



# Report to the Parliament on the fish welfare

## Seizing the day for fish welfare 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018

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# Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing

## Background

- *Article 27(1) of the Regulation requires that "the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council a report on the possibility of introducing certain requirements regarding the protection of fish at the time of killing taking into account animal welfare aspects as well as the socio-economic and environmental impacts".*

## Background

- *EFSA) in 2009 published several opinions on the welfare aspects of the main systems of stunning and killing. These opinions demonstrated that challenges exist in the aquaculture industry.*
- *OIE has adopted guidelines concerning welfare aspects of stunning and killing of farmed fish. These guidelines are also relevant within the EU since all EU Member States are OIE member countries.*

# Report to the Parliament

• *An independent study report by a selected external contractor was commissioned in 2016.*

*"Welfare of farmed fish: Common practices during transport and at slaughter final (2017) "*

• *Main Aims*

- Gather information on practices and determine unresolved issues on welfare
- Assess economic impact for different species and methods used.

## Fish species\*\*

Atlantic salmon

Common carp

Rainbow trout  
(Large (L) and Portion (P))

European sea bass

Gilthead sea bream

# Limitations of report findings

- *Limited information for certain species*
- *low response rate from industry*
- *The analysis is based on the average enterprise for each species in each of the case-study countries*
- *reference period, 2009-2013, may not reflect trends over a longer period, or over the period since.*

## Report conclusions

- *Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 has contributed to the development of a framework in terms of national legislation and guidance for the welfare of farmed fish in the EU particularly for Atlantic salmon.*
- *OIE standards varies with the species considered.*
  - **Atlantic salmon generally OK.**
  - **common carp and rainbow trout, varied.**
  - **Sea bass and bream, OIE standards are not achieved**

## Continued

- *Production scale plays a large role in the economic impact*
- *industry as a whole is gradually but continuously improving fish welfare*
- *improvements are still needed for European sea bass and Gilthead sea bream*
- *the Commission considers it not appropriate to propose specific requirements on the protection of fish at the time of killing at the moment.*



## Continued

- *guidance best achieved at Member State level.*
- *further research necessary where the development of more effective techniques is necessary.*
- *essential to develop further stakeholder dialogues in order to favour specific initiatives and projects in this field*

# Thank you



## Important links to follow the process:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/health/regulation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/health/regulation/index_en.htm)

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/health/expert\\_group\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/health/expert_group_en)

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/practice/slaughter\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/practice/slaughter_en)