

## The agonising killing of marine animals

Fishes, crustaceans and molluscs pay a high price for our consumption. The question is, where has animal welfare gone from here.



## Marine animals also feel pain

Compared to the keeping and use of land animals, animal welfare and animal protection are not given high priority in marine fisheries and intensive farming of marine animals. In the public, one hardly notices how fishes, molluscs and crustaceans die or how they eke out their sad existence in farms. It is undisputed that many of these marine creatures have a complex nervous system and are sensitive creatures.<sup>1</sup>

## Why it is a good idea not to consume squids

Like mussels, squid are molluscs. There are around 300 species worldwide, more than a third of which are fished commercially. Many stocks are overfished, but demand for them is still rising steadily. That is why attempts are being made to farm them. The most popular species among them is the common octopus. The farming of these animals is to be absolutely refused both for ecological reasons and from the point of view of animal welfare.<sup>2</sup> On the one hand, squids are carnivores. They need three times their own weight in food for their body maintenance, which in farming consists of fish meal and fish oil from wild caught fishes. On the other hand, they are highly developed, sensitive creatures whose well-being depends on stimulating environmental conditions. These characteristics are difficult to reconcile with intensive farming. On top of that, the killing of squid is anything but stress-free and painless. On the contrary, they are slayed, upended, hung in nets or put on ice until they finally suffocate.<sup>3</sup>

## Chronic stress

In intensive marine farming stocking density in ponds is very high. The biological needs of the animals are massively restricted and, as in intensive livestock farming on land, health problems, deformations and behavioural disorders occur. Fishes in

intensive farming are exposed to chronic stress, experience injuries, are sometimes aggressive and their immune system is weakened.<sup>4</sup>

## Cruel agony

In many places, animals are to be killed without suffering. For marine animals, this maxim applies only very rarely. A large part of the estimated 1-2 trillion caught sea fishes die a painful death.<sup>5</sup> They are crushed in the nets, hang on hooks for days, suffocate on the deck of fishing vessels or are processed while fully conscious.<sup>6</sup> The killing methods for crustaceans are also far from humane: although they are proven to be sensitive to pain, shrimps and lobsters are gassed, frozen or thrown into boiling water without anaesthetic. They are exposed to a real death struggle.<sup>7</sup>

**It's time to protect the sentient beings in the sea. Wouldn't you agree?**

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<sup>1</sup> Elwood 2012, Elwood et al. 2009, Brown 2015, Jaquet et al. 2019, Finn et al. 2009

<sup>2</sup> Jaquet et al. 2019

<sup>3</sup> Kuba 2018

<sup>4</sup> Jaquet et al. 2019

<sup>5</sup> <http://fishcount.org.uk/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.fishcount.org.uk/published/standard/fishcountfullrptSR.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/hsus-report-animal-welfarecrustaceans-slaughter.pdf>

### Tip

[Video: Fish farming's cruel secret](#)

**Let's give the seas a break.**

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