



## **PUBLIC DECLARATION OF AQUANARIA'S COMMITMENT TO ANIMAL WELFARE**

Animal welfare is one of the pillars and priorities of Aquanaria. The company's management drives the organisation in this area and provides all the resources necessary to deliver on our commitment to more ethical and responsible production practices.

Aquanaria's animal welfare policy is based on the following fundamental elements:

- Compliance with all legislation in force, committing to go even further to set new standards for animal welfare in aquaculture.
- Firm commitment to transparency.
- Collaboration with the sector's institutions and associations.

In this area, we recently participated in the drafting of the guide on welfare for sea bass in Spanish aquaculture, along with several animal welfare institutions, companies and NGOs.

- Completion of internal audits to ensure compliance with the best practices implemented.
- Investment in new technology.
- Training of staff on aspects of animal welfare.
- Providing better living conditions for sea bass while also ensuring the best gastronomic qualities in the fish we produce, with a special focus on:
  1. Health and sanitary conditions of the fish.
  2. Optimal nutrition with feed formulated using the best raw materials available on the market.
  3. Environment (water quality).
  4. Handling (density of nurseries and stress reduction).
  5. Application of more effective and humane methods of sacrifice.

In relation to this final point and knowing that it is a particularly sensitive aspect of our activity, the company has spent some years financing studies with a

prestigious university as we believe that the method of sacrifice applied should be based on scientific evidence.

The size of the fish, as well as the conditions of our off-shore farms in the Atlantic Ocean, pose a technological and occupational safety challenge for the implementation of any new technology. The challenges we face are unique and the effective solutions could differ greatly from those applied to other species and/or for smaller sizes. The science behind the most effective and humane methods of sacrifice is constantly evolving, but does not always produce clear answers, especially for pioneering companies like ours.

However, this obstacle will not deter us in our commitment to improve and today, as a result of our collaborative study with the aforementioned university, Aquanaria has made an investment to test an electrosedation system that promises to reduce stress among fish during the sacrifice process. Nevertheless, its implementation will be subject to the scientific conclusions obtained regarding animal welfare and product quality, as well as its practical feasibility in our specific circumstances.

We appreciate the continued support of our customers, partners and the community in general, and we reiterate our commitment to continuing to share the progress and results of our research and testing.

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