

PUBLIC ATTITUDES TO AQUATIC ANIMAL WELFARE

UK 2024

Over 1000 UK citizens were asked about the welfare of aquatic animals...

the majority agreed that fish can feel pain, and they care about their welfare

74%

agree that fish feel pain

85%

think fish welfare should be protected to the same or greater extent than the welfare of other animals we eat

Transparent and ethical use of public funds towards aquaculture is important to people

90%

think there should be public records explaining how funds are used

87%

think funds should only be used to support farms that ensure high animal welfare

81%

think funds should only support farms that are sustainable

Research was carried out by Sapience on behalf of Compassion in World Farming and Eurogroup for Animals, via an online survey during 20th March to 5th April 2024.


EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS

COMPASSION in world farming

There's real appetite for legislative change to improve aquatic animal welfare in the EU

Citizen support for legislation that would:




require the use of best practices and the latest science to meet the welfare needs of farmed aquatic animals	84%
guarantee high welfare during live crustacean transport 	82%
requires farmers to stun aquatic animals before slaughter	70%
prohibit farmers from feeding farmed fish with wild-caught fish that could otherwise be eaten by humans	66%
ban the sale of live fish, lobsters and crabs	62%
prohibit farming new carnivorous species 	60%

 because it's an unsustainable use of resources!

Public awareness of aquaculture practices is low...

59% of people appeared to have low awareness of current fish farming practices

% of those who were unaware

That most farmed salmon are deaf due to intensive breeding practices	86%
That wild-caught fish are a common ingredient in feeds given to farmed fish	73%
That most farmed fish are not stunned (made unconscious) before slaughter 	71%
That fish usually spend between 2 and 5 years growing on farms 	68%
That the percentage of fish that die during rearing on farms is much higher than that of farmed land animals	66%
That antibiotics are commonly used in fish farming 	56%
That farming systems typically don't allow fish to exhibit all of their natural behaviours	51%

...And around half mistakenly believe that 'sustainable' equals high animal welfare

When they see the term "sustainable" on the label

35%

 assume the fish was killed quickly and painlessly

47%

 assume farmed fish were kept in conditions allowing them to exhibit all natural behaviours

However, most people want higher welfare options, and are willing to pay more for them

90%

would like to buy higher welfare fish products

59%

would like to see information about the way fish were farmed and killed on the label of all products

58%

say the welfare of the fish impacts which product they buy

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