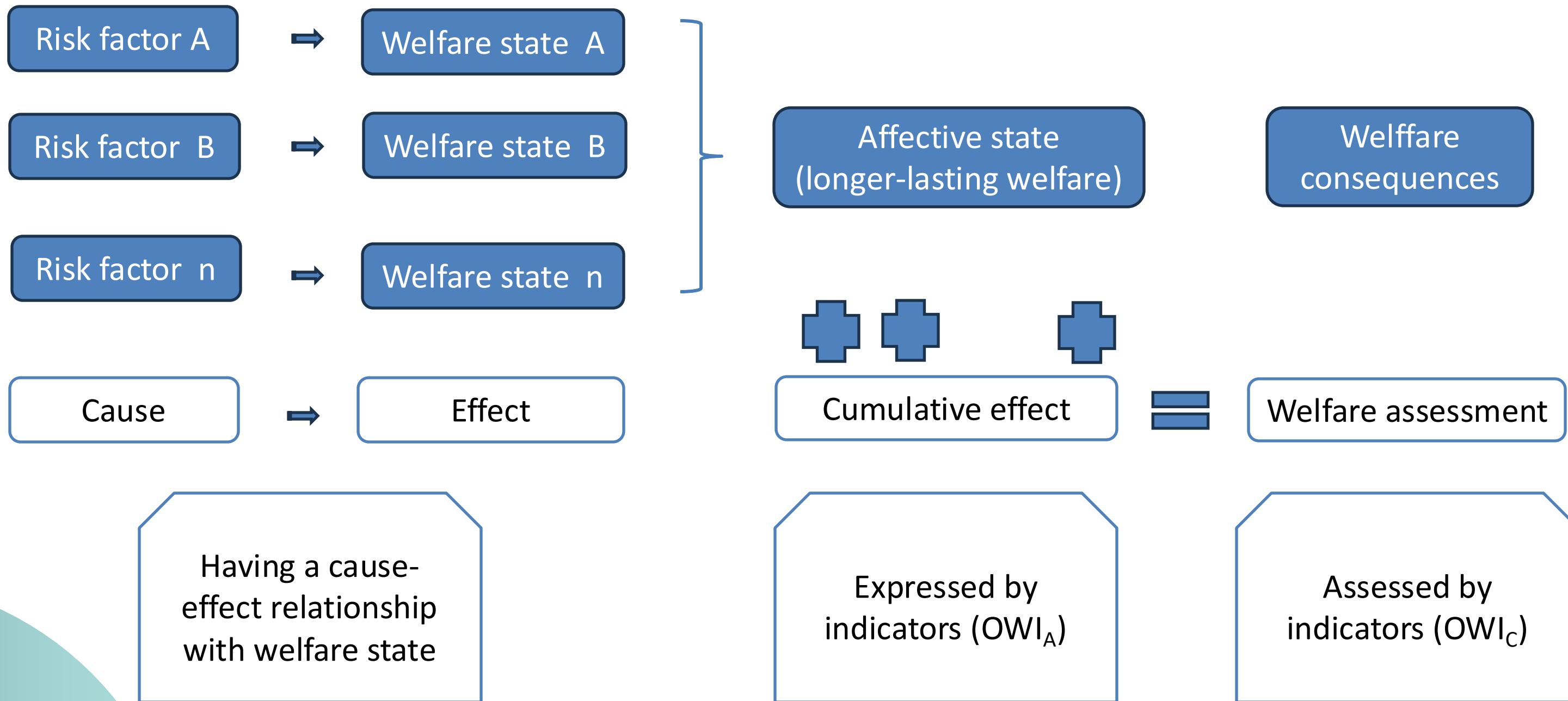
<10% of population disease prevalence

Mitigation measures upon observation

Mitigation measures for chronic and acute stress upon observation

≤ 7 days of fasting

Overall welfare assessment scheme



Fish transport process

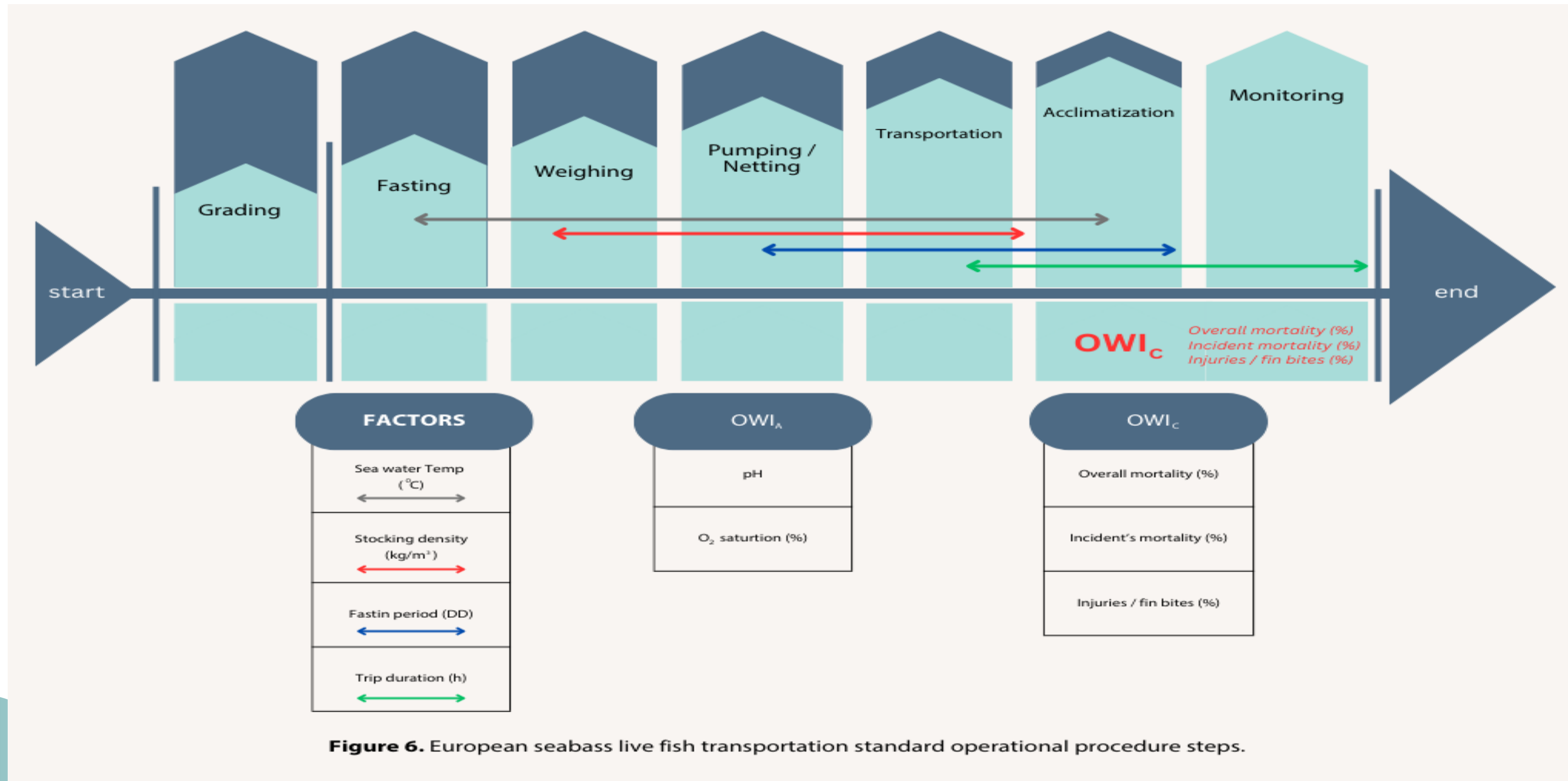


Figure 6. European seabass live fish transportation standard operational procedure steps.

Our Team

EURCAW-Aqua provides scientific and technical knowledge to Competent Authorities of EU member states



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Thank You!

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