

Saraiva *et al*'s (2021) full study report is published in English, along with executive summaries in Spanish, German, French, and Italian.

**Saraiva JL, Arechavala-Lopez P, Cabrera-Álvarez MJ and Waley D** 2021 *Research for ANIT Committee – Particular welfare needs in animal transport: aquatic animals*. European Parliament, Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, Brussels, Belgium. Available at: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL\\_STU\(2021\)690875](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL_STU(2021)690875).

**Particular Welfare Needs in Animal Transport: Aquatic Animals – Workshop on Animal Welfare during Transport** (2021). A4, 56 pages. Research for ANIT Committee, European Parliament, Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, Brussels. Available at: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=POL\\_STU\(2021\)690875](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=POL_STU(2021)690875).

*J Spence,*  
*Humane Slaughter Association (HSA)*

### **Welfare of fish now included in EU strategy for aquaculture**

The European Commission is keen for its aquaculture industry to undergo a period of sustainable growth and, to facilitate this, they have published updated, strategic guidelines. Aquaculture is highly regulated in the European Union and these guidelines seek to support growth, whilst also ensuring the industry remains: 1) competitive and resilient; 2) ensures the supply of nutritious and healthy food; 3) reduces the EU's dependency on seafood imports; 4) creates economic opportunities and jobs; and 5) becomes a global reference for sustainability. The guidelines cover the period from 2021 to 2030.

There is no mention of animal welfare in the overarching aims of the strategy. However, there is recognition that fish welfare needs to be an element of any growth strategy and, for the first time, the aquaculture guidelines include a specific section on animal welfare (Section 2.2.2). Within this section it is stated: "More attention should be paid to the welfare of fish" and it goes on to say that further action is necessary to improve fish welfare. Specifically, the guidelines mention the following:

- Developing good practices on fish welfare during farming, transport and killing;
- Setting common validated, species-specific, and auditable fish welfare indicators throughout the production chain (including in transport and slaughtering);
- Further research and innovation, in particular on species-specific welfare parameters, including nutritional needs in different rearing systems; and
- Providing knowledge and skills on fish welfare to aquaculture producers and other operators that handle live farmed fish.

Many millions of fish are reared, caught, and killed to supply fish for human consumption. It is therefore pleasing to see that the welfare of these animals is beginning to be considered within the regulatory framework.

**Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions** (May 2021). Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030. European Commission. Brussels. Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_1554](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_1554).

*E Carter,*  
*UFAW*