



## THE PROBLEM

- Over 22 billion farmed fish are produced each year around the world for human consumption
- Production of fish as a dietary protein source is increasing by 6-8% annually to meet the growing global human population
- Farmed fish commonly suffer from parasitism, stress related to high density stocking of pens and reduced opportunities for movement, skeletal deformities, blindness, exposure to toxic substances, and increased susceptibility to disease
- Research has demonstrated that fish are sentient, but they are rarely afforded the same level of compassion shown for warm-blooded vertebrates
- There is little legislation in most countries to safeguard the welfare of fish



Photo Credit: Animal Aid

## WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

- Fish represent at least 30,000 species, many with undefined husbandry, nutrition, and care requirements under captive conditions
- Animal welfare indicators for farmed fish are poorly defined
- It is very difficult to observe individual fish under farmed conditions
- End of life decision-making and euthanasia practices are poorly defined for farmed fish
- There is a significant need for more veterinarians specifically trained in preventive care and medicine of farmed fish around the world.



Photo Credit: Animal Aid

## HOW CAN THIS PROBLEM BE ADDRESSED?

- Observance of globally accepted animal welfare standards for farmed fish (i.e., OIE Aquatic Code)
- Support and promotion of quality education and training programs for veterinarians in humane aquaculture practices
- Research into sustainable care practices that promote health and welfare of farmed fish
- Promotion of humane killing techniques in all sectors (e.g. <http://www.ikijime.com/www/>)



Photo Credit: FAO Picture Library

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- ✓ Promote development and enforcement of appropriate national welfare standards and regulations for farmed fish as well as veterinary training in aquatic medicine.



### Resources

FAO: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5555e.pdf>

OIE: [http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=171&L=0&htmfile=titre\\_1.7.htm](http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=171&L=0&htmfile=titre_1.7.htm)