

FORM A

COMMENTS ON THE WORK PROGRAMME OR ITEMS DOCUMENTED IN THE REPORT THAT DO NOT INCLUDE ANNEXES

Name of Member or IO:

Commission report and date of report:

Norway

Title of the item in the report or item in the work programme annex:

Item 7.3 Section 7. 'Welfare of farmed fish'

Proposal/Comment:

In the February 2026-report the Commission asks Members to provide their views on the following questions:

1. Should the *Aquatic Code* provide a high-level approach to achieve positive welfare outcomes, without the provision of detailed technical requirements, or are more detailed standards for certain species and systems preferred when scientific evidence is available to support those standards?
2. Are there alternative approaches or suggestions that Members wish to put forward?
3. Would Members prefer that the chapters in Section 7 be revised and released for comment sequentially, or that all four chapters of Section 7 be circulated for comment at the same time?

Norway has the following replies to these three questions:

1. In our opinion, the welfare of farmed fish will be best safeguarded by having more detailed standards for certain species and systems, provided sufficient scientific evidence is available. To ensure minimum welfare standards for species where specific scientific evidence is not available, it is essential that the general provisions cover the needs of these species.

We would like to mention a recent Scientific Opinion by the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment on Assessment of welfare aspects of stunning and killing of farmed fish in Norway. Link to the report is provided under supporting evidence. The report summarises the scientific evidence on stunning and killing of Atlantic cod, Atlantic halibut, turbot, spotted wolffish, yellowtail kingfish, lumpfish and other cleanerfish, as well as Atlantic salmon, rainbow trout, sea trout and Arctic char.

2. Norway has no suggestions for alternative approaches.
3. In our opinion it is preferable that all four chapters of Section 7 are circulated for comments at the same time. Reviewing them together will give us a clearer overview of the section and make it easier to ensure consistency across the chapters.

Rationale:

N/A

Supporting evidence, if relevant:

Assessment of welfare aspects of stunning and killing of farmed fish in Norway, Scientific Opinion of the Panel on Animal Health and Welfare of the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment

[Publikasjon Assessment of welfare aspects in stunning and killing of farmed fish.pdf](#)