

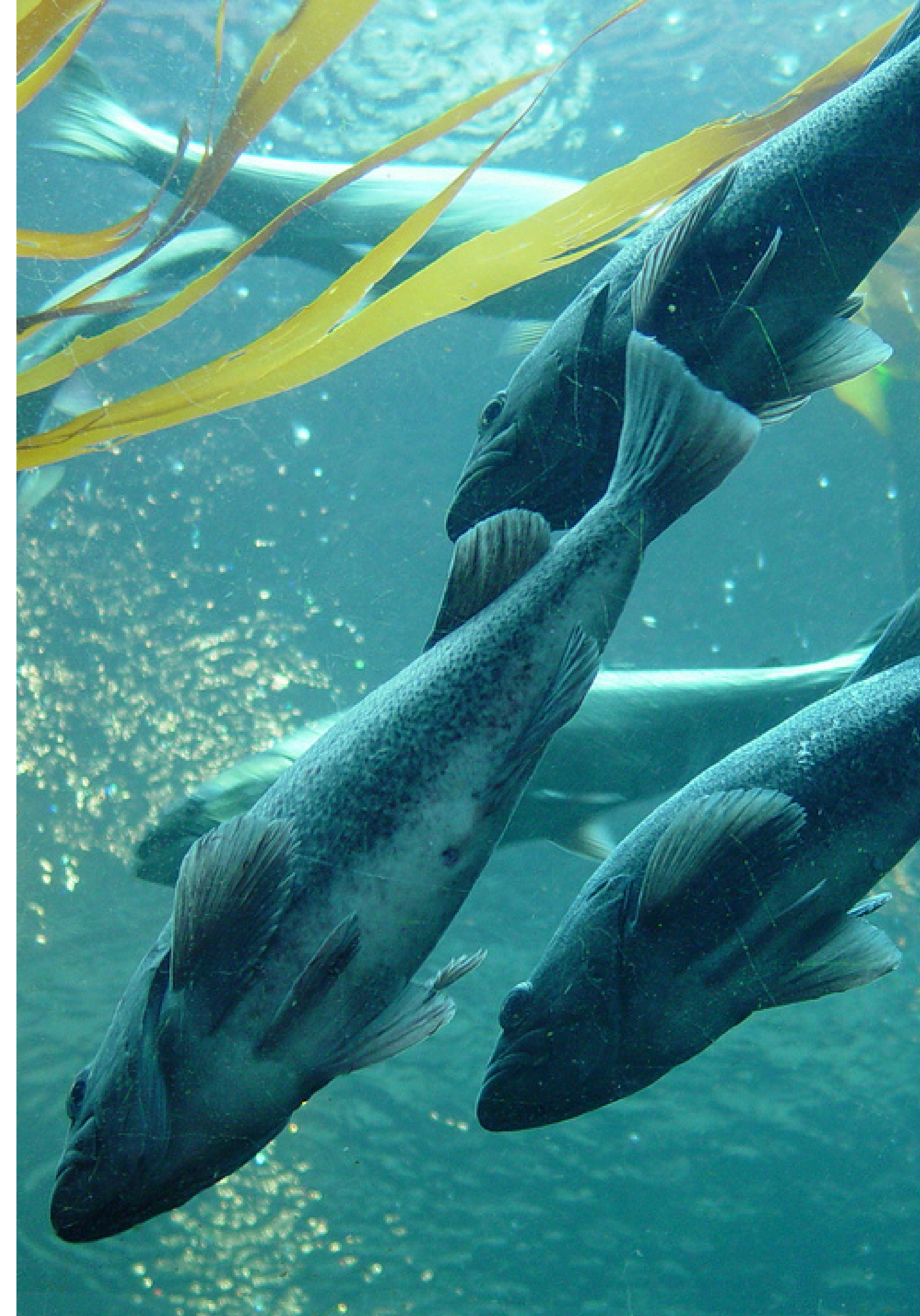


Advancing Accountable Corporate Action on Aquatic Animal Welfare

CASS Conference 2026 | Fish Market Session

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Why this matters

Aquatic animal welfare is gaining attention, but expectations remain inconsistent.

GROWING ATTENTION

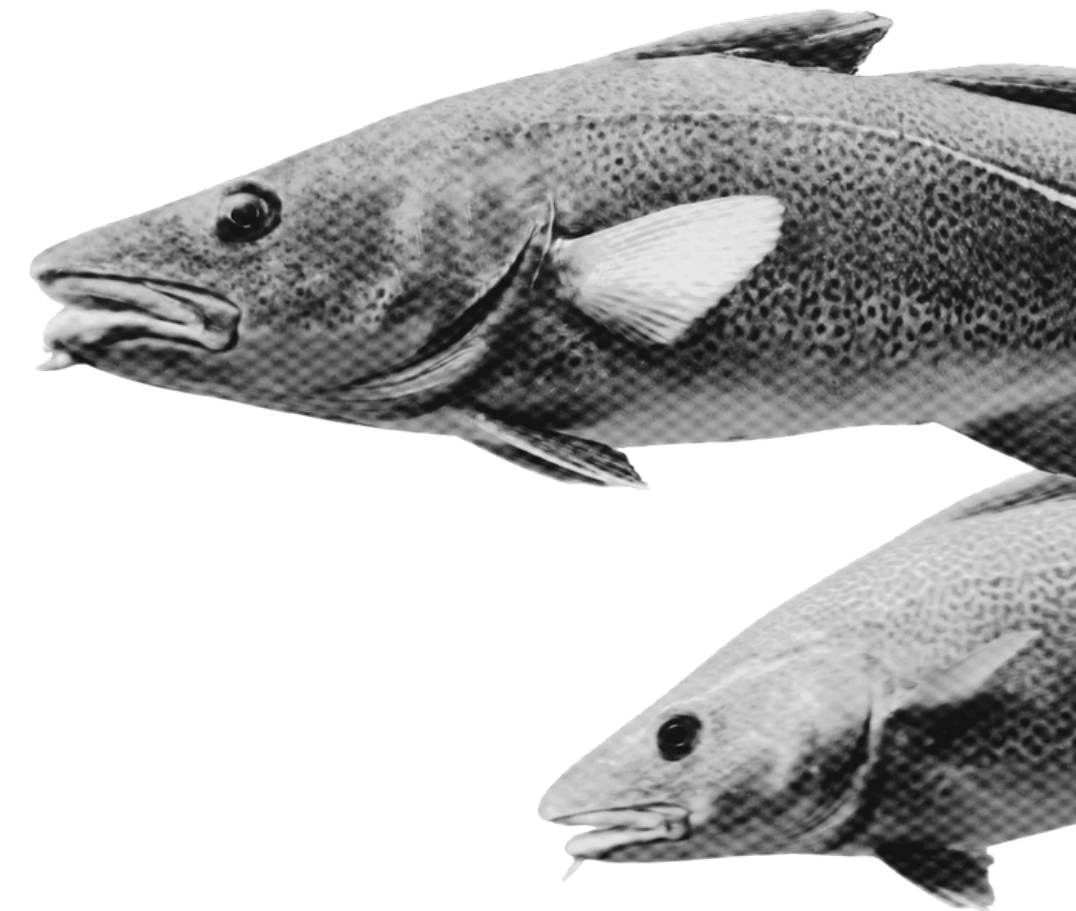
Aquatic animal welfare is becoming a part of corporate seafood sustainability conversations, but engagement still varies across companies.

COMPLEX SUPPLY CHAINS

Different species, production systems, and geographies create different welfare challenges and opportunities.

LIMITED ALIGNMENT

There is still limited alignment around what meaningful corporate action looks like: from building recognition and setting commitments to implementation and long-term integration.





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Aquatic Animal Welfare Roadmap (AAWR)

A practical framework to help companies advance welfare across three key phases:

RECOGNITION

Build recognition of aquatic animal welfare, assess current practices, engage suppliers, and establish clear commitments with defined scope and timelines.



PROTECTION

Translate commitments into sourcing requirements and supplier practices, while tracking implementation and reporting progress over time.



PRIORITIZATION

Embed aquatic animal welfare into broader ESG and biodiversity strategies, governance processes, and corporate reporting.



A Collaborative Framework

The development of the Aquatic Animal Welfare Roadmap was informed by the ongoing work on the GDST Animal Welfare Expansion Framework. It was also reviewed by key companies and organizations from the Aquatic Animal Alliance (AAA)*.

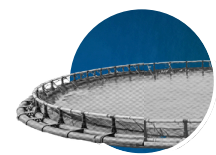
**The AAWR
is supported by**

180 organizations
within the AAA

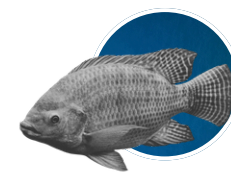
*The Aquatic Animal Alliance (AAA) is a coalition of 198 organizations dedicated to improving the welfare of aquatic animals in the food system around the world.



Opportunities to Advance Welfare Aquaculture



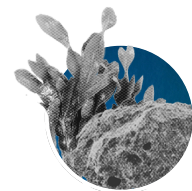
**Advance Toward
Welfare-Aligned
Certification**



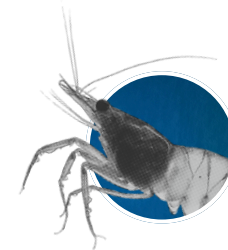
**Effective Stunning
Before Slaughter**



**Welfare Competency
and Training**



**Environmental
Enrichment for
Species**



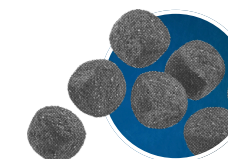
**Eliminate Shrimp
Eyestalk Ablation**



**Minimize
Transport-Related
Stress and Risk**



**Science-Based
Stocking Density**



**Responsible &
Welfare-Aligned
Feed Practices**



**Ban on Farmed
Octopus**

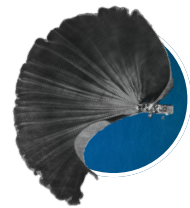


**Water Quality
Management
Systems**

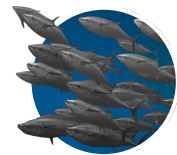
*For particularly severe welfare concerns, such as eyestalk ablation and octopus farming, recommendations focus on phasing out or eliminating these practices, while others involve changes in practices and technology to improve animal welfare.



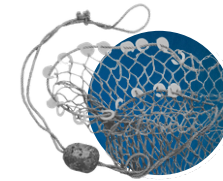
Opportunities to Advance Welfare Fisheries



Capture Duration



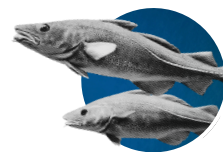
Catch Volume



Reduce Ghost Gear
and Ongoing Welfare
Harm from Abandoned
Fishing Gear



Gear Modifications
to Reduce Capture
Stress and Injury



Low-Stress
Retrieval
Practices



Prevent and Reduce
Harmful Bycatch



Welfare-Focused
Onboard Handling



Effective Stunning
and Slaughter at Sea



Welfare Competency
and Training



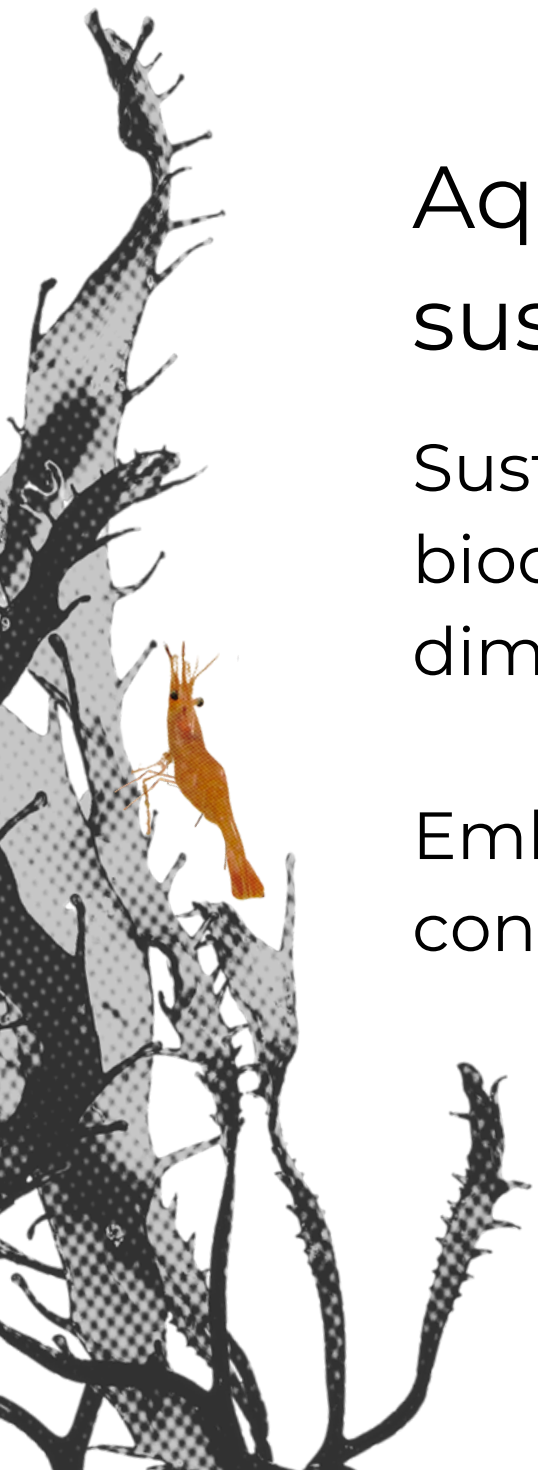


Integrating Welfare Into Sustainable Seafood

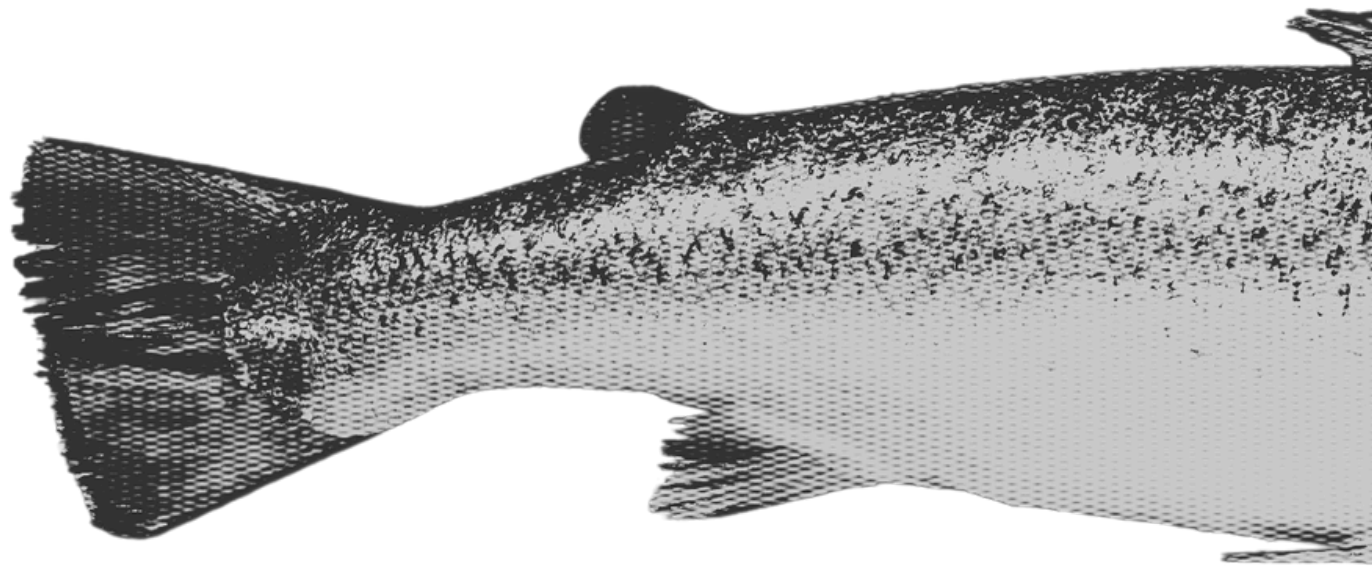
Aquatic animal welfare should be part of the broader sustainability conversation

Sustainable seafood strategies increasingly address environmental impacts, traceability, biodiversity, and responsible sourcing. Aquatic animal welfare is another important dimension that should be integrated into these efforts.

Embedding welfare into existing corporate frameworks can help make it a more consistent and lasting part of how companies approach seafood sustainability.



let's discuss



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What are the main barriers companies face in advancing aquatic animal welfare, from recognition to implementation?

Where do you see the Aquatic Animal Welfare Roadmap being most useful in your work?

How can aquatic animal welfare be better integrated into existing sustainability strategies and frameworks?



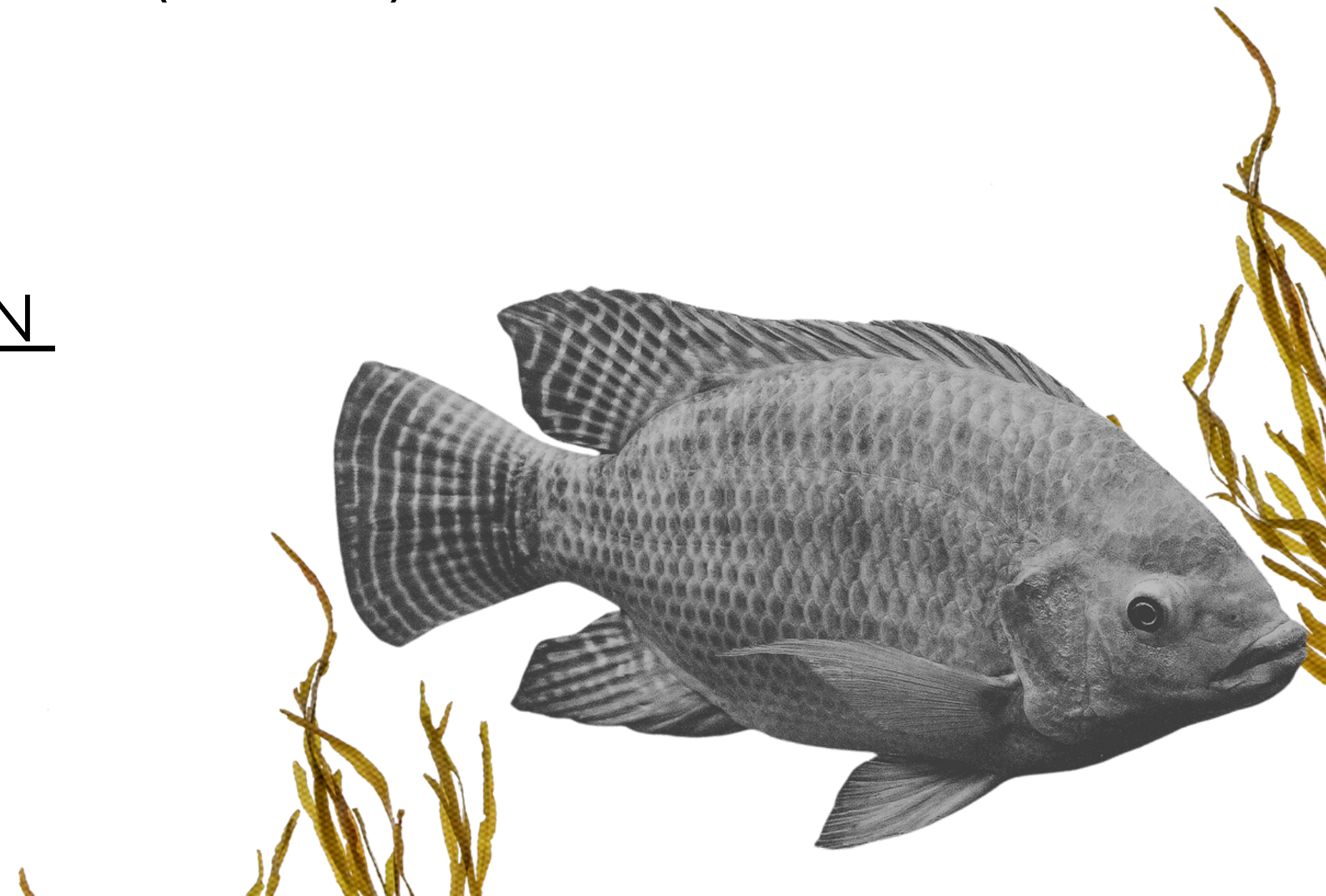
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Explore more before we meet in Halifax

AQUATIC ANIMAL WELFARE ROADMAP (AAWR).

AQUATIC ANIMAL ALLIANCE (AAA).

ALI'S AQUACULTURE CERTIFICATION
SCHEMES BENCHMARK





Thank you

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