Optimal Fish Welfare: Balancing Societal Opinions, Industry Needs, and Regulatory Approaches

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Objectives

- Extremely broad diversity
- Anthropomorphizing public opinion
- Scientific justifications
- Legislation/regulations
- Reduced to common principles

Welfare input = humane considerations/treatment
Welfare output = cause no intentional harm
Diversity

- + 30000 species
- Habitats/ ecosystems
- Physiological requirements
- Optimal Conditions
Public Opinion

- Driven by extreme endpoints
- Polarised opinion
- Unfounded facts
- Anthropomorphemic interpretation
- Emotional interpretation
- Misdirected conclusions
Science

- We Don’t Know – behavioural, neuro-physiological
- Health
- Five freedoms
- Defining stress – using cortisol but is a survival instinct so normal
- Acute v Chronic stress & cortisol
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reputable publications have twisted scientific interpretations to come to non-impartial and objective conclusions</td>
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<td>Bottom line even amongst scientists they are not talking a common language or have consensus of opinion</td>
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Health

- 25% losses during production process
- <0.5% losses during transport if properly prepared
- Vaccines – requires live virus
- Lack of Veterinary Care

- Better equipment
- Better vaccines
- Better surveillance
- Better biosecurity
- Better training for staff
- Better access to training for vets
Legislation/Regulation

- IATA only global regulation
- Possibly OIE
- No global legislation
- Regional legislation
- Country legislation
- Legislation/regulations vary between countries
Common Principles

- Diversity of public opinion
- Diversity of scientific opinion
- Diversity of species and habitat
- Diversity of health
- Diversity of legislation
- No one-size fits all
- Required for Food
- Required for human wellbeing
Conclusion

Good welfare currently is:

Humane treatment
Without intentional harm
Am I happy?

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