Aquatic Animal Welfare Session

Animal welfare in African aquaculture: from evidence to on-farm practice

Session: Aquatic Animal Welfare Session, convened by Ethical Seafood Research **Date & Location**: Tanzania (venue, date and time to be confirmed with WAS)

Target audience: Farmers, extensionists, researchers, veterinarians, policymakers, industry

Session Co-Chairs: Wasseem Emam & Jacqui Greeff

Format: Short talks (15 min + 5 min Q&A) followed by a moderated panel and open discussion

Proposed duration: Approximately 2 hours

Session outline

Aquatic animal welfare is one of the fastest growing areas of interest in aquaculture, yet the African context, its species, its farming systems and its farmers, remains under-represented in the global conversation. This session, organised by Ethical Seafood Research (ESR), brings together researchers and practitioners working across the continent to share practical, field-tested approaches to improving welfare on African farms, with a particular focus on North and East Africa.

The first part of the session features short talks of 15 minutes with 5 minutes for questions, drawing on applied work from Egypt, Kenya and Nigeria. Topics include on-farm water quality and welfare monitoring, humane slaughter (harvest), tilapia, catfish and shrimp welfare, and the development of standard operating procedures and national codes of practice. The second part is a moderated panel and open discussion that brings the speakers together with welfare-themed submissions accepted into the session, to surface the gaps that farmers, researchers, regulators and development partners most need to close.

The session aims to be genuinely useful to farmers, to strengthen the African aquatic animal welfare community and to give ESR and its partners a chance to connect with people doing the work on the ground.

Programme and speakers

The speakers below are confirmed. Further speakers will be added and this note updated as confirmations come in.

- **Wasseem Emam and/or Jacqui Greeff** (Ethical Seafood Research): welcome and framing of the session
- **Mahmoud Eltholth and/or Ahmad Hamza** (presenting on behalf of FAI Farms): on-farm water quality and welfare monitoring in Egyptian tilapia farming

- **Radi Mohamed** (Ethical Seafood Research Egypt): humane harvest of tilapia through the Harvest Well Egypt project
- **Mohamed Bakr** (Ethical Seafood Research Egypt): habitat mimicry (environmental enrichment) and ice slurry in shrimp aquaculture
- **Naveeth Basheer** (AWASH): tilapia welfare in Ghanaian hatcheries
- **Speaker to be confirmed** (African Aquaculture Business Leaders Network): the growing importance of fish welfare for the network
- **Nelly Isyagi** (AU-IBAR): aquatic animal welfare in African Union policy instruments
- **Mwenda Mbaka**: fish welfare in Kenya

In addition, welfare-themed abstracts submitted to the conference and accepted by WAS will be welcomed into the panel and discussion.

africanchapter@was.org

https://was.org/meeting/code/AFRAQ26

ESR Ethical Seafood Research