

SAVE THE DATE

November 29th 2019
VLIZ (Oostende, Belgium)



Fish Welfare Symposium

“Often, the greater our ignorance about something, the greater our resistance to change.” — Marc Bekoff

To inform the debate about whether fish are truly cold-blooded animals that cannot feel any pain and highlight mismatches on how we should - but eventually do - treat fisheries catches, a mini-symposium will bring into focus:

- *What we know about pain perception and stress among aquatic organisms*
- *Implications for on-board handling and aquaculture*
- *Moral and ethical dissonance between knowing and acting*

Out of sight – out of mind – what fish experience when being caught and handled by fishers and/or fisheries researchers remains a grey area. With this symposium, we would like to direct the spotlight on fisheries catch welfare issues which are of relevance to society, fishers, scientists, and politicians, especially given our ingrained ambition for humane and sustainable best practices. Policies and laws on animal experimentation become tougher, but may still differ among European countries, especially when education and awareness need to catch up as well. Invited presentations will touch upon:

- *Potential harmfulness in the use of an electric stimulus to tickle out flatfish?*
- *Ethically responsible techniques to handle and cull fisheries catches?*
- *Relevance of measuring stress and vitality of discarded catches in the context of the Landing Obligation*
- *Challenges of improving welfare of fish being held in captivity for research experiments or in aquaculture settings*

Preliminary program

8h30: Welcome & coffee

9h: Introduction

9h15: Keynote lecture I

9h45: 6-8 short talks

12h-13h: lunch

13h: Keynote lecture II

13h45: Group discussions

16h-17h: Plenary session summary

Contact